

Information om Transkulturel Psykiatri, februar 2011

NYHEDER

Anbefalinger og udfordringer i forhold til traumatiserede flygtninge i førtidspensionsreformen fra december 2010

Dansk Flygtningehjælp, Center for Udsatte Flygtninge, februar 2011

Flygtninge på førtidspension er en særligt udsat gruppe, og især personer af ikke-vestlig baggrund med posttraumatisk stresssyndrom (PTSD) er overrepræsenterede i nytilkendelser af førtidspension. Tildeling af førtidspension til traumatiserede flygtninge kan skabe en ro, der kan gøre, at de bliver i stand til at arbejde lidt igen. Kortere afklaringsforløb, mere faglig ensartet vurdering både i forhold til de professionelle vurdering af diagnoser samt hvordan love forvaltes kommunerne imellem, er ydermere nogle af de anbefalinger, som uddybes i følgende notat i forhold til tildelingen af førtidspension til udsatte flygtninge. Hvad angår udsatte flygtninge, der har fået tildelt førtidspension anbefales det i det følgende, at myndighederne foretager en bedre og tættere opfølgning, således at førtidspensionister ikke isoleres, men i stedet modtager kvalificerede tilbud, der bringer dem i tættere kontakt med det omgivende samfund. Det kan være i form af fleksible arbejdsmarkedstilbud og/eller lovpligtige handleplaner, der fokuserer bredere end det specifikt arbejdsmarkedsrettede. For det første kan sådanne tilbud forbedre førtidspensionisters sociale relationer, der har en positiv indvirkning i forhold til traumatiserede flygtnings psykiske helbred.

download hele notatet her:

http://flygtning.dk/fileadmin/uploads/pdf/Saadan_hjaelper_vi_PDF/CUF_PDF/Notat%20om%20f%C3%B8rtidspension%2C%20februar%202011_1.pdf

Dårligere vilkår hjælper ikke syge flygtninge i arbejde

Dansk Flygtningehjælps hjemmeside 9. februar 2011

Flygtninge er stærkt overrepræsenteret i antallet af førtidspensioner tildelt pga. psykiske diagnoser som Post Traumatisk Stresslidelse.

"Mennesker på flugt fra krig og kaos ankommer ofte med en bagage af traumer – netop derfor risikerer de at ende på førtidspension. Deres mulighed for igen at blive nogenlunde hele mennesker og tage aktiv del i samfundslivet går gennem effektive afklaringsforløb og kvalificeret rehabiliteringsindsats. Vi kan selvsagt ikke helbrede dem ved at gøre deres økonomiske vilkår ringere end den øvrige befolknings," siger sektionsleder i Dansk Flygtningehjælp Mette Blauenfeldt.

læs nyheden her: <http://flygtning.dk/nyheder-og-presse/nyhed/artikel/daarligere-vilkaar-hjaelper-ikke-syge-flygtninge-i-arbejde/>

Flertal vil revurdere førtidspensioner

JP 7. februar 2011 / Stine Sofie Mathisen

Indvandrere og efterkommere kostede sidste år staten 15,7 mia. kr. mens de bidrog med 2,2 mia. kr. viser tal fra Dream. Flere politikere mener, at disse tal ikke er spiselige i sparetider.

Finansminister Claus Hjort Frederiksen (V) mener bl.a., at kommunerne bør være bedre til at revurdere de indvandrere og efterkommere som er på førtidspension på grund af psykiske lidelser:

- Vi ved, at mange psykiske diagnoser ikke varer hele livet. Derfor kan man genoptage sager på den baggrund, siger han

Både V, K og DF er indstillet på at revidere reglerne, og S er spændt på at høre flere detaljer.

- Det er ressourcespild uden lige, hvis nogen får førtidspension uden at være berettiget til det, siger integrationsordfører Henrik Dam (S), mens LA og R mener, at det er ok at revurdere reglerne, men man skal ikke revurdere førtidspensionisterne på baggrund af deres etniske baggrund.

KD afviser etnisk skæv pensionsreform

Ritzau 6. februar 2011

Kristendemokraterne vil ikke støtte regeringens forslag til reform af førtidspensionen. Bolden ligger hos LA. Regeringen skal ikke regne med støtte fra Kristendemokraterne til en reform af førtidspensionen, hvis den rammer minoriteter hårdere end resten af befolkningen. Heller ikke ministerens idéer om en indslusningsløn for indvandrere finder støtte hos Kristendemokraterne.

»Vi vil ikke skelne mellem nationalitet eller etnisk baggrund, når der skal tildeles førtidspension eller løn«, siger partiets politiske ordfører Per Ørum Jørgensen, som er en del af den forligskreds, der forhandler førtidspension i øjeblikket.

Læs artiklen her: <http://politiken.dk/politik/ECE1188060/kd-afviser-etnisk-skaev-pensionsreform/>

Regeringen: Indvandrere skal have mindre i løn

Politikens netavis 6. februar 2011 / Marie Sæhl

K bakker op om V-forslag om indslusningsløn og revurdering af førtidspensioner.

De konservative er også med på Venstres forslag om at genbehandle sager om førtidspension, som allerede er blevet givet til nydanskere for at få flere ud på arbejdsmarkedet.

læs artiklen her: <http://politiken.dk/politik/ECE1188171/regeringen-indvandrere-skal-have-mindre-i-loen/>

SF vil frede indvandreres førtidspension

Ritzau 6. februar 2011

SF vil ikke lade finansministeren pille ved forliget om førtidspension for at få flere indvandrere i arbejde. Alle skal behandles lige i det sociale system, mener SF, som derfor siger blankt nej til finansminister Claus Hjort Frederiksen (V) forslag om at revurdere alle førtidspensionister med etnisk minoritetsbaggrund.

»Vi vil ikke have et a- og et b-hold. Først og fremmest ønsker vi et socialt system, der behandler alle lige«, siger Özlem Cekic, socialordfører for SF, som var med i det seneste forlig om førtidspensionen.

Hun tilføjer, at mange af indvandrerne, som får førtidspension, desuden dør med psykiske problemer.

læs artiklen her: <http://politiken.dk/politik/ECE1187985/sf-vil-frede-indvandreres-foertidspension/>

Skal børnefamilier kunne bo uden for asylcentrene?

Kristeligt Dagblads netavis 17. februar / Jens Bech Nielsen

Børnefamilier opholder sig i længere perioder i asylcentrene, mens deres sager behandles. Ved årsskiftet havde 77 børn boet mere end to år på et asylcenter, mens 169 børn havde boet der mellem et og to år, skriver Jyllands-Posten. Opholdet kan ifølge psykologer belaste børnene med angst og depression.

Oppositionen vil nu sikre, at børn højst bor på et asylcenter i seks måneder og får støtte fra Dansk Røde Kors. Regeringen og DF afviser

læs artiklen her: <http://www.kristeligt-dagblad.dk/artikel/408969:Danmark--Skal-boernefamilier-kunne-bo-uden-for-asylcentrene>

LITTERATUR

ARTIKLER FRA FAGLIGE TIDSSKRIFTER

Acculturation and psychological distress among non-western Muslim migrants - a population-based survey

Fassaert, Thijs; De Wit, Matty A. S.; Tuinebreijer, Wilco C.; Knipscheer, Jeroen W.; Verhoeff, Arnoud P.; Beekman, Aar-Jan T. F.; Dekker, Jack J. M.

Background

Political and social developments point at increasing marginalization of Muslim migrants, but little is known about its consequences for the mental health of this particular group.

Aim

To explore the relationship between acculturation and psychological distress among first-generation Muslim migrants from Turkey and Morocco in the Netherlands.

Methods

A cross-sectional study. Respondents were interviewed in their preferred language. Acculturation was measured with the Lowlands Acculturation Scale (LAS) and psychological distress with the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10). Data were complete for 321 subjects and analyzed with multivariate linear regression.

Results

Less skills for living in Dutch society was associated with distress ($p = 0.032$). Feelings of loss were related to distress among Moroccans ($p = 0.037$). There was an interaction between traditionalism and ethnic background ($p = 0.037$); traditionalism was related to less distress among Moroccans ($p = 0.020$), but not among Turkish. Finally, there was an interaction by gender among Turks ($p = 0.029$); conservative norms and values seemed to be related to distress among men ($p = 0.062$), not women.

Conclusion

Successful contact and participation in Dutch society, and maintenance of heritage culture and identity were moderately associated with less psychological distress. Improving mastery of the dominant language in host societies, and allowing migrants to preserve their traditions, might be effective measures in improving the mental well-being of migrants.

Keywords acculturation - ethnic groups – Islam - mental health – migration – Morocco - psychological distress - Turkey

International journal of social psychiatry 57(2), 1032-143, 2011

Associations between parental posttraumatic stress disorder and both offspring internalizing problems and parental aggression within the National Comorbidity Survey-Replication

Leen-Feldner, Ellen W.; Feldner, Matthew T.; Bunaciu, Liviu; Blumenthal, Heidemarie

Data from the National Comorbidity Survey-Replication were used to evaluate links between parental posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and elevated (1) offspring internalizing problems and (2) parental physical aggression toward children. We extended prior tests via the use of an independent nationally representative sample and by examining specific associations between these outcomes and PTSD above and beyond variance accounted for by several theoretically relevant demographic factors and PTSD-related comorbidity. As hypothesized, offspring anxiety and depression was elevated among parents with PTSD compared to those without the condition. Parents with PTSD also were more likely to endorse the use of both moderate (e.g., pushing) and severe (e.g., hitting with a fist) physical aggression with their children. These findings advance work in the area by suggesting that there is a unique relation between PTSD and these outcomes, which sets the stage for research to elucidate factors uniquely introduced by PTSD.

Keywords: Parenting; PTSD; Offspring; Aggression; Internalizing

Journal of anxiety disorders 25(2), 169-175, 2011

Clusters and pathways in mental health: what are the implications for inequalities?

Clark, Michael

Mental health care in England has been subject to a great deal of scrutiny in recent years for its equality of access, experience and outcome. Five years of the *Delivering Race Equality* programme produced momentum, learning and improvements. It is clear, though, that efforts need to consider a continuous quality improvement approach and consciously use all new initiatives to further drive more equal services. A current initiative in England is the care clusters model for mental health, along with associated moves to commission services on a payment by results basis. This paper examines these developments and the possible implications for supporting greater equality in mental health care.

Keywords

Mental health, equality, access, Delivering Race Equality, commissioning, payment by results

Ethnicity and inequalities in health and social care 3(4), 30-35, 2010

Culturally adapted versus standard exposure treatment for phobic Asian Americans : treatment efficacy, moderators, and predictors

Pan, David; Huey, Stanley J.; Hernandez, Dominica

This study is a 6-month follow-up of a randomized pilot evaluation of standard one-session treatment (OST-S) versus culturally adapted OST (OST-CA) with phobic Asian Americans. OST-CA included seven cultural adaptations drawn from prior research with East Asians and Asian Americans. Results from 1-week and 6-month follow-up show that both OST-S and OST-CA were effective at reducing phobic symptoms compared with self-help control. Moreover, OST-CA was superior to OST-S for several outcomes. For catastrophic thinking and general fear, moderator analyses indicated that low-acculturation Asian Americans benefitted more from OST-CA than OST-S, whereas both treatments were equally effective for high-acculturation participants. Although cultural process factors (e.g., facilitating emotional control, exploiting the vertical therapist–client relationship) and working alliance were predictive of positive outcomes, they did not mediate treatment effects. This study offers a potential model for evaluating cultural adaptation effects, as well as the mechanisms that account for such effects.

Keywords: cultural adaptation, cultural sensitivity, Asians, treatment outcomes, exposure therapy
Cultural diversity and tethnic minority psychology 17(1), 11-22, 2011

Do they actually work across borders? Evaluation of two measures of psychological distress as screening instruments in a non Anglo-Saxon country

Carrà, G.; Sciarini, P.; Segagni-Lusignani, G.; Clerici, M.; Montomoli, C.; Kessler, R. C.

Screening scales can be useful in searching for common mental disorders in primary care and in tracking relevant prevalence and correlates in community surveys. However, it is important to document their validity, before using them. We developed Italian versions of the widely-used K10 and K6 screening scales following the WHO forward-translation and back-translation protocol. To evaluate their effectiveness as screens for DSM-IV 12-month mood or anxiety disorders and “serious mental illness” (SMI), the scales were validated in a two-stage clinical reappraisal survey. In the first-phase, the scales were administered to 605 people. In the second-phase, a sub-sample of 147 first-phase respondents over-sampling screened positives was administered the 12-month version of the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders as a clinical gold standard. Performance of the scales in screening for chosen disorders was assessed by calculating area under the receiver operating characteristic curve and stratum-specific likelihood ratios. Both the K10 and K6 performed well in detecting DSM-IV mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and serious mental illness (SMI), with areas under the curve (AUCs) (95% CIs) between 0.82 (0.75–0.89) and 0.91 (0.85–0.96). The Italian versions of the K6 and K10 scales have good psychometric properties, making them attractive inexpensive screens for mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and SMI.

Keywords: Anxiety; Depression; Mental disorders; Screening
European psychiatry 26(2), 122-127, 2011

Ethnicity, religion and clinical practice: a qualitative study of beliefs and attitudes of psychiatrists in the United Kingdom

Durà-Vilà, Glòria; Hagger, Matthew; Dein, Simon; Leavey, Gerard

There is growing interest in the relationship between religion and mental health and the need for compassion, empathy and “spiritual competencies” within health services including psychiatry. The nature and the extent of such a relationship are highly vexed and polarising within the psychiatric profession. While the United Kingdom is ostensibly a secular society, a high percentage of NHS clinicians hail from religiously oriented societies; we know little on how the religious beliefs of such professionals are resolved in a secular practice. This is a qualitative study exploring psychiatrists' attitudes to religion and spirituality within their practice and which attempts to examine how these are resolved in the therapeutic relationship with, and management of, religious patients. Twenty interviews were conducted with psychiatrists working in London. The main finding was the strong degree of dissonance amongst the migrant psychiatrists between their practice in their home countries (incorporating patients' religious beliefs) and in the United Kingdom (excluding them). The need for more training in this area and the relevance of the results are discussed and placed in the context of previous literature.

Keywords: attitudes; clinical practice; mental health; migrant psychiatrists; religion; spirituality; UK

Mental health, religion and health 14(1), 53-64, 2011

Familial influence of loss and trauma on refugee mental health : a multilevel path analysis

Nickerson, Angela; Bryant, Richard A.; Brooks, Robert; Steel, Zachary; Silove, Derrick; Chen, Jack

Although the impact of human rights violations on the mental health of refugees has been well documented, little is known about these effects at a family level. In this study the authors examined the relationships among loss, trauma, and mental health at the individual and family levels in resettled Mandaean refugees (N = 315). Trauma, loss, posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, complicated grief, and mental health-related quality of life were assessed. A multilevel path analysis revealed that loss and trauma significantly impacted on psychological outcomes at both the individual and family levels. Effect sizes ranged from .21 to .68 at the individual level, and .38 to .99 at the family level, highlighting the importance of the family when considering the psychological impact of refugee-related trauma.

Journal of traumatic stress 24(1), 25-33, 2011

From benzos to berries : Treatment offered at an Aboriginal youth solvent abuse treatment centre relays the importance of culture

Dell, Colleen Anne; Seguin, Maureen; Hopkins, Carol; Tempier, Raymond; Mehl-Madrona, Lewis; Dell, Debra; Duncan, Randy; Mosier, Karen

First Nations and Inuit youth who abuse solvents are one of the most highly stigmatized substance-abusing groups in Canada. Drawing on a residential treatment response that is grounded in a culture-based model of resiliency, this article discusses the cultural implications for psychiatry's individualized approach to treating mental disorders. A systematic review of articles published in *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* during the past decade, augmented with a review of Canadian and international literature, revealed a gap in understanding and practice between Western psychiatric disorder-based and Aboriginal culture-based approaches to treatment and healing from substance abuse and mental disorders. Differing conceptualizations of mental health and substance abuse are discussed from Western psychiatric and Aboriginal worldviews, with a focus on connection to self, community, and political context. Applying an Aboriginal method of knowledge translation—storytelling—experiences from front-line workers in a youth solvent abuse treatment centre relay the difficulties with applying Western responses to Aboriginal healing. This lends to a discussion of how psychiatry can capitalize on the growing debate regarding the role of culture in the treatment of Aboriginal youth who abuse solvents. There is significant need for culturally competent psychiatric research specific to diagnosing and treating First Nations and Inuit youth who abuse substances, including solvents. Such understanding for front-line psychiatrists is necessary to improve practice. A health promotion perspective may be a valuable beginning point for attaining this understanding, as it situates psychiatry's approach to treating mental disorders within the etiology for Aboriginal Peoples.

Key Words: substance abuse, addiction, volatile solvent abuse, mental health, Aboriginal, youth, treatment, storytelling

Canadian journal of psychiatry 56(2), 75–83, 2011

German validation of the Conners Adult ADHD Rating Scales–self-report (CAARS-S): Factor structure and normative data

Christiansen, H.; Kis, B.; Hirsch, O.; Philipsen, A.; Henneck, M.; Panczuk, A.; Pietrowsky, R.; Hebebrand, J.; Schimmelmann, B. G.

Background

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) often persists into adulthood. Instruments for diagnosing ADHD in childhood are well validated and reliable, but diagnosis of ADHD in adults remains problematic. Attempts have been made to develop criteria specific for adult ADHD, resulting in the development of self-report and observer-rated questionnaires. To date, the Conners Adult ADHD Rating Scales (CAARS) are the international standard for questionnaire assessment of ADHD. The current study evaluates a German version of the CAARS self-report (CAARS-S).

Methods

Eight hundred and fifty healthy German control subjects were recruited to fill out the CAARS-S and to answer questions on sociodemographic variables. Explorative and confirmative factor analyses were conducted to obtain the factor structure for the German model and to replicate the factor structure of the original American model. Analyses on gender, age, and education level were calculated for normative data.

Results

The explorative factor analysis of the German sample results in a six-factor solution that explained 52% of the variance. A confirmative analysis that was based on the 42 items of the original American model showed a high model-fit. Analyses of normative data showed significant influences of age, gender, and education level on the emerging subscales.

Conclusion

Even though the explorative factor analysis yields a solution different from the American original, the confirmative factor analysis results in such a high model-fit that use of the American version is justified with respect to international multicenter studies, for which this instrument will be highly valuable.

Keywords: Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; Adult ADHD; Adult ADHD assessment; Diagnostic issues; Conners Adult ADHD Rating Scales (CAARS)

European psychiatry 26(2), 100-107, 2011

High rates of psychosis for black inpatients in Padua and Montreal : different contexts, similar findings

Jarvis, G. Eric; Toniolo, Irene; Ryder, Andrew G.; Sessa, Francesco; Cremonese, Carla

Objective

This study tested the hypothesis that despite differences in setting, specifically in Padua or Montreal, black psychiatric inpatients will have higher rates of assigned diagnosis of psychosis than their non-black counterparts.

Methods

Data on psychotic patients admitted to the psychiatry ward were extracted from records of general hospitals in Padua and Montreal. Logistic regression analyses were conducted separately for each site to determine the relation between being black and receiving a diagnosis of psychosis, while controlling for sex and age.

Results

Most black patients at both sites received a diagnosis of psychosis (76% in Padua and 81% in Montreal). Being black was independently and positively associated with being diagnosed with psychosis compared to patients from other groups.

Conclusions

Black patients admitted to psychiatry, whether in Padua or Montreal, were more likely to be assigned a diagnosis of psychosis than were other patients.

Keywords Psychosis – Diagnosis – Ethnicity – Migrant - Hospital admission

Social psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology 46(3), 247-253, 2011

Jiko-shisen-kyofu (fear of one's own glance), but not taijin-kyofusho (fear of interpersonal relations), is an east Asian culture-related specific syndrome

Iwata, Yasuhide; Suzuki, Katsuaki; Takei, Nori; Touloupoulou, Timothea; Tsuchiya, Kenji J.; Matsumoto, Kaori; Takagai, Shu; Oshiro, Masaya; Nakamura, Kazuhiko; Mori, Norio

Objective

According to the DSM-IV-TR, the concept of *taijin-kyofusho* (fear of interpersonal relations) is both unique to East Asia and a culture-bound syndrome. In the indigenous diagnostic classification system in Japan, *taijin-kyofusho* consists of four subtypes, i.e. *sekimen-kyofu* (phobia of blushing), *shubo-kyofu* (phobia of a deformed face/body), *jiko-shu-kyofu* (phobia of one's own foul body odour), and *jiko-shisen-kyofu* (phobia of one's own glance). Each subtype except for phobia of one's own glance can be adequately assigned to a respective existing category in the DSM-IV-TR. The aim of the study was to introduce clinical features of phobia of one's own glance to western psychiatrists.

Methods

Description of a series of cases with *jiko-shisen-kyofu* (phobia of one's own glance).

Results

All of our cases shared the unique feature that they suffered from the preoccupation that their own glance was offensive to others, and as a result were socially withdrawn themselves.

Conclusions

To our best knowledge, no cases with a clear picture of phobia of one's own glance have been reported in the West to date. The controversial issue of the classification of phobia of one's own glance as an east Asian culture-related specific syndrome was addressed.

Keywords

anxiety, cross-cultural comparison, interpersonal relations, social phobia

Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry 45(2), 148-152, 2011

Perceptions of depression in Korean American immigrants

Sin, Mo-Kyung; Jordan, Pamela; Park, Jamie

Despite its high prevalence, depression is often unrecognized and untreated in minority immigrants. Culture and environment influence perceptions of depression. The purpose of this study was to understand perceptions of depression (knowledge and coping mechanisms) in Korean American immigrants using focus group discussions. A convenience sample ($n = 28$) was recruited from Korean communities in the Puget Sound region of Washington State. Participants lacked an understanding of depression. Difficulties from immigration-related environmental changes were the main sources of stress. Immigration-related environmental changes resulted in changes in coping resources. Culture-friendly education and coping resources might benefit this minority group.

Issues in mental health nursing 32(3), 177-183, 2011

Psychosocial problems in asylum seekers' children : the parent, child, and teacher perspective using the strengths and difficulties Qquestionnaire

Wiegersma, P. Auke; Stellinga-Boelen, Annette A. M.; Reijneveld, Sijmen A.

Children of asylum seekers are at risk for psychosocial problems because of their flight history and exceptional living circumstances. This study aims to assess the association of sociodemographic factors and asylum procedural factors with psychosocial problems of asylum seekers' children, and differences herein by informant (parents, teachers, and children). To this end, we obtained data on psychosocial problems among a random sample of 267 children aged 4 to 16, living in Dutch asylum seekers' centers, using the multi-informant Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire. The results show that the prevalence rate of psychosocial problems among asylum seekers' children was high. The occurrence was not associated with asylum-procedural variables but only with child-contextual factors such as mental health of the mother and leaving behind a parent in the country of origin. The associations varied in strength by informant. Therefore, preventive and supportive measures to improve psychosocial health of young asylum-seekers should concentrate on these contextual issues.

Keywords: Asylum seekers', children, psychosocial problems, strengths and difficulties questionnaire, predictive variables, supportive measures

Journal of nervous and mental disease 199(2), 85-90, 2011

Refugee, asylum seeker, immigrant women and postnatal depression: rates and risk factors

Collins, Catherine H.; Zimmerman, Cathy; Howard, Louise M.

Postnatal depression (PND) is recognised as a common maternal health problem, but little evidence examines PND among refugee, asylum seeker and immigrant women in developed country settings. This review aimed to identify the rates of PND and highlight common risk factors among this group of women. An iterative and dynamic literature search was conducted across ten databases to identify published articles on PND among immigrant, asylum-seeking and refugee women in developed country settings. Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and 'free text' search terms, as well as thesaurus terms, acronyms and truncation were used where appropriate. Findings suggest that PND may affect up to 42% of migrant women, compared to

around 10–15% of native-born women. Common risk factors for PND among migrant women include history of stressful life events, lack of social support and cultural factors. With a growing number of babies born to immigrant mothers, greater awareness of PND among this group is needed in order to respond to their particular maternal mental health needs. Maternity care providers should regard all recent immigrants as at high risk of PND and give closer observation and support as necessary.

Keywords Immigrants – Refugees - Asylum seekers – Women - Postnatal depression - Social support

Archives of women's mental health 14(1), 3-11, 2011

Relationship between perceived discrimination and Generalized Anxiety Disorder among African Americans, Afro Caribbeans, and non-Hispanic Whites

Soto, José A.; Dawson-Andoh, Nana A.; BeLue, Rhonda

The present study examined the relationship between frequency of race based and non-race based discrimination experiences and Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) in a sample of 3570 African Americans, 1438 Afro Caribbeans, and 891 non-Hispanic Whites from the National Survey of American Life (NSAL). Because GAD and the experience of racial discrimination are both associated with symptoms of worry and tension, we expected race based discrimination to predict GAD prevalence for African Americans, but not other groups. We did not expect non-race based discrimination to predict GAD. Results showed that while more frequent experiences of non-race based discrimination predicted GAD for all groups, experiencing race based discrimination was associated with significantly higher odds of endorsing lifetime GAD for African Americans only. Results are interpreted in light of the different contexts that these three ethnic groups represent relative to their history within the United States as well as their present day circumstances.

Keywords: Racial discrimination; Generalized Anxiety Disorder; African Americans; Afro Caribbeans; Minority mental health; Perceived discrimination

Journal of anxiety disorders 25(2), 258-265, 2011

Relationship between trauma, post-migration problems and the psychological well-being of refugees and asylum seekers

Carswell, Kenneth ; Blackburn, Pennie; Barker, Chris

Background

There is growing evidence of the impact of post-migration factors on the mental health of refugees. To date, few UK studies have been conducted.

Aims

The study investigated the relationship between trauma, post-migration problems, social support and the mental health of refugees and asylum seekers.

Methods

Refugees and asylum seekers (n = 47) were recruited mainly from clinical settings. Self-report measures of post-migration problems, mental health problems and social support were completed in an interview.

Results

Bivariate associations were identified between increased symptoms and number of traumas, adaptation difficulties, loss of culture and support and confidant support. In multivariate analyses post-migration problems were significantly associated with post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms and emotional distress. There was no significant association of symptoms and number of traumas or social support.

Conclusions

The results suggest that clinical services should provide holistic interventions within a phased approach when working with refugees and asylum seekers. At a policy level, the results suggest the need for asylum policies that reduce post-migration problems and provide support for refugees and asylum seekers.

Keywords asylum seekers - mental health problems - post-migration problems - post-traumatic stress – isorder – refugees - social risk factors - International journal of social psychiatry

International journal of social psychiatry 57(2), 107-119, 2011

Rethinking resilience from Indigenous perspectives

Kirmayer Laurence J; Dandeneau, Stéphane; Marshall, Elizabeth; Phillips, Morgan Kahenttonni; Williamson, Karla Jessen

The notions of resilience that have emerged in developmental psychology and psychiatry in recent years require systematic rethinking to address the distinctive cultures, geographic and social settings, and histories of adversity of indigenous peoples. In Canada, the overriding social realities of indigenous peoples include their historical rootedness to a specific place (with traditional lands, communities, and transactions with the environment) and the profound displacements caused by colonization and subsequent loss of autonomy, political oppression, and bureaucratic control. We report observations from an ongoing collaborative project on resilience in Inuit, Métis, Mi'kmaq, and Mohawk communities that suggests the value of incorporating indigenous constructs in resilience research. These constructs are expressed through specific stories and metaphors grounded in local culture and language; however, they can be framed more generally in terms of processes that include: regulating emotion and supporting adaptation through relational, ecocentric, and cosmocentric concepts of self and personhood; revisioning collective history in ways that valorize collective identity; revitalizing language and culture as resources for narrative self-fashioning, social positioning, and healing; and renewing individual and collective agency through political activism, empowerment, and reconciliation. Each of these sources of resilience can be understood in dynamic terms as emerging from interactions between individuals, their communities, and the larger regional, national, and global systems that locate and sustain indigenous agency and identity. This social-ecological view of resilience has important implications for mental health promotion, policy, and clinical practice.

Key Words: cultural psychiatry, resilience, First Nations, Inuit, Métis, mental health promotion, community mental health, cultural concept of person, narrative, historical trauma

Canadian journal of psychiatry 56(2), 84–91, 2011

Spanish validation of the Brief Assessment in Cognition in Schizophrenia (BACS) in patients with schizophrenia and healthy controls

Segarra, N.; Bernardo, Miguel; Gutierrez, F.; Justicia, A.; Fernandez-Egea, E.; Allas, M.; Safont, G.; Contreras, F.; Gascon, J.; Soler-Insa, P. A.; Menchon, J. M.; Junque, C.; Keefe, R. S. E.

Neurocognitive impairment is a core feature of schizophrenia and is closely associated with functional outcome. The importance of cognitive assessment is broadly accepted today, and an easy-to-use, internationally validated cognitive assessment tool is needed by researchers and in daily clinical practice. The Brief Assessment of Cognition in Schizophrenia (BACS) has been validated in English, French, Japanese and Italian. It is as sensitive to cognitive dysfunction as a standard test battery, with the advantage of requiring less than 35 minutes to complete. In our study, we tested the psychometric characteristics of a Spanish version of the BACS in 117 patients with schizophrenia-spectrum disorders and 36 healthy controls. All BACS cognitive subtests discriminated between patients and controls ($P < .001$), and the concurrent validity between the BACS and a traditional neuropsychological test battery was similar to that reported in other languages. We conclude that the BACS can facilitate the comparison of the cognitive performance of patients with schizophrenia in many different countries.

Keywords: Spanish; Validation; Cognition; Schizophrenia; Brief assessment

European psychiatry 26(2), 69-73, 2011

Validation of the German version of the Brief Assessment of Cognition in Schizophrenia (BACS) – preliminary results

Sachs, Gabriele; Winklbaur, B.; Jagsch, R.; Keefe, R. S. E.

The German version of the BACS showed high test-retest reliability. Sensitivity and specificity scores demonstrated good ability to differentiate between patients and controls. The study suggests that the German Version of the BACS is a useful scale to evaluate cognitive functioning.

Keywords: Brief Assessment of Cognition in Schizophrenia (BACS); German version; Cognitive function; Schizophrenia; Neurocognitive assessments

European psychiatry 26(2), 74-77, 2011

Validity of screening for post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems among asylum seekers from different countries

Jakobsen, Marianne; Thoresen, Siri; Johansen, Lars Erik Eide

Mental health problems are prevalent in asylum seekers and refugees. Screening instruments may be effective tools for identifying individuals with severe mental health problems, which will allow us to offer them further assessment and treatment. The aim of this study was to evaluate the utility of screening instruments in asylum seekers. The Harvard Trauma Questionnaire (HTQ) and the Hopkins Symptom Checklist (HSCL-25) were validated against the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) in a sample of 65 asylum seekers in Norway. In this sample, exposure to traumatic events was reported by 95 per cent of participants, and the prevalence of any mental disorder was high (70 per cent). An apparently high agreement between the two screening instruments and CIDI interviews concealed major differences between two subgroups (MENA and Somalia). Mental health problems were consistently overestimated for the MENA group, and underestimated for the Somali group. The area of origin was significantly associated with symptom reporting. The results of the screening instruments could not be interpreted in the same manner across the two main groups in this study. Hence, our results did not unequivocally support the use of screening instruments to identify asylum seekers in need of treatment.

Key words stress disorders - post-traumatic – depression - asylum seekers - validation studies -Harvard Trauma Questionnaire - Hopkins Symptom Check List

Journal of refugee studies 24 (1), 171-186, 2011

WPA guidance on mental health and mental health care in migrants

Bhugra, Dinesh; Gupta, Susham; Bhui, Kamaldeep; Craig, Tom; Dogra, Nisha; Ingleby, J. David; Kirkbride, James B.; Moussaoui, Driss; Nazroo, James; Qureshi, Adil; Stompe, Thomas; Tribe, Rachel

The purpose of this guidance is to review currently available evidence on mental health problems in migrants and to present advice to clinicians and policy makers on how to provide migrants with appropriate and accessible mental health services. The three phases of the process of migration and the relevant implications for mental health are outlined, as well as the specific problems of groups such as women, children and adolescents, the elderly, refugees and asylum seekers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals. The concepts of cultural bereavement, cultural identity and cultural congruity are discussed. The epidemiology of mental disorders in migrants is described. A series of recommendations to policy makers, service providers and clinicians aimed to improve mental health care in migrants are provided, covering the special needs of migrants concerning pharmacotherapies and psychotherapies.

Key words: Migrants, mental health, cultural bereavement, cultural identity, cultural congruity, schizophrenia, common mental disorders, suicide, pharmacotherapies, psychotherapies, mental health services

World Psychiatry 10(1), 2-10, 2011

download artiklen her:

http://www.wpanet.org/uploads/Publications/WPA_Journals/World_Psychiatry/Past_Issues/English/wpa-02-2011.pdf

RAPPORTER

Tolkelovens præmisser og sundhedskonsekvenser : Kritisk gennemgang på baggrund af eksisterende viden og erfaringer fra Indvandrermedicinsk Klinik

Sodemann, Morten

Odense Universitetshospital. Indvandrermedicinsk Klinik, 19 sider. Uden årstal.

Tolkeloven træder i kraft fra juni 2011. I denne rapport gennemgås eksisterende viden om sammenhængen mellem sprog og helbred, med bidrag fra praktiske erfaringer fra Indvandrermedicinsk klinik, Odense Universitetshospital.

Der er identificeret 13 formodede præmisser for tolke lovens vedtagelse og de analyseres enkeltvis. Det påvises at tolkeloven er i modstrid med sundhedsloven, psykiatriloven, forvaltningsloven og lægeløftet. Loven tvinger læger og sygeplejersker til at handle ulovligt og uprofessionelt til fare for patienters helbred,

den gennemtvinger etiske uforsvarlige kompromisser, den skaber unødigt sygdomsfrygt, er økonomisk og helbredsmæssig uansvarlig, medfører øget ulighed og kan øge dødeligheden i en gruppe af særligt skrøbelige etniske minoriteter i et antal svarende til en stor dansk provinsby. Tolkeloven er i modstrid med flere internationale konventioner, som Danmark har underskrevet.

Tolkeloven bygger på forkerte præmisser og modarbejder en lang række initiativer, der sigter mod at øge kvaliteten på sundhedsområdet og er i strid med mindst 5 standarder i Den Danske Kvalitetsmodel. Loven vil endvidere gøre integrationsarbejdet i denne særligt sårbare gruppe borgere endnu sværere. Loven er et brud med armslængde princippet og ses som et direkte indgreb i lægers faglige frihed.

Tolkeloven vil få alvorlige helbredsmæssige, juridiske og samfundsmæssige konsekvenser som ikke er inddraget som grundlag for lovens vedtagelse og den omfattende videnskabelige viden der er på området er i praksis blevet ignoreret hvorved de ca. 47.000 med ingen eller meget sparsomme dansk sprog færdigheder der rammes af loven marginaliseres endnu mere end de var før socialt, helbredsmæssigt og sprogligt.

På trods af den omfattende og vedvarende juridiske, etiske og sundhedsfaglige kritik af loven siden den blev vedtaget i 2005 fra jurister, forskere og sundhedsprofessionelles side har politikerne bag loven bagatelliseret dens helbredskonsekvenser.

Lægeforeningen og Institut for menneskerettigheder opfordres til at agere talerør for en patient og borgergruppe der ellers ikke repræsenteres af civile interesseorganisationer, lægelige specialer eller patientforeninger.

Download rapporten her: <http://www.ouh.dk/dwn148108>

BØGER

Asylbørn i Danmark : en barndom i undtagelsestilstand

Vitus, Kathrine; Nielsen, Signe Smith

København : Hans Reitzels Forlag – 250 sider, 2011

Asylsøgende børn (og voksne) forhold har de seneste år været i søgelyset, både i medierne og i de politiske diskussioner. Debatten har omhandlet asylsøgende børns livsvilkår omkring opholdstider samt bolig-, skole- og familieforhold. Den politiske og samfundsmæssige debat har dog generelt manglet forskningsmæssig forankring. Denne antologi bidrager kvalificeret og mangefacetteret til denne diskussion. En fællesnævner for antologiens analyser er, at de retter et kritisk, nuanceret, samt empirisk og teoretisk funderet lys på de forhold asylsøgende børn (ledsagede som uledsagede) har og har haft de seneste år i Danmark.

Antologiens bidrag dækker: De juridiske rammer for og menneskeretlige aspekter af asylsystemet og asylansøgers vilkår, dansk flygtninge- og immigrationspolitik i en historisk-politologisk kontekst, asylsøgende børns livsvilkår i praksis, afviste asylansøgers familieforhold, traumatiske oplevelser i hjemlandet, og hvad det betyder for børnenes psykiske sundhed ved ankomst til Danmark, psykiske reaktioner på opholdstiden på asylcentre, identitetsmæssige konsekvenser af opholdstiden, betydningen af udflytning til boliger uden for asylcentre for børnenes trivsel, asylsøgende børns status i asylsystemet, samt livsvilkårene for de uledsagede asylsøgende børn. Disse forhold belyses gennem en række forskellige videnskabelige optikker: En sociologisk, psykologisk, antropologisk, sundhedsvidenskabelig, juridisk, menneskeretlig samt politologisk optik.

Gennem denne tværdisciplinære tilgang skaber antologien et bredt videnskabeligt baseret billede af asylsøgende børns hverdag og livsvilkår. Antologiens forfattere repræsenterer et bredt felt af relevante institutioner, forskningstraditioner og faglige perspektiver på asylbørn.

Indhold

Leveforhold

- Hverdagsliv
- Asylsøgende børns baggrund
- Afviste asylansøgere
- Centerliv kontra udebolgliv

Konsekvenser

- Trivsel
- Ventetid

- Asylbørns psykiske lidelser
- Langtidsfølger

Brydninger

- Børns status
- Dansk asylpolitikk 1983-2000
- Juridiske rammer
- Rettigheter, pligter og motivationsfremmende foranstaltninger

Perspektivering

Læs også en omtale fra Videnskab.dk's hjemmeside 3. marts af Rasmus karkov:

Asylbørn er spejlbilleder af Danmark

Asylbørn afspejler det land, de opholder sig i, og ny antologi viser, at de ikke har det godt i Danmark. I dag tager asylpolitikken i lige så høj grad udgangspunkt i at beskytte de nationale grænser som mennesket på flugt. Flygtninge er blevet til asylansøgere.

"I dag er asylansøgere en bureaukratisk kategori, og politikken tager i dag lige så meget udgangspunkt i at beskytte de nationalstatslige grænser, som at beskytte det enkelte menneske." Det siger seniorforsker Kathrine Vitus fra SFI, der sammen med post doc. Signe Smith Nielsen, står bag antologien Asylbørn i Danmark, en barndom i undtagelsestilstand.

På de danske asylcentre lever en del børn i så stor ensomhed og resignation, at kedsomheden er blevet et livsvilkår.

Hvis monotonien bliver brudt af venskaber, så kan vennerne forsvinde lige så pludseligt, som de ankom, når de bliver flyttet til andre centre eller bliver afvist eller får ophold.

Mange forældre har enten allerede tabt eller er ved at tabe kampen om at fastholde et håb om en dag at få lov at forlade centret som frie borgere i et nyt land.

Læs hele artiklen her: <http://videnskab.dk/kultur-samfund/asylborn-er-spejlbilleder-af-danmark>

ANMELDELSER

Kulturens betydning for oppdragelse og adferdsproblemer : Transkulturell forståelse, veiledning og behandling

Cecilie Jávo 259 s, ill. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 2010. Pris NOK 299
ISBN 978-82-15-01616-0

Af M. E. Huynh

Forfatterens intensjon er å dekke et opplæringsbehov i kulturkompetanse for fagfolk som møter etniske minoritetsfamilier i sitt arbeid innen helse- og sosialsektoren. Læreboken tar utgangspunkt i forfatterens egen doktorgradsavhandling og senere forskning om barneoppdragelse og adferdsproblemer hos barn i samisk og norsk befolkning. Forfatteren går grundig til verks og gir nødvendig bakgrunnskunnskap om kultur og etnisitet. Hun forklarer bl.a. betydningen av etnisk identitet for god psykisk helse, hvordan akkulturasjonsstress kan føre til psykiske vansker, og hvordan kultursensitivitet kan bidra til å øke fagfolks bevissthet om egen og andres kulturer. Hun tar for seg barneoppdragelse i ulike kulturer, både i samisk kultur og i ikke-vestlige kulturer. Hun presiserer at egne normer ikke nødvendigvis er gyldige for andre. Hun definerer begrepet adferdsproblemer bredt og inkluderer både somatiseringsplager og emosjonelle vansker som angst og depresjon. Sammenhengen mellom kultur, barneoppdragelse og adferdsproblemer er uhyre kompleks, og hun gir gode eksempler på hvordan samme foreldreatferd kan få ulik virkning på barnet, avhengig av hvilken kulturell sammenheng den foregår i. En stor del er viet praktiske metoder og tilnærminger for hvordan man kan utføre kulturelt tilpassede utredninger og behandlinger av adferdsproblemer.

Dagens tilbud til minoritetsfamilier her i Norge blir godt oppsummert, i tillegg til at ulike strategier i arbeidet med kulturtilpasning av tjenestetilbudet blir beskrevet. Internasjonalt er det godt dokumentert at minoritetsbefolkninger har dårligere tilgjengelighet til psykiske helsetjenester og at disse er for dårlig tilpasset språklig og kulturelt. Jávo beskriver at man kan gjøre tjenestene mer tilgjengelige ved å intensivere opplæringen i transkulturell behandling og kultursensitivt arbeid, øke tolketjenesten, ansette flere behandlere

med minoritetsbakgrunn og utvikle samarbeidet med etniske minoritetsmiljøer. Til slutt gir hun gode eksempler på hvordan forebyggende og helsefremmede arbeid kan utføres, f.eks. etablering av Familiens Hus, som kan komme hele samfunnet til gode, inkludert den norske majoritetsbefolkningen. Denne boken er blitt et lite praktiskeksemplar på hvordan skrive en forsknings- og erfaringsbasert bok. Store fagfelt som kultur, atferdsvansker og forebyggende arbeid blir nøye definert og godt forklart, både historiske perspektiver og nyere forskning blir innlemmet. Samtidig oppfordrer hun leseren til å forholde seg til de beskrivelsene som barnet og familien selv gir av sin egen virkelighet. Boken er krydret med kasuistikker og dialoger med samiske barn og barn av ikke-vestlige innvandrere og flyktninger. Ved å åpne for debatt om ulike, politiske strategier viser forfatteren et stort engasjement for sitt fagfelt. Boken fyller absolutt et tomrom når det gjelder litteratur om hvordan man i praksis kan utføre kultursensitivt arbeid i Norge. For leger som jobber i barne- og ungdomspsykiatrien, bør denne boken være obligatorisk lesning. Både pediatere, allmennleger og psykiatere vil nok merke at boken i stor grad vil kunne være et verktøy for lettere å føle mestring i møtet med etniske minoritetsfamilier.

Anmeldelsen stammer fra Tidsskrift for Den norske legeforening.

Mental health of refugees and asylum seekers

Dinesh Bhugra Tom Craig Kamaldeep Bhui red.
308 s, tab, ill. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. Pris GBP 35
ISBN 978-0-19-955722-6

Af B. Lie

Bidragstyperne gir en relevant og oppdatert innføring i teoretiske og praktiske utfordringer i den psykiske helsetjenesten for flyktninger og asylsøkere. De retter søkelyset mot de spesielle utfordringene ved det å være flyktning, migrasjonens helsebelastninger og hvordan man kan møte pasienter på en best mulig måte. Forfatterne intensjoner har vært å løfte et fagfelt uten sterke brukergrupper opp og vise dette som det spennende og interessante fagfeltet det er. Boken retter seg mot terapeuter innen psykisk helse i spesialisthelsetjenesten og helsepersonell i primærhelsetjenesten, men er også relevant for andre som kommer i kontakt med disse gruppene.

Det er 21 kapitler, og bidragstyperne representerer en betydelig kompetanse innen feltet, både fra klinisk praksis og forskning ved universiteter i Europa, USA, Asia og Australia. De presenterer oppdatert og anvendt forskning med kliniske eksempler.

Forfatterne gir en grundig teoretisk innføring, hvor de belyser sammenhengen mellom psykisk helse og migrasjon. De tager opp så vel tilpasning, utfordringer med henblikk på identitet som pre- og postmigrasjonsutfordringer.

Den mer praktisk orienterte delen omhandler psykiatriens kulturelle og språklige utfordringer ved diagnostisering av flyktningpasienter. De belyser terapeutiske forventninger, terapeut-pasient-interaksjon og psykoterapitradisjoner. I møtet mellom ulike kulturelle tradisjoner er det behov for fleksibilitet i behandlerstilen. Etnopsykofarmakologi, etterlevelse, de utfordringene som ligger i ulik sykdomsforståelse og bruk av tradisjonelle preparater behandler de i et eget kapittel.

I den siste delen tar forfatterne for seg mer spesielle fagfelt innen psykisk helse, som selvmord blant flyktninger, følger av seksuelle overgrep, barn som flyktninger, og flyktningfamiliers spesielle behov. Posttraumatisk stresslidelse omtaler de med henvisning til forskning og klinisk praksis. Nevrobiologisk forskning har bidratt til et nytt perspektiv på behandling av traumatisk stress og lidelser som stresset kan føre til. Dette er illustrert med eksempler fra anbefalte terapeutiske tilnærminger, som blant annet traumefokuset kognitiv terapi (T-CBT) og EMDR (eye movement desensitizing and reprocessing).

Norge har fått en flerkulturell hverdag som helsepersonell på alle nivåer må forholde seg til, og det er underforbruk av psykiske helsetjenester blant flyktninger og asylsøkere. Forskning også her i landet viser at det er en tett sammenheng mellom migrasjonsutfordringer, sosioøkonomiske forhold og psykisk uhelse i innvandrerbefolkningen. I liten grad har vi tatt de involverte pasientgruppene med på råd eller sett på tradisjonelle mestringsstrategier fra deres opprinnelseskultur.

Denne boken er et viktig bidrag til et fagfelt som trenger mer oppmerksomhet i Helse-Norge. Det vestlige perspektivet og de terapitradisjonene som er rådende, får her en faglig velfundert utfordring. Boken gir et solid inntrykk og er godt underbygd med oppdatert forskning fra sentrale og relevante kilder.

Anmeldelsen stammer fra Tidsskrift for Den norske legeforening.