



Abstract Nr: 134
Internet ID: 355

Type of Presentation: Oral Presentation

The Impact of Social Identity on the Qualitative Experience of Paranoia: a Systematic Review

Robert Qi¹, Ross White¹, Jason McIntyre², Richard Bentall³

¹The University of Liverpool, LIVERPOOL, United Kingdom

²Liverpool John Moores University, LIVERPOOL, United Kingdom

³The University of Sheffield, SHEFFIELD, United Kingdom

Learning Goal:

To assess how social identity factors influence the qualitative experience of paranoid delusions.

Abstract Text:

Paranoia is the most common form of delusion in psychosis, and appears to be particularly elevated in minority groups. Such delusions, in terms of phenomenology or qualitative content, appear to reflect the social, political, and cultural factors relating to one's time and place. Similarly, there is evidence that particular social identity factors such as nationality, ethnicity, culture, gender and sexuality may influence the content of paranoid delusions.

The current study aimed to synthesise the existing literature on such social identity factors and the phenomenology of paranoid delusions. It is hoped that findings will improve the understanding of such experiences in terms of aetiology and also treatment of paranoid delusions, particularly in minority groups. A number of electronic databases were systematically searched in February 2019, including: PubMed, PsycINFO, Web of Science, and CINAHL. Search strategies utilised both keyword searches and also controlled vocabulary (i.e. MeSH terms) specific to each database. Search results were screened independently by two researchers. Inclusion criteria included the use of qualitative methodology, a focus on clinically relevant delusions, and the examination of delusions in relation to one of the predetermined social identity factors.

A total of 798 published journal articles were identified for screening. Preliminary findings indicate that social identity factors do appear to relate to the qualitative content of paranoid delusions across cultures. The implications of the findings in terms of understanding the experience, aetiology, and also potentially treatment of paranoid delusions will be discussed.

**ON THE HEALING POWER
OF HUMAN RECONNECTION**