

Eastern European Patients

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Immigration and Psychopathology I

- Brody (1970). Behavior in new environments.
- Dean, Walsh & Downing. (1981). First admissions of native born and immigrants in psychiatric hospitals in southeast England. Br J Psychiatry, 139:506.
- Eitinger & Schwarz. (1981). Strangers in the world. Bern, Switzerland: Huber.

Refugees (cont'd 2)

- Refugees of: Wars (caught in the middle), persecution (ethnic, racial, religious, political), genocide (selected for killing based on origin), natural disasters (tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, etc)
- Environmental catastrophes (e.g., melting of ice caps with subsequent flooding)

Immigration and Psychopathology II

- Malzberg & Lee. (1956). Migration and mental disease. NY Social Science Research Council.
- Hitch & Rack. (1980). Mental illness among Polish and Russian refugees in Bradford. Br J Psychiatry, 137:206.
- Stoller, A. (1981). Foreigners in our time: The present situation. In Eitinger & Schwarz: Strangers in the world.

Immigration and Psychopathology III

- Stoller: Enculturation = the replacement of the traditional values and beliefs by those of the host society (becoming American)
- Acculturation= the move from behavioral assimilation to structural assimilation when people enter the social, political and cultural institutions of the host society (no replacement- the “new American”)
- For some this process and overcoming of obstacles causes regression and symptoms.

Immigration and Psychopathology IV

- Regression: Neediness, irritability, high anxiety, sensitivity to criticism, loss of empathy, primitive defenses, loss of language skills
- Behaviors: Compulsion, workaholism, excessive preoccupation with material matters
- Overt psychopathology: Anxiety disorders, mood disorders, conversions, PTSD, pseudo-borderline, onset of major mental illness

Immigration and Trauma

- 1) Mood Disorders - immigrant dynamics
- 2) PTSD & Comorbidity(anxiety, mood, substance abuse disorders+/- dissociations)
- 3) Regression
- 4) Pseudoborderline (1983)

Romanian Immigrant Specifics

- Language: Romanian = a Romance language with Latin roots. Other languages: German, Hungarian, Serbian, Gypsy (by minorities)
- Ethnic Groups: Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, Jews, Gypsies, Turks, Tatars
- Neighboring cultures: Romania is the only Latin/Romance culture in Eastern Europe
- Religion: Eastern Orthodox Christian + others

Immigration to the US

- At least 4 waves of immigrants: 1900, 1930's, mid 1940's, 1960-1990, post 1990
- Distribution in the US
- Romanian Subcultures in the US: Neo-Protestants, Jews, Orthodox Christians, Gypsies.
- Large economic discrepancies between groups

For additional information regarding
this subject, please contact Dr. Novac
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