

protective factor when gamblers already exhibit SP or when the DSI-R score is considerably high (over approximately 4.63) in cases in which the subject does not exhibit a gambling problem (NP). This way, PG seem to exhibit: greater dependence on other people to reaffirm their beliefs; behavioral detachment from others, which manifests as fear of intimacy or of being suffocated in their relationships; greater difficulty when establishing their own pondered convictions; and greater tendencies to react to environmental stimuli based on automatic emotional responses.

Differentiation of Self and Family Life Cycle: a Dialog between Bowen and McGoldrick

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Bowen Family Systems Theory has been empirically tested over the past three decades, with evidence suggesting that higher levels of Differentiation of Self (DoS) are positively associated with psychological well-being, couple adjustment and family functioning indicators, among other variables. However, its relationship with the life span has not been addressed so far. The seven stages of Family-life cycle framework (McGoldrick) has provided a robust model in addressing both individual or family tasks and relationships throughout the life course. The aim of this study was to explore the relationship between family life-cycle and both differentiation of self and marital adjustment. The Spanish-Differentiation of Self Inventory (S-DSI) was used to assess the level of differentiation, and marital adjustment was measured with the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS). Our sample (N = 506) was distributed across the 7 life-cycle phases, resulting in groups of 40 to 133 individuals. ANOVA analyses were used to evaluate life-cycles differences for both differentiation and dyadic adjustment. As an exploratory study, assuming Bowen's theoretical hypotheses, we expect non-significant differences among life-cycle stages in levels of differentiation, and significant differences regarding marital adjustment levels. Clinical implications and future research directions will be discussed.

Bowen Family Systems Theory in a Psychiatric Context: Emotional Cut-off, Migration and Bipolar Disorder

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Recently, Europe experienced one of the most significant influxes of migrants in its history, so immigrant's mental health has become an increasingly important issue. Besides, up to 6.4% of the general population could be classified as having some form of Bipolar Spectrum Disorder, which presents a pattern of universal prevalence (very similar across the world regardless of Culture), high heritability, and clinical episodes linked to transitional moments of the life-cycle (teen years, seasonal changes, or post-partum periods). In this theoretical presentation, the clinical case of a Caribbean, middle-aged, unmarried woman who is living in Spain, having difficulties with consolidating consecutive couple relationships, and entering almost once yearly in hospital because of depressive and manic episodes, will illustrate how the Bowen Systems Theory offers measurable variables, like Differentiation-of-Self (DoS) and Emotional Cut-Off (ECO), for the study and prediction of outcomes based on the "family emotional process". Migratory history within a family will be hypothesized as a risk factor for the development of bipolar spectrum mood disorders, as far as swinging mood, migration, ECO and DoS may represent interweaved aspects of an ancient, instinctual, adaptive process that still operates within some families. Moreover, the focus on ECO not only might increase our understanding of the relationship between emigration and bipolarity proneness, but it also could provide an approach to devise better treatments of mental disorders among migrants and their offspring, by making easier that someone in the designated patient's family was able to reestablish effective personal contacts within the larger "cut-off family".

OS14: Cross-cultural perspectives on LGBT+ families: Parental experiences and children's psychosocial adjustment

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Discussant: Fiona Tasker, Birkbeck University of London

Research on children's development in LGBT+ families began in the 1980's, brought about by custodial disputes between parents of which one of them had disclosed being gay or lesbian. Since then, a large bulk of studies comparing matched groups of children brought up in same-gender or different-gender parented families have shown little or no evidence that children who grow up in same-gender parented families do not fare as well as their peers. Further, it has also been shown that LGBT+ parents are overall as capable at parenting as their heterosexual counterparts. In fact, studies have found that it is family processes, and not parental sexual orientation or identity, that link into children's psychosocial adjustment. However, children raised in LGBT+ families, as well as the parents, must contend with societal stigma which can affect their well-being and psychosocial adjustment.