

Information om Transkulturel Psykiatri, januar 2010

NYHEDER

10-årsjubileum på Transkulturelt Centrum

Flordh, Christina

Det kom en indbudan från Transkulturellt Centrum som väckte mitt intresse.

Dels ville jag veta lite mer om verksamheten, dels lockade ett antal intressanta föredrag.

Insikten 5, 2009

läs artiklen her: http://www.sls.sll.se/upload/Transkulturellt%20Centrum/Insikten_artikel_10_arsjub.pdf

Afviste irakiske asylbørn lider i Danmark

Ugeskrift for lægers netudgave 11. januar 2010/ Rasmussen, Lars Igum

Tyve ud af 21 afviste irakiske asylbørn har behandlingskrævende psykiske forstyrrelser, der truer deres personlige udvikling og helbred. Flere overvejer eller har forsøgt selvmord. Men kun to er i behandling, viser ny undersøgelse.

Asylbørn slås med massive problemer : Næsten alle irakiske børn, som står til udvisning, har psykiske problemer

Politikens netavis 10. januar 2010 / ritzau

Tanker om selvmord, depression og stemmer i hovedet. Det er hverdagen for langt størstedelen af de afviste irakiske asylbørn, der befinder sig i Danmark.

20 ud af de i alt 21 børn, hvis familier står til udvisning fra Danmark, har således svære psykiske problemer, viser en ny undersøgelse. Det skriver Ugeskrift for Læger.

Flere af børnene i undersøgelsen levede sammen med deres familier og flere andre afviste irakiske asylsøgere i Brorsons Kirke, som politiet i august sidste år ryddede.

läs artiklen her: <http://politiken.dk/indland/article877205.ece>

Børnepsykiatrisk-børnepsykologisk undersøgelse af 6 asylbørn 2007 - Follow-up 2009

Lier, Lene; Rich, Bente; Jansson, Peer; Gotfredsen, John W.

I starten af 2007 etableredes en gruppe af speciallæger og psykologer for at yde en humanitær indsats overfor et mindre antal børn i asylcentre, hvor forældrene var bekymrede for børnenes psykiske trivsel. Baggrunden for gruppens etablering var, at Dansk Røde Kors i sommeren 2006 havde oplyst, at kun 50 af i alt 300 børn i den skolepligtige alder i de danske asylcentre vurderedes tilstrækkelig velfungerende til at kunne undervises i en dansk folkeskole på trods af, at Folketinget i 2006 anbefalede, at børnene i asylcentre så vidt muligt blev undervist i de almindelige kommunale skoler i lokalmiljøet.

Ugeskrift for læger 172(2), 86, 2010

läs artiklen her:

http://www.ugeskriftet.dk/portal/page/portal/LAEGERDK/UGESKRIFT_FOR_LAEGER/Artikelvisning?pURL=UGESKRIFT_FOR_LAEGER/TIDLIGERE_NUMRE/2010/UFL_2010_2/UFL_2010_172_2_86

De irakiske asylbørn er vores problem

Politikens leder 12. januar 2010

Ni af landets fremtrædende læger og psykiatere med speciale i børne- og ungdomspsykiatri har undersøgt 21 børn af afviste irakiske asylansøgere. Undersøgelsen viser, at 20 af de i alt 21 børn har brug for psykiatrisk hjælp. Den ene undtagelse er et spædbarn. De andre 20 lider af apati, angst, depression, koncentrationsbesvær, søvnløshed og selvmordstanker. Kun to af børnene får psykiatrisk hjælp.

läs lederen her: <http://politiken.dk/debat/ledere/article878007.ece>

De kunne bare have haft nogle andre forældre

Informations netavis 11. januar / Anton Geist

De irakiske asylbørn betaler prisen for den forbrydelse, deres forældre ifølge Birthe Rønn Hornbech er skyldige i. Selv har ministeren syltet undersøgelser af børnene for at undgå et uløseligt dilemma Birthe Rønn Hornbech har for længst besluttet sig. De afviste irakiske asylansøgere i Danmark skal tvangshjemsendes. Og det er der ikke noget, der skal rokke ved.

læs artiklen her: <http://www.information.dk/221013>

RCT frygter nye regler straffer torturofre

Informations netavis 26. januar 2010 / ritzau

Rehabiliterings- og Forskningscentret for Torturofre (RCT) frygter, at strammere regler for at opnå permanent opholdstilladelse vil ramme torturofre. Integrationsminister Birthe Rønn Hornbech (V) har tilsyneladende helt overset, at der er en del torturofre blandt de flygtninge, som nu ved hjælp af mere "gulerod og pisk", skal motiveres til at blive bedre integreret.

læs nyheden her: <http://www.information.dk/telegram/222651>

Rønn: Asylforældre bruger syge børn som pression : Forældrene skal rejse hjem i stedet for at bruge børnene som skjold, siger Rønn.

Politikens netavis 11. januar 2010 / ritzau

En undersøgelse, der påviser, at 20 ud af 21 afviste irakiske asylbørn er psykisk syge, får ikke integrationsminister Birthe Rønn Hornbech (V) til at ryste på hånden:

Familierne skal sendes hjem til Irak, siger Birthe Rønn.

»Det er forfærdeligt for børnene, men det er forældrenes ansvar. De har fået at vide, at de skal udsendes. Jeg kan kun appellere til forældrene, at de rejser hjem, inden politiet henter dem«, siger Birthe Rønn Hornbech.

Hun er ikke overrasket over undersøgelsens konklusioner.

»Den usikkerhed, forældrene skaber, belaster selvfølgelig børnene. Derfor er det synd for børnene, men det ændrer ikke forældrenes ansvar«, siger hun.

Går til angreb på forældrene

På spørgsmålet om, hvorvidt undersøgelsen giver anledning til at forbedre forholdene for afviste asylansøgere, mens de er i Danmark, siger Birthe Rønn Hornbech:

»Jeg må indrømme, jeg føler mig snydt af de forældre. Jeg gav dem bedre forhold, så snart jeg blev minister, men hvis de benytter det til yderligere pression over for mig, så må jeg jo genoverveje, om det var forkert at give dem bedre forhold. De har haft tid til at besinde sig, de har set, at andre er blevet sendt hjem og de udnytter situationen. Det, synes jeg, er forkasteligt«.

Hun erkender, at børnene bliver tabere.

»Det er ikke en hårdknude efter reglerne. Det er noget, forældrene har skabt. Reglerne er klare. Forældrene skaber en situation, hvor de åbenbart vil bruge deres børn som skjold, og det må jeg tage afstand fra«, siger Birthe Rønn Hornbech.

Rønn Hornbech syltede spørgsmål om undersøgelser af asylbørn

Informations netavis 11. januar / Anton Geist

Ved hjælp af vildledende henvisninger har integrationsministeren gennem længere tid undgået at svare sine folketingskolleger på spørgsmål om børnefaglige undersøgelser af de afviste irakiske asylbørn. For 20. gang i træk vil hun ikke tale med Information om de afviste irakere.

En lægefaglig ekspertundersøgelse afdækker nu, hvad mange længe har frygtet: De irakiske asylbørn i Danmark er ramt af svære psykiske problemer.

læs artiklen her: <http://www.information.dk/221011>

Store psykiske problemer hos asylbørn

Berlingske Tidendes netavis 18. januar 2010 / Lene Frøslev

64 gange i 2009 er kommunerne gjort opmærksomme på snesevis af asylbørn, der mistrives og omsorgssviges. Snesevis af asylbørn har det så psykisk og socialt svært under deres ophold i Danmark, at kommunerne sidste år 64 gange blev underrettet af asylcentre. Alene en enkelt kommune, Dragør, der er hjemsted for specialcentret Kongelunden, havde i 2009 voldsomme sociale sager, der omhandlede mindst 21 børn. Det er børn, der har været udsat for omsorgssvigt i stærkt pressede familier. Børn, der har begået kriminalitet. Og børn, der generelt mistrives. En række af børnene har fået psykologbehandling, har fået støttepersoner tilknyttet eller er indstillet til hospitalsbehandling.

læs artiklen her: <http://www.berlingske.dk/danmark/store-psykiske-problemer-hos-asylboern>

FRA FOLKETINGET

Er der taget tilstrækkeligt hensyn til barnets tarv i sagen om de irakiske børnefamilier, når 20 ud af 21 børn har svære psykiske lidelser? Spørgsmålet stilles på baggrund af den børne- og ungdomspsykiatriske undersøgelse af samtlige afviste irakiske asylbørn i Danmark, som blev offentliggjort i Ugeskrift for Læger den 11. januar 2009

Svar fra ministeren for flygtninge, indvandrere og integration:

Jeg har ikke fået forevist nogen undersøgelse, og jeg kan på den baggrund ikke udtale mig nærmere om de omtalte børn.

Besvarelse af spørgsmål nr. 96 stillet af Folketingets Udvalg for Udlændinge- og Integrationspolitik den 14. januar 2010 (UUI alm. del – spørgsmål nr. 96).

Hvad vil ministeren gøre for at hjælpe de 20 irakiske børn, der ifølge en ny undersøgelse lider af svære psykiske problemer?

Svar fra ministeren for flygtninge, indvandrere og integration:

Regeringen har løbende fokus på forholdene for de afviste asylansøgere, herunder i særdeleshed børn og deres familier. Jeg kan oplyse, at personalet på asylcentre i dag allerede har pligt til at sikre forebyggende sundhedsforanstaltninger for børn og unge, herunder at sikre børnene tilstrækkeligt gode psykiske sundhedsforhold.

Desuden har kommunerne pligt til at føre tilsyn med børnenes forhold efter serviceloven. Det følger af denne lov, at når personalet på et asylcenter bliver opmærksom på et asylansøgerbarn med særlige psykiske sundhedsproblemer, skal asylcentret kontakte kommunen, så kommunen kan vurdere, om der er behov for en særlig indsats. Såfremt der er behov herfor, skal asylansøgerbørnene henvises af det tværfaglige team til en børnepsykolog, børnepsykiater eller anden relevant specialist.

Jeg kan i tillæg hertil oplyse, at det fremgår af regeringsgrundlaget fra november 2007, at forholdene for traumatiserede asylansøgere skal forbedres. Således er det psykosociale team under Dansk Røde Kors, som hidtil har fungeret på forsøgsbasis, gjort til en permanent ordning. Endvidere tilbydes en mere systematisk psykologundersøgelse af asylbørn i udsatte familier på et meget tidligt tidspunkt i asylforløbet.

Besvarelse af spørgsmål nr. S 757 stillet af folketingsmedlem Johanne Schmidt-Nielsen (EL) den 12. januar.

Hvordan forholder ministeren sig til, at ledende overlæge og formand for Børne- og Ungdomspsykiatrisk Selskab i Danmark, Jan Jørgensen, mener, at det er »... omsorgssvigtgrænsende til menneskeforagt at undlade at hjælpe børn i så stor nød og lidelse«?

Svar fra ministeren for flygtninge, indvandrere og integration:

Overlægens udtalelse indeholder vurderinger, der falder uden for hans faglige kompetence. Der henvises i øvrigt til besvarelsen af spørgsmål nr. 757

Besvarelse af spørgsmål nr. S 761 stillet af folketingsmedlem Johanne Schmidt-Nielsen (EL) den 12. januar.

Ministeren bedes redegøre for, hvorfor kun 2 ud af 20 børn, hvis familier står til udvisning til Irak, og som har svære psykiske problemer, aktuelt er i behandling. Spørgsmålet stilles på baggrund af den børne- og ungdomspsykiatriske undersøgelse af samtlige afviste irakiske asylbørn i Danmark, som blev offentliggjort i Ugeskrift for Læger den 11. januar 2009.

Svar fra ministeren for flygtninge, indvandrere og integration:

Jeg har ikke fået forevist nogen undersøgelse, og jeg kan på den baggrund ikke udtale mig nærmere om de omtalte børn.

Besvarelse af spørgsmål nr. 98 stillet af Folketingets Udvalg for Udlændinge- og Integrationspolitik den 14. januar 2010 (UUI alm. del – spørgsmål nr. 98).

Vil de nye oplysninger om asylbørnenes psykiske problemer få ministeren til at genoverveje at give de irakiske børnefamilier humanitært ophold?

Svar fra ministeren for flygtninge, indvandrere og integration:

Jeg agter naturligvis at se på sagerne, såfremt de pågældende indgiver en anmodning om genoptagelse af deres sager om humanitær opholdstilladelse. Meddelelse af humanitær opholdstilladelse sker altid efter en konkret og individuel vurdering af hver enkelt sag. Der kan således ikke generelt meddeles humanitær opholdstilladelse til børnefamilier fra Irak.

Besvarelse af spørgsmål nr. S 759 stillet af folketingsmedlem Johanne Schmidt- Nielsen (EL) den 12. januar.

LITTERATUR

ARTIKLER FRA FAGLIGE TIDSSKRIFTER

The association of immigrant- and non-immigrant-specific factors with mental ill health among immigrants in Sweden

Tinghög, Petter; Al-Saffar, Suad; Carstensen, John; Nordenfelt, Lennart

Abstract

Background

It has often been shown that immigrants are particularly at risk for mental ill health. The aim of the study was to investigate the association of immigrant- and non-immigrant-specific factors with mental ill health within a diverse immigrant population.

Method

An extensive questionnaire was sent out to a stratified random sample of three immigrant populations from Finland, Iraq and Iran. The 720 respondents completed a Swedish, Arabic or Farsi (Persian) version of the questionnaire including the WHO (10) Well-Being Index and the HSCL-25.

Results

The results indicate that mental ill health among immigrants is independently associated with non-immigrant-specific factors (i.e. high number of types of traumatic episodes, divorced/widowed, poor social network, economic insecurity and being female) and immigrant-specific factors (i.e. low level of sociocultural adaptation). These results were obtained regardless of whether mental ill health was operationalized as low subjective well-being or a high symptom level of anxiety/depression.

Conclusions

These findings support the notion that mental ill health among immigrants is a multi-faceted phenomenon that needs to be tackled within a wide range of sectors — e.g. the healthcare system, the social service sector and, of course, the political arena.

Key Words: living conditions - mental ill health - migration - risk factors - Sweden - trauma

International journal of social psychiatry 56(1,) 74-93, 2010

The associations between socio-economic status and major depressive disorder among Blacks, Latinos, Asians and non-Hispanic Whites : findings from the Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Studies

Gavin, A. R.; Walton, Emily; Chae, David H.; Alegria, Margarita; Jackson, James S.; Takeuchi, David T.

Abstract

Background

This study examined whether there were associations between individual measures of socio-economic status (SES) and the 12-month prevalence of major depressive disorder (MDD) in representative samples of Blacks, Latinos, Asians and Whites in the USA.

Method

The data used were from the Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Studies (CPES).

Results

There was an association between household income and MDD among Whites. However, the association was not statistically significant. Statistically significant associations were present between educational attainment and MDD among Whites. Among both Whites and Latinos, being out of the labor force was significantly associated with MDD. In analyses by nativity, being out of the labor force was significantly associated with MDD among US-born and foreign-born Latinos.

Conclusions

Significant associations between various measures of SES and MDD were consistently observed among White and, in some cases, Latino populations. Future studies should continue to examine sociopsychological factors related to SES that increase the risk of MDD among people from racial-ethnic communities.

Key Words: Major depression; racial-ethnic status; socio-economic status

Psychological medicine 40(1), 51-61, 2010

Australia's Aboriginal population and mental health

Parker, Robert

Abstract

It appears that mental illness was present in Australian Aboriginal culture prior to European colonization of Australia but was, most likely, a relatively rare occurrence. The much greater prevalence of mental illness and suicide in the current Aboriginal population is a reflection of the significant disruption to Aboriginal society and has a strong context of social and emotional deprivation. Management of the issues of mental illness in Aboriginal people requires a strong emphasis on cultural safety along with the recognition of family, culture and community in any therapeutic process.

Keywords: Australian aboriginal, mental illness, cultural safety, suicide

Journal of nervous and mental disease 198(1), 3-7, 2010

Børnepsykiatrisk-børnepsykologisk undersøgelse af 6 asylbørn 2007 : follow-up 2009

Lier; Lene; Rich, Bente; Jansson, Peer; Gotfredsen, John W.

Opfølgende undersøgelse 2009

Til brug for den opfølgende undersøgelse udarbejdede gruppen et semistruktureret interview vedr.

1. familiens aktuelle sociale og helbreds-mæssige tilstand,
2. søskendes sociale og helbreds-mæssige tilstand samt skolegang/uddannelse, og
3. det undersøgte barns aktuelle sociale og helbreds-mæssige tilstand, skolegang/uddannelse. Da der er tale om så lille en gruppe, har vi fundet det vigtigt at anonymisere deltagerne. Nærmere oplysninger kan indhentes hos forfatterne.

Ugeskrift for læger 172(2), 2pp, 2010

artiklen kan læses her: <http://www.ft.dk/samling/20091/almdel/uui/bilag/55/784264.pdf>

Den oprindelige rapport fra 2007 kan ses her: <http://www.ft.dk/samling/20071/almdel/sou/bilag/27/405167.pdf>

The CES-D in Chinese American women : Construct validity, diagnostic validity for major depression, and cultural response bias

Li, Zhonghe; Hicks, Madelyn Hsiao-Rei

Abstract

Previous studies of the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) in Chinese Americans describe internal reliability and factor structure. We report CES-D construct validity and diagnostic validity for major depression in a probability sample of 168 community-dwelling Chinese American women. Internal consistency was satisfactory (Cronbach's $\alpha=0.86$). Good construct validity was indicated by significantly higher mean CES-D scores for respondents who reported lower social support, worse self-perceived general health, or stressful life events, including intimate partner violence. Cultural response bias was found, with positively-stated CES-D items (e.g. "I was happy") producing higher depression scores in immigrants and subjects who preferred to speak Chinese. Diagnostic validity for major depression was assessed using the Composite International Diagnostic Interview. A CES-D cut-off score of 16 had sensitivity of 100% (95% CI: 44% to 100%), specificity of 76% (95% CI: 69% to 82%), PPV of 7% (95% CI: 3% to 19%) and NPV of 100% (95% CI: 97% to 100%). Our findings suggest that the CES-D is useful for screening out non-depressed subjects in a first-stage assessment. However, it should be followed by a diagnostic tool in Chinese American women with scores above the cut-off in order to identify those with clinical depression.

Keywords: Mental disorders; Epidemiology; Ethnicity; Immigrants; Domestic violence; Acculturation; Measurement

Psychiatry research 175(3), 227-232, 2010

Cultural and ethnic issues in psychopharmacology : addressing both instrumental and symbolic effects of treatment

Lin, Keh-Ming

Fra starten af artiklen

Since the inception of the modern era of psychopharmacology, psychotropics have been the mainstay of the care of psychiatric patients all over the world, irrespective of their cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Until recently, however, variations in treatment response across populations, including effectiveness, dosing strategies, and adverse-effect profiles, have received minimal attention.

Psychopharmacological research in general and randomized controlled trials in particular have been conducted largely in North America and Western Europe and have rarely included persons of ethnic minority or cross-cultural backgrounds. This, in part, reflects the asymmetrical distribution of resources and the "Eurocentric" slant of the research establishment. Responsibility for such biases also lies in deeply rooted beliefs and assumptions that suggest that treatment responses are predominantly determined by biological mechanisms and that biological processes are universally applicable and thus color- and culture-free.

Psychiatric times, 12. januar 2010

læs artiklen her: <http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/display/article/10168/1505053>

Cultural considerations in child and adolescent psychiatry : understanding cultural differences for a better therapeutic alliance

Measham, Toby; Guzder, Jaswant; Rousseau, Cécile; Nadeau, Lucie

Fra starten af artiklen

The role of school-based services

School-based prevention programs play a key role in promoting the mental health of children from immigrant and ethnocultural communities. Ecological models of intervention that address the whole-school environment are useful because they provide a systemic understanding, help counter concerns about stigma in accessing support, and propose support and training for teachers so that they can help their students without becoming too distressed. This model also insists on parent-school interactions, which should be understood both in terms of cultural differences and also as reflecting minority-majority relations between communities and host country institutions.

Classroom-based activities help children assimilate past and present experiences by presenting these as learning opportunities. This facilitates emotional expression of their experiences and promotes positive

relationships within the classroom and society. Some prevention programs use specific treatment modalities, such as artistic expression, to support the transformation of past and present adversity through creativity and metaphorical representations and also to foster the development of solidarity among children.

Psychiatric times, 12. januar 2010

læs artiklen her: <http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/display/article/10168/1508374?pageNumber=3>

Effects of trauma-focused psychotherapy upon war refugees

Kruse, Johannes; Joksimovic, Ljiljana; Cavka, Majda; Wöller, Wolfgang; Schmitz, Norbert

Abstract

The aim of this study is to evaluate the effects of a trauma-focused psychotherapy upon war refugees from Bosnia. Seventy refugees who met the criteria for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and somatoform disorders were included. The first 35 refugees were offered psychotherapy and the following 35 refugees received usual care. Outcome variables were changes in self-reported PTSD symptoms, psychological symptoms, and health status. At 12-month follow-up, participants in the intervention group reported significantly lower scores on the PTSD scale and the measure of psychological symptoms than the comparison group participants. Our results suggest that psychotherapy reduces symptoms of PTSD and somatoform disorders among war refugees even in the presence of insecure residence status.

Journal of traumatic stress 22(6), 585-592, 2009

Ethnic identity and maladaptive eating: Expectancies about eating and thinness in African American women

Henrickson, Heather C.; Crowther, Janis H.; Harrington, Ellen F.;

Abstract

This research investigated cultural factors and expectancies about eating and thinness among 93 African American women. Participants completed the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM), Eating Expectancy Inventory and Thinness and Restricting Expectancy Inventory (EEI, TREI), and Eating Attitudes Test (EAT). The MEIM assessed affective and developmental aspects of one's own cultural identity, along with attitudes toward other groups. Further, expectancies that eating manages negative affect and thinness leads to life improvement were examined using the EEI and TREI. As hypothesized, those with strong expectancies about eating and thinness showed a significant negative relationship between ethnic identity and maladaptive eating patterns, whereas those with strong expectancies regarding thinness showed a significant positive relationship between other group orientation and maladaptive eating patterns. The results suggest one's identification with their own culture versus another culture is important to developing maladaptive eating patterns, if they feel that eating and thinness play a role in their affect management and life improvement. These factors may help understand who is more vulnerable to the development of disordered eating patterns, and therefore direct treatment among African American women.

Keywords: eating expectancies, ethnic identity, eating attitudes and behaviors, African American women

Cultural diversity and ethnic minority psychology 16(1), 87-93, 2010

Ethnicity and coercion among involuntarily detained psychiatric in-patients

Bennewith, Olive; Amos, Tim; Lewis, Glyn; Katsakou, Christina; Wykes, Til; Morriss, Richard; Priebe, Stefan

Abstract

We assessed whether adult Black and minority ethnic (BME) patients detained for involuntary psychiatric treatment experienced more coercion than similar White patients. We found no evidence of this from patient interviews or from hospital records. The area (mental health trust) where people were treated was strongly associated with both the experience of coercion and the recording of a coercive measure in their records. Regarding charges of institutional racism in psychiatry, this study highlights the importance of investigating the role of area characteristics when assessing the relationship between ethnicity and patient management.

British journal of psychiatry 196(1), 75-76, 2010

Gambling behaviours and motivations: Cross-cultural study of Chinese and Caucasians in Australia

Oei, Tian P.S.; Raylu, Namrata

Abstract

Background

Research on gambling behaviours among the Chinese, especially compared to Caucasians, is lacking.

Aims and Methods

Gambling behaviours and motivations between community-based Chinese ($n = 199$) and Caucasians ($n = 306$) living in Australia were compared.

Results

There were significant differences between Caucasians and Australian Chinese in relation to gambling behaviours and types of motivations that could predict problem gambling between the two groups.

Conclusions

The findings provide relevant information in understanding gambling behaviours and motivations among the Chinese, as well as a step towards the development of tailored preventive and treatment interventions for problem gambling in this population.

Key Words: Chinese - community - cross-cultural - gambling - motivation - problem gambling

International journal of social psychiatry 56(1), 23-34, 2010

Knowledge of determinants of mental health among Iranian immigrants of BC, Canada : “a qualitative study”

Jafari, Siavash; Baharlou, Souzan; Mathias, Richard

Abstract

Background

When individuals enter a new community, they face many challenges in terms of adjusting to a new language, different customs and unfamiliar norms. These challenges may result in mental and/or general health problems.

Objectives and methods

The primary purpose of this study was to ascertain the mental health knowledge of Iranian immigrants and the impact of immigration on the development of mental health problems among these immigrants.

Results

Participants defined “mental health” in terms of psychological, social and emotional aspects and an absence of mental illnesses. Several immigration-related risk factors, such as lack of English, under- or unemployment, cultural differences, and lack of social support were revealed as barriers to successful acculturation.

Conclusions Culturally sensitive and competent programs are needed to understand the needs of Iranian immigrants to be able to design and implement appropriate mental health programs.

Keywords Mental health - Iranian migrants - Mental illness - Qualitative study - Immigration

Journal of immigrant and minority health 12(1), 100-106, 2009

Mental health service use by Chinese immigrants with severe and persistent mental illness

Chen, Alice W.; Kazanjian, Arminée; Wong, Hubert; Goldner, Elliot M.

Abstract

Objective

To investigate whether recent Chinese immigrants in British Columbia diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness used mental health services at a lower rate than a similar group of nonimmigrants and longer-term immigrants.

Method

Subjects were selected from linked immigration and health administrative databases. Their health service use records for the years 1992 to 2001 were extracted. Rates and rate ratios of use for severe psychiatric disorders for Chinese immigrants and the comparison group were calculated for 4 types of health services:

mental health visits to general practitioners (GPs), visits to psychiatrists, psychiatric hospitalizations, and use of psychiatric medications. Rates and rate ratios of use for any mental health condition were calculated for the above 4 types of services, plus community mental health service and nonmental health visits to GPs.

Results

The Chinese immigrants ($n = 786$) and comparison subjects ($n = 3962$) having severe and persistent mental illness were identified. For serious mental disorders, Chinese immigrants were more likely to visit psychiatrists (RR = 1.36) but less likely to use the other types of services, with rate ratios ranging from 0.51 to 0.81. Including all mental health conditions, Chinese immigrants were less likely to use all 6 types of services, with rate ratios ranging from 0.41 to 0.90.

Conclusions

Except for psychiatric visits for serious disorders, recent Chinese immigrants diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness used fewer mental health services than subjects from the comparison group. Seriously ill Chinese immigrants may experience problems with access to mental health services.

Key Words: access, Chinese immigrants, severe mental illness, psychiatric service, service use

Canadian journal of psychiatry 55(1), 35–42, 2010

læs artiklen her: <http://publications.cpa-apc.org/media.php?mid=906&xwm=true>

Nyankomne asylansøgeres helbredsstatus og traumatiseringsgrad

Oxholm, Annemette; Kjær, Claes; Buhmann, Cæcilie; Møller, Eva; Jensen, Jean Hald; Skau, Jutta; Worm, Lise; Theilade, Lotte Arløj; Jørgensen, Louise Møller; Mannstaedt, Maiken; Ekstrøm, Morten; Masmás, Tania Nicole; Hansen, Trine Nørregård; Bunch, Vibeke
Danielsen, Lis

Et ukendt antal af asylansøgere i Danmark har været udsat for tortur i deres hjemland. Amnesty Internationals Danske Lægegruppe undersøgte 142 nyankomne asylansøgere, hvoraf 45% havde været udsat for tortur. Fysiske og psykiske symptomer var 2-3 gange så hyppige blandt torturoverleverne som blandt med ikketorturerede asylansøgere. Blandt torturoverleverne opfyldte 63% kriterierne for posttraumatisk belastningsreaktion, hos 58% var der objektive psykiske fund, og 42% havde torturrelaterede ar. Identifikation af torturoverleverne er vigtig for at kunne initiere lægelig behandling og støtte.

This article is based on a study first reported in *Torture* 2008;18(2):77-86 and the report "Asylansøgere i Danmark – en undersøgelse af nyankomne asylansøgeres helbredsstatus og traumatiseringsgrad" (Amnesty International, www.amnesty.dk).

Ugeskrift for læger 172(2), 120-124, 2010

Prevalence of psychiatric illnesses in older ethnic minority adults

Jimenez, Daniel E.; Alegría, Margarita; Chen, Chih-nan; Chan, Domin; Laderman, Mara

Abstract

Objectives

To compare lifetime and 12-month prevalence of psychiatric disorders in a nationally representative sample of older Latino, Asian, African-American, and Afro-Caribbean adults with that of older non-Latino white adults.

Design

Cross-sectional study conducted in 2001 through 2004.

Setting

Urban and rural households in the contiguous United States.

Participants

2375 community-dwelling residents aged 60 and older living in noninstitutional settings. Data are from the National Institutes of Mental Health Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiological Studies.

Methods

The World Mental Health Composite International Diagnostic Interview assessed lifetime and 12-month psychiatric disorders. Bayesian estimates compared psychiatric disorder prevalence rates of ethnic and racial groups.

Results

Older non-Latino whites exhibited a greater prevalence on several lifetime diagnoses than older Asian, African-American, and Afro-Caribbean respondents. Older Latinos did not differ from older non-Latino whites on any lifetime diagnosis and had higher 12-month rates of any depressive disorder. No differences were observed in the 12-month diagnoses between older non-Latino whites and the other racial and ethnic minority groups. Older immigrant Latinos had higher lifetime rates of dysthymia and generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) than U.S.-born Latinos. Older immigrant Asians had higher lifetime rates of GAD than U.S.-born Asians. Older immigrant Latinos had higher 12-month rates of dysthymia than older U.S.-born Latinos.

Conclusion

Caution should be taken when generalizing the protective effects of ethnicity into old age. Older Asians and African-Americans exhibited lower prevalence rates of some psychiatric disorders, whereas older Latinos exhibited rates equal to those of older non-Latino whites. Also, the protective effect of nativity seems to vary according to age, psychiatric disorder, and ethnicity.

Keywords ethnicity - prevalence - psychiatric illness - older adults

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society 58(2), 256-264, 2010

Psychological and cognitive assessment of indigenous Australians

Dingwal, Kylie M.; Cairney, Sheree

Abstract

Objective

The aim of the present review was to evaluate the psychological and cognitive assessments that have been considered suitable for Indigenous Australians. This will provide a basis from which future developments can occur, leading to improved mental health services for Indigenous Australians.

Method

Literature searches of key health science databases were conducted using the following search terms in various combinations: Indigenous, Aboriginal, cognitive, assessment, mental health, social emotional well-being, psychological, Australian. Psychological, mental health or social and emotional well-being assessments as well as cognitive assessments that have been utilized and found suitable in Indigenous Australian populations were reviewed.

Results

A limited number of assessments were found and discussed and these varied in their applications.

Conclusions

Further research and development is necessary to establish a national approach to assessing or screening mental health and cognitive function among Indigenous Australians. This is an important and necessary step to improve mental health and related services for Indigenous Australians.

Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry 44(1), 20-30, 2010

Racial / ethnic group differences in bipolar symptomatology in a community sample of persons with bipolar I disorder

Perron, Brian E.; Fries, Lauren E.; Kilbourne, Amy M.; Vaughn, Michael G.; Bauer, Mark S.

Abstract

To better understand the problems associated with diagnosis of bipolar disorder, especially problems related to race and ethnicity, this study compared whites, African Americans, and Latinos with bipolar I disorder in the presentation of manic symptoms, depressive episodes, functional impairments (Short Form-12), and self-reports of schizophrenia diagnosis. Data for this study were derived from the 2001 National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, which are nationally representative of United States households. African Americans and Latinos expressed similar rates in presentation of 14 out of 16 manic symptoms compared with whites, with the exception of grandiosity/self-esteem, in which they were more likely to exhibit this symptom compared with whites. Higher rates of depressive episodes were observed among whites, and these episodes occurred significantly earlier compared with African Americans and Latinos. Latinos had slightly higher vitality scores on the SF-12 measures after adjusting for sociodemographic and clinical factors, but no other differences across the groups were observed. Overall, these data show that the expression and functional impairments of bipolar I disorder is very similar across racial ethnic groups using

this community-based sample. This is the first community-based study making such comparisons, with results suggesting that provider biases are more likely to explain problems in misdiagnosis than fundamental differences in the presentation of bipolar disorder across racial/ethnic groups.

Keywords: Bipolar disorder, ethnic differences, ethnic disparities

Journal of nervous and mental disease 198(1), 16-21, 2010

Religion, spirituality, and mental health : theoretical and clinical perspectives

Dein, Simon

Fra starten af artiklen

Until the early 19th century, psychiatry and religion were closely connected. Religious institutions were responsible for the care of the mentally ill. A major change occurred when Charcot and his pupil Freud associated religion with hysteria and neurosis. This created a divide between religion and mental health care, which has continued until recently. Psychiatry has a long tradition of dismissing and attacking religious experience. Religion has often been seen by mental health professionals in Western societies as irrational, outdated, and dependency forming and has been viewed to result in emotional instability.

In 1980, Albert Ellis, the founder of rational emotive therapy, wrote in the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology that there was an irrefutable causal relationship between religion and emotional and mental illness. According to Canadian psychiatrist Wendall Watters, "Christian doctrine and liturgy have been shown to discourage the development of adult coping behaviors and the human to human relationship skills that enable people to cope in an adaptive way with the anxiety caused by stress." At its most extreme, all religious experience has been labeled as psychosis.

Psychiatric times, 12. januar 2010

læs artiklen her: <http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/display/article/10168/1508320#>

Religiosity, subjective well-being, and neuroticism

Abdel-Khalek, Ahmed M.

Abstract

The objective of the current research was to estimate the relation between religiosity and both subjective well-being (SW-B) and neuroticism (N). A sample (N = 487) of Muslim Kuwaiti undergraduates took part in the study. Their age ranged between 18 and 31 years. They responded to six self-rating scales to assess religiosity, religious belief, physical health, mental health, happiness, and satisfaction with life, as well as the Factorial Arabic Neuroticism Scale (FANS) and the N subscale of the revised NEO. It was found that all the correlations between the six self-rating scales were significant and positive, whereas these rating scales were significantly and negatively correlated with both the FANS and N (NEO) scale. In applying the principle components analysis to the correlation matrix (8 times 8), a high-loaded and bipolar factor was extracted and labelled "Well-being and religiosity versus neuroticism." The main predictor of religiosity in the stepwise regression was religious belief and satisfaction with life. The present findings are comparable with the wider literature on the association between religion and SW-B among English-speaking participants as well as a Kuwaiti Muslim context. By and large, those who consider themselves as religious were healthier, enjoying SW-B, and obtained lower scores on neuroticism.

Keywords: religiosity; subjective well-being; neuroticism

Mental health, religion and culture 13(1), 67-79, 2010

Spiritualitet som coping hos tibetanske torturoverlevende

Elsass, Peter; Carlsson, Jessica; Husum, Kristian

Introduktion

Der rapporteres en positiv sammenhæng mellem spiritualitet og sundhed. Men denne viden benyttes sjældent i rehabiliteringsprojekter efter krig og katastrofer. The Tibetan Torture program i Indien er et eksempel på et sådan rehabiliteringsprojekt, der er støttet af Danida. Formålet med denne artikel er at give evidens for de tibetanske torturoverlevers traumatisering og for deres brug af spiritualitet for at overkomme traumer.

Materiale og metoder

Undersøgelsen bestod af et vurderingsstudie og et interventionsstudie. I alt 102 tibetanske torturoverlevende blev interviewet om deres brug af coping-strategier til at overkomme traumat. I alt 36 af disse overlevende modtog psykologisk rådgivning og både klienter og deres 16 professionelle sundhedsarbejdere blev interviewet efter behandlingen ved hjælp af åbne spørgsmål om, hvad der var hjælpsomt og ikkehjælpsomt.

Resultater

Torturoverleverne havde symptomer på svær traumatisering målt med Hopkin's Symptom Checklist-25, men i mindre omfang end torturoverlevende fra andre kulturer.

Konklusion

Resultaterne fra både vurderings- og interventionsstudiet understøtter, at de tibetanske torturoverlevende benytter tibetansk buddhisme som en vigtig coping-strategi. De fleste klienter udtrykte tilfredshed med rådgivningen, selv om den ikke favoriserede den politiske og spirituelle coping. Men brugen af de vestlige spørgeskemaer blev kritiseret af tibetanerne for at være for enkle.

Ugeskrift for læger 172(2), 137-149, 2010

Stress and psychopathology in Latin-American immigrants : the role of coping strategies

Patiño, Camila; Kirchner, Teresa

Abstract

Introduction

Increased migration into Spain requires the development of preventive strategies that help both immigrants and the host society to deal with the associated risk factors and thus avoid the emergence of psychopathology.

Objective

To determine the level of psychopathology in Latin-American immigrants who reside in Barcelona and its relationship to the coping strategies used to mitigate the effects of the stress linked to migration.

Method

The sample comprised 210 Latin-American immigrants over the age of 18. Sampling was based on consecutive cases, and participants were contacted through an NGO.

Results

Employment is the stressor that most affects immigrants. Psychopathological symptoms are common among the immigrant population, and there is a relationship between the use of avoidance coping strategies and greater symptomatology. The longer immigrants have been in the host country, the less they make use of approach strategies.

Conclusions

The migratory process produces high levels of stress that are linked to psychopathology. Being subjected to a prolonged stressor has a destabilizing effect on both mental and physical health and can lead to a deterioration in social relationships due to more intense feelings of anger and frustration. Coping strategies appear to be more widely used among immigrants than in the indigenous population, and this may indicate the high levels of stress to which the former are subject and the attempts they make to deal with it. The limitations of the study include the source of data collection and the fact that most of the instruments used have not been validated in the participants' countries of origin.

Psychopathology 43(1), 17-24, 2010

Strong souls : Development and validation of a culturally appropriate tool for assessment of social and emotional well-being in Indigenous youth

Thomas, Alicia; Cairney, Sheree; Gunthorpe, Wendy; Paradies, Yin; Sayers, Susan /

Abstract

Objective

The aim of the present study was to develop and validate an appropriate tool to assess the social and emotional well-being (SEWB) of Indigenous adolescents participating in the longitudinal Aboriginal Birth Cohort (ABC) Study.

Method

A range of tools was assessed as to the suitability of each for use in the ABC Study. Two existing tools and a newly developed one called 'Strong Souls' were piloted in a representative group (n = 67). Strong Souls was selected as the most appropriate for use in the ABC Study, and was completed by 361 participants. Exploratory factor analysis was used to explore construct validity. Cronbach alpha was used to assess the reliability of the latent constructs and the tool overall.

Results

Factor analysis produced a 25-item, four-factor model accounting for 34.5% of the variance. This model demonstrated sound construct validity and reliability. Factor structure was consistent with the epidemiological literature, identifying constructs of anxiety, resilience, depression and suicide risk. While these align with observations in mainstream populations, different relationships between distinct factors, and differences in symptomatology were found in this population. For example, two key findings were: feelings of sadness and low mood were linked with anxiety and not depression; and the expression of anger was verified as a unique symptom of depression for Indigenous people.

Conclusions

Strong Souls demonstrated validity, reliability and cultural appropriateness as a tool for screening for SEWB among Indigenous young people in the Northern Territory.

Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry 44(1), 40-48, 2010

ANMELDELSER

Ethno-psychofarmakologi : Advances in current practice

Edited by Chee H. Ng, Keh-Ming Lin, Bruce S. Singh, Edmond Chiu. New York, Cambridge University Press, 2008, 200 pp., \$110.00

Eliot Sorel, M.D.

Ethno-psychofarmakologi, the psychiatric medicine subspecialty that addresses "cultural variations and differences ... influencing the effectiveness of prescription medicines used in the treatment of mental disorders," has made significant progress in the past two decades and now presents intriguing new opportunities on the horizon, as emphasized in this volume. Twenty years ago, Keh-Ming Lin, one of this volume's coeditors, while reviewing the state of the emerging field of ethno-psychofarmakologi research, noted the unresolved prevailing challenges at that time, including sample size, variations in pharmacological and pharmacokinetic properties of psychotropics, subcultural differences within each broadly defined ethnic group, lack of coordination among researchers from divergent settings, use of divergent research methodologies, and failure to assess the impact of nonpharmacological factors. He postulated, then, the need to clarify ethnic variations of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics; to identify enzyme systems; and to identify the presence of genetically or environmentally determined factors, or both. New imaging techniques were emerging at the time, including SPECT, CTEEG, and newer and more direct assessment methods were stimulating fresh hope.

Now, 20 years later, this volume on ethno-psychofarmakologi takes stock of the progress to date, focusing primarily on Asian patient populations—a timely choice, as Asia represents half of the world's population and few prior such studies have focused on this population—and with some reference to African-American and Hispanic populations.

Genetic, nongenetic, pharmacological, nonpharmacological, environmental, and nutritional factors are clearly and explicitly presented. Recent genetic and pharmacogenetic discoveries, such as genetic polymorphism and the encoding of receptors and transporter enzyme systems, coupled with the effects of nutrition factors as inducers or inhibitors; the elucidation of the role of cytochrome P450 and the differentiation of extensive metabolizers, poor metabolizers, intermediate metabolizers, and ultrarapid metabolizers, are opening new vistas regarding pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics.

Cytochrome enzymes CYP2D6, CYP3A4, CYP1A2, and CYP2C19 metabolize most psychotropics. Their clinical relevance is dramatically illustrated by genetic differences controlling these enzymes and resulting in marked variations among patient populations. A notable and clinically most relevant example is CYP2D6, with 50 mutations that directly affect the psychotropics' metabolism and are illuminatingly ethnic-specific. Examples of such clinically relevant and ethnically specific markers are CYP2D6*17, found in Africans, and CYP2D6*10, found in Asians. Both result in slower metabolism of CYP2D6 substrates (such as risperidone and paroxetine), thus developing higher plasma concentrations and requiring lower doses for therapeutic effect in this group of slow/poor metabolizers.

When the gene for the cytochrome enzyme CYP2D6 is duplicated or multiplied, as is often the case (as many as 13 copies), this duplication/multiplication phenomenon results in an increased number of enzymes available for metabolic processes, resulting in "ultrarapid metabolism." This occurs in 1% of Swedes, 5% of Spaniards, approximately 3% of Caucasian Americans, 19% of Arabs, and 29% of Ethiopians. These clusters will require higher doses of medications to achieve the therapeutic response. In prior scientific literature, this ultrarapid metabolism group was regarded as "noncompliant" because they did not respond to the standard medication doses administered. This, in hindsight, and in view of the recent ethnopharmacogenetic evidence, was a misnomer.

This fresh evidence provides researchers, educators, and clinical practitioners with updated models of complexity regarding drug, environment, genetic, social network, and cultural belief system interactions and with refined specificity for clinical pharmacologic interventions.

We live in a globalized world with significant population mobility and with abundant new opportunities for such research to grow and prosper and to compare ethnic populations in the Northern Hemisphere with those of their country of origin in the Southern Hemisphere, as well as across meridians, and to correct the disequilibrium of prior studies primarily focused on Caucasian subjects.

Ethno-Psychopharmacology: Advances in Current Practice challenges the reader also to envision further research possibilities in the genes, environment, social networks, culture, ethnicity, rituals and traditions, and transactions across the life cycle through systematic studies embedded in a biopsychosocial model that is standardized across participating centers. Such new undertakings, stimulated by the advances illustrated in this volume, are likely to enhance our scientific knowledge and the specificity of our clinical acumen, relieve suffering, improve the quality of life of those suffering from mental disorders, and renew psychiatric medicine's presence and valued contributions in the house of medicine.

American journal of psychiatry 167(2), 222, 2010

BØGER

Krop og religion : kulturværdier og religion i plejen af den etniske ældre

Anne Ehlers og Grethe Hjul Mandrup

Books on Demand, - 140 s.

Hvordan bør kommunens plejepersonale møde ældre med en anden etnisk herkomst end dansk, fortrinsvis muslimske ældre? Det er nemlig ikke altid lige let for både personale og de ældre. Sproglige forbistringer, kulturelle misforståelser og skuffede forventninger til hinanden skaber ofte konflikter og problemer.

I *Krop og religion. Kulturværdier og religion i plejen af den etniske ældre* finder man svar på de mange spørgsmål. Det er en spændende, velskrevet og vedkommende bog, der leverer brugbare løsninger til gavn for personalet. Bogen er skrevet med indlevelse og indsigt og indeholder en afbalanceret blanding af praksis og teori.

NYHEDSBREVE

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læs artiklerne her: <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pdf/IPv7n1.pdf>

RAPPORTER

Avhengig og selvstendig : Enslige mindreårige flyktningers stemmer i tall og tale

Oppedal, Brit; Jensen, Laila; Seglem, Karoline Brobakke
Norsk folkehelseinstitutt. – 2010. – 48 sider.

Enslige mindreårige flyktninger bosatt i Norge har en betydelig høyere andel psykiske plager enn andre ungdommer med etnisk minoritetsbakgrunn som bor med familiene sine. Mange er ensomme og mangler trygge relasjoner med voksne. Det er behov for at lokalmiljøene kommer mer på banen i forhold til barn og unge som har kommet til Norge og fått opphold her uten følge av foreldrene sine, viser en ny rapport fra Folkehelseinstituttet.

Rapporten "Avhengig og selvstendig. Enslige mindreårige flyktningers stemmer i tall og tale" beskriver enslige mindreårige flyktningers situasjon i årene etter at de har fått opphold og har etablert seg i Norge. Dette er den første norske undersøkelsen av både depresjon, posttraumatiske stressplager og andre utfordringer som enslige mindreårige flyktninger møter i hverdagen sin her i landet.

- Hensikten med denne rapporten har vært å fremskaffe ny og viktig kunnskap for fagfolk, politikere og frivillige som arbeider med å tilrettelegge gode oppvekstvilkår for denne sårbare gruppen, sier seniorforsker Brit Oppedal ved Divisjon for psykisk helse, Folkehelseinstituttet

læs mere om rapporten her:

http://www.fhi.no/eway/default.aspx?pid=233&trg=MainLeft_5565&MainArea_5661=5565:0:15,2336:1:0:0:::0:0&MainLeft_5565=5544:82112:::1:5569:1:::0:0

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