

COLLECTIVE CASE FORMULATION ON VIOLENT RADICALIZATION

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Background:

In our current global context, many countries are experiencing a hyper polarized social environment with extreme politics affecting the ‘living together’ and breaking bridges between communities. Due to this global context, violent radicalization is growing in societies and its consideration in research and clinical work is increasingly necessary. In psychiatry, case formulation has been extensively used, for better or for worse. Although it is an invaluable tool for training clinicians and providing care to patients, case formulation also comes with the tremendous power of categorizing and fixing subjectivities.

Issues of focus:

Clinical work on violent radicalization presents the inherent high risk of criminalizing and pathologizing social uprisings. Therefore, case formulation in this field can easily bring back the old but perpetual ghost of repressive psychiatry. Transcultural Interdisciplinary Case Discussion Seminars (TICDSs) is a training modality that aims at complexifying clinical situations and TICDSs on violent radicalization try to challenge and deconstruct the political and social category of ‘the enemy’ in clinical work.

Method:

This presentation will report on a two-year qualitative study on Transcultural Interdisciplinary Case Discussion Seminars (TICDS) on violent radicalization.

Result:

Research results show how collective discourses are dynamically constructed, how the sense of individual and collective responsibility evolves during sessions, and how the collective holding

of risk is central for working with patients involved with violent radicalization. This presentation will highlight the pros and cons of collective case formulation on violent radicalization.

Discussion:

The discussion will try to establish a dialogue between clinical and critical approaches, and then bring in some utopias of solidarity and partnership while addressing the highly politically-charged character of this specific clinical work.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. At the end of this presentation the participants will be able to describe TICDSs as a training modality for clinicians working with patients involved with violent radicalization and the importance of certain conditions in their implementation
2. At the end of this presentation the participants will be able to identify the pros and cons of collective case formulation on violent radicalization.

References

1. Johnson-Lafleur, J., Papazian-Zohrabian, G., & Rousseau, C. (2019). Learning from partnership tensions in transcultural interdisciplinary case discussion seminars: A qualitative study of collaborative youth mental health care informed by game theory. *Social Science & Medicine*, 237, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112443>
2. Rousseau, C., Hassan, G., & Oulhote, Y. (2017). And if there were another way out? Questioning the prevalent radicalization models. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 108(5-6), e633-e635. <https://doi.org/10.17269/CJPH.108.6233>