

ECP04-02 - MIGRATION, TRAUMA AND STIGMA

D.Bhugra

Health Service & Population Research, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, London, UK

Introduction: There is considerable evidence in the literature that migrants experience higher rates of emotional distress and psychiatric disorders in comparison with non-migrants. There are further differences in rates between voluntary migrants and forced involuntary migrants.

Objectives: To explore differences in rates and the relationship between these rates and the nature of migration. In particular, the lecture will explore the relationship between rates and life events, including trauma.

Aims: The aim of the lecture will also be to explore the relationship between migration and stigma which may apply to involuntary forced migrants.

Methods: Using the literature and epidemiological data, the talk will explain the association between migration, trauma and stigma.

Results: Forced migrants eg refugees and asylum seekers may experience difficulties in adjustment and acculturation. These may be related to the nature of welcome they receive as well as individual personal factors. In addition, the nature of the culture they belong to and the nature of the new society will play important roles in acculturation.

Conclusions: A knowledge of processes of acculturation and factors influencing these will lead to better clinical services and also to appropriate preventive interventions.