

Annenberg Foundation Lecture,
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Trauma and PTSD I

Andrei Novac, M.D., F.A.P.A.
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry
Director, Traumatic Stress Program
UC Irvine

Anthropological Concepts

- Old Testament : Humans are both good and bad.
- Wagley & Harris 1958: Hostility and conflict are universal aspects of intergroup relations.
However, hostility and conflict are no more “normal” than their opposites, peace, cooperation and cohesion. These two extremes have to be in some form of balance.

Anthropological Concepts (cont'd.)

- Both hostility (i.e., conflict) and cohesion may be natural tools of demarcating boundaries in society.
- Wagley & Harris 1958: Minorities and majorities appear historically only within the context of the state. Minorities tend to share less in the unity of purpose and identity of interest with the larger society.

Socio-historical Aspects of the 20th Century

- Rapid techno-industrial progress, e.g., weapons of mass destruction, transportation, electronics
- Major shifts in dominant ideologies and reinterpretation of old ideologies
- Weakening of “societal buffers”: changes in organized religion; community ties; family

Examples of Media Amplification

- Armenia (Gaston Leroux- article)
- World War II (recorded footage)
- Viet Nam (filmed, on television)
- Revolution in Romania; Invasion of Panama; Gulf War (instantaneous witness via CNN)
- Bosnia
- “The media is the message”

For additional information regarding
this subject, please contact Dr. Novac
at anovacmd@gmail.com