



EPA CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY SECTION REPORT 2025

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Co-chairperson: Prof. Dr. Iris Tatjana GRAEF-CALLIESS
Secretary: Dr. Jacopo SANTAMBROGIO
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Iris Tatjana GRAEF-CALLIESS, Ravensburg, Germany
Carla GRAMAGLIA, Novara, Italy



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Marc H.m. HERMANS, Belgium
Manuel HOFFMANN, n/a, Austria
Theo HOFFMANN, n/a, Luxembourg
Sofiya HRECHUKH, Lviv, Ukraine
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Roumiana Kamenova, n/a, Bulgaria
Marianne KASTRUP, Frederiksberg, Denmark
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Ahmed RADY, Alexandria, Egypt



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Hanna TU
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Anicet VINAY, France
Umberto VOLPE, Ancona, Italy
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Damla YILDIRIM
Eren YILDIZHAN, Istanbul, Türkiye
İmran Gökçen YILMAZ KARAMAN, Eskişehir, Türkiye
Patrizia ZEPPEGNO, Pavone Canavese, Italy

LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: 13.06.2025

Venue: online meeting

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2025:



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Meetings/events

ACTIVITIES AT THE UPCOMING ECP IN MADRID

Description:

Mental Health Policy session

Addressing the need for specialised LGBTIQ+ psychiatric services and training from a transcultural perspective

06.04.2025 | 08:00 - 09:30 | Berlin

Description:

This session is organised by the Section on Cultural Psychiatry

This symposium addresses the transcultural aspects of specialized psychiatric services for LGBTIQ+ persons, including affirmative approaches to psychiatric care and psychotherapy in different European countries and the United States. A special focus will be placed on defining the implications for training psychiatrists, psychiatry residents, psychologists and other mental health professionals with the goal of increasing the capacity for adequately and appropriately providing effective care for this group, which has a higher risk of mental health disorders, substance disorders and suicide.

Chair: Ilaria Tarricone (Italy) , Dinesh Bhugra (United Kingdom)

Importance of intercultural paradigm in affirmative clinical practice with LGBTIQ+ people

Speaker: Iva Zegura (Croatia)

Intercultural psychotherapy addressing intersectionality

Speaker: Iris Tatjana GRAEF-CALLIESS (Germany)

LGBTIQ+ Specialty Care in USA: The Continuing Need for Specialty Clinics and Resources

Speaker: Amir Ahuja (United States)

LGBTQ+ transcultural psychiatry – the need for capacity building, specialized psychiatric services and recognizing the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ refugees in the Nordic countries

Speaker: Goran Mijaljica (Sweden)

Mental Health Policy Session



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People on the move and mental health: Challenges and solutions

06.04.2025 | 17:00 - 18:30 | Madrid

Topic: Mental Health Policy Description:

A growing body of literature identifies the drivers and barriers of migration as a variety of push and pull factors at the macro- (global and national), meso- (professional) and micro- (personal) levels. Interestingly, many of the key drivers of migration to Europe were also factors driving migration from Europe to other countries and are thus relevant for all high-income countries. A majority of people have been forced to flee their homes than ever before, with a staggering more than 117 million individuals displaced worldwide, according to a report released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mental health problems that forcibly displaced people (IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers) experience constitute a serious public and mental health problem. There is increasing evidence that a large proportion of refugees and asylum seekers residing in different parts of the European countries suffer from the consequences of traumatic events and exhibit psychological problems or develop mental disorders including, but not limited to, trauma related disorders, e.g., Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Furthermore, people who have been forcibly displaced or who are stateless have been among the hardest-hit groups of during the Covid-19 Pandemic and Climate change is also driving displacement and increasing the vulnerability of those already forced to flee, facing increased food and economic insecurity

as well as challenges to access health and protection services.

The European Psychiatric Association (EPA) has a Task Force on Migration and Mental Health to raise awareness on this important public health problem and outlines strategies for how its member societies and the mental health professionals at large may contribute to managing these challenges.

This Task Force on Migration and Mental Health aims to increase awareness, basic knowledge and skills of the psychiatrists and other mental health workers related to migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced people and mental health consequences of migration and displacement.

In this session we will focus on current conditions in different parts of Europe and discuss publications and recommendations of the Task Force.

Chair: Geert Dom (Belgium) , Meryam Schouler-Ocak (Germany)

Current situation in Europe – different perspectives

Speaker: Apostolos Veizis (Greece)

Current situation in Europe – different perspectives

Speaker: Ilaria Tarricone (Italy)

Current situation in Europe – different perspectives

Speaker: Jerzy Samochowiec (Poland)

Current situation in Europe – different perspectives



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Speaker: Tamer Aker (Türkiye)

Current situation in Europe – different perspectives

Speaker: Sofie Bäärnhielm (Sweden)

Current situation in Europe – different perspectives

Speaker: Meryam Schouler-Ocak (Germany)

Clinical / Therapeutic session

Intercultural disorder-specific psychotherapy

07.04.2025 | 17:00 - 18:30 | Auditorio A

Topic: Clinical / Therapeutic

Description:

The core aim of this symposium is to introduce disorder-specific psychotherapy approaches in an intercultural context. It will sensitise the plenum to culturally varying symptom constellations and address special features of diagnosis and therapy, focusing on the presentation of culturally specific or adapted therapy concepts.

Chair: Iris Tatjana GRAEF-CALLIESS (Germany), Meryam Schouler-Ocak (Germany)

TBC

Speaker: Iris Tatjana GRAEF-CALLIESS (Germany)

TBC

Speaker: Ekin Sonmez (Türkiye)

TBC

Speaker: Heidi Siller (Ireland)

Cultural and migration-related aspects of trauma-related disorders

Speaker: Meryam Schouler-Ocak (Germany)

Clinical / Therapeutic session

Psychotherapy in challenging settings

06.04.2025 | 17:00 - 18:30 | Amsterdam



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Topic: Clinical / Therapeutic

Description:

This session is jointly organised by the Sections on Psychotherapy & Emergency Psychiatry

Psychotherapeutic principles apply to everything a psychiatrist does in clinical work. In recent years, psychotherapy has continued to be a basic science of psychiatry, with its application in all clinical settings. Some settings, such as emergency rooms or prisons, may have certain conditions that might challenge the framework and practice of psychotherapy applications. Meanwhile, specific psychotherapeutic tools could be effective for crisis intervention in suicidal patients in emergency settings. Optimized psychotherapy settings may not be within reach during humanitarian crises such as natural disasters or conflicts. In this

session, we aim to review situations that may affect therapeutic alliance in such circumstances and emphasize and discuss various perspectives on applying different psychotherapy techniques in challenging settings.

Chair: Julian Beezhold (United Kingdom), Theodoros Koutsomitros (Greece)

The Suicidal Patient in Emergency Settings: A Possible Role for Psychotherapy?

Speaker: Carla Gramaglia (Italy)

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy/Motivational Interviewing in Emergency Settings in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Speaker: Thomas Gargot (France)

Psychotherapeutic Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

Speaker: Selin Tanyeri Kayahan (Türkiye)

Psychotherapeutic Interventions in Forensic Settings

Workshop

- Title: Between ethnopsychiatry, criminology and narrative medicine: a complex clinical case
- Chairs: Kris GOETHALS, Ilaria TARRICONE
- Speakers: Jacopo Santambrogio, Eleonora Gambaro, Federico Boaron, Kris GOETHALS, Birgit Völm, Nikolay Bokhan
- Session date and time: Monday 7 April 2025 - 10:00 - 11:30
- Session room: Berlin

E-poster viewing



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Abstract title: Multiculturalism, Integration, and Mental Well-being in the Context of Emergency Departments: a Comparative Analysis Across Three Hospitals in Northern Italy

Location: Session room: Berlin

Start date: 05/04/2025

End date: 08/04/2025

EPA Cultural Psychiatry Section meeting

Description:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Approval of minutes of last section business meeting on 08th April 2024 in Budapest and online via Google Meet.
3. Report of the Section Board
 - a. Recent activities throughout the past year
 - b. Report on section coordination meetings, Task force on sections (collaboration with NPA's etc.)
4. Reports by section members
5. Future activities
 - a. Online course, webinar
6. Discussion about the Board election
7. Miscellaneous

The meeting was chaired by Ilaria TARRICONE, Chair of the Section and Iris Tatjana GRAEF-CALLIESS (Germany), Co-Chair of the Section.

The meeting opened with brief introductions of participants, including the founding members of the Section, current Executive Committee members, and newly joined members. Participants were reminded of the symposia at the EPA 2025.

Organizational matters related to the completion of the term of office of the current Executive Committee were discussed, including the need to conduct elections for the new Section leadership. It was proposed that the elections of the new Section Executive Committee be held in an online format on June 13, 2025, at 12:00 PM CET, subject to confirmation of availability of key candidates and compliance with EPA membership requirements.

Candidatures for positions within the new Executive Committee, including Chair (Ilaria Tarricone), Vice-Chair (Tatjana Graef-Calliess), and Secretary (Jacopo Santambrogio), were presented. It was emphasized that all candidates must hold active EPA membership at the time of election.



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The Section's activities during the previous year were reviewed.

Location: Madrid

Start date: 06/04/2025

End date: 06/04/2025

Between ethnopsychiatry, criminology and narrative medicine: a complex clinical case (Joint inter-sectional symposium) organized by the EPA Section on Forensic Psychiatry in collaboration with the EPA Section on Cultural Psychiatry.

Description: Chairs: Kris GOETHALS, Ilaria TARRICONE Speakers: Jacopo SANTAMBROGIO,

Eleonora GAMBARO, Federico BOARON, Kris GOETHALS, Birgit VÖLLM, Nikolay BOKHAN. Description: A complex clinical case will be presented of an adult psychiatric patient who has been a minor

unaccompanied foreigner, who has a complex and difficult traumatic history. The case will describe M.B.'s care and judicial path. The method of description of the case will be narrative and will enhance the patient's experiences and stories. It will be highlighted how cultural and ethnic aspects influence and shape the self-description of his symptoms and the crimes committed.

Location: Madrid

Start date: 07/04/2025

End date: 07/04/2025

Addressing the need for specialised lgbtiq+ psychiatric services and training from a transcultural perspective

Description:

Chairs: Dinesh Bhugra, Ilaria Tarricone

Speakers: Iva Zegura, Iris Graef - Calliess, Amir Ahuja, Goran Mijaljica

Session date and time: Sunday 6 April 2025 - 08:00 – 09:30

People within LGBTIQ+ are significantly more likely to suffer a mental health disorder and substance use disorder compared to heterosexual persons.

Stigma, discrimination, and lack of social support are considered as some of the contributing factors to the higher incidence of psychiatric morbidity in this group.

Even in countries where homosexuality and belonging to LGBTIQ+ community is not criminalized or is well accepted in society; the studies show increased odds of poor mental health in this group.



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For example, a study conducted in Sweden, where same – sex marriage is legal, comparing suicide risk between heterosexual and same-sex married couples showed that same-sex married men had a was nearly three-fold greater suicide risk in comparison to their heterosexual counterparts.

This symposium addresses the transcultural aspects of specialized psychiatric services for LGBTIQ+ persons, including affirmative approaches in psychiatric care and psychotherapy in different European countries and the United States. A special focus will be placed on defining the implications for training of psychiatrists, psychiatry residents, psychologists and other mental health professionals with the goal of increasing the capacity for adequately and appropriately providing effective care for this group, where individuals have higher risk of mental health disorders, substance disorders and suicide.

Location: Madrid

Start date: 06/04/2025

End date: 06/04/2025

INTERCULTURAL DISORDER-SPECIFIC PSYCHOTHERAPY

Description:

Chair: Iris Tatjana GRAEF-CALLIESS (Germany), Meryam SCHOULER-OCAK (Germany)

Speaker: Iris Tatjana GRAEF-CALLIESS (Germany), Ekin SONMEZ (Türkiye), Heidi SILLER (Ireland), Meryam SCHOULER-OCAK (Germany)

The core aim of this symposium is to introduce disorder-specific psychotherapy approaches in an intercultural context. It will sensitise the plenum to culturally varying symptom constellations and address special features of diagnosis and therapy, focusing on the presentation of culturally specific or adapted therapy concepts.

Location: Madrid

Start date: 07/04/2025

End date: 07/04/2025

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE AND MENTAL HEALTH: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Description:

Chair: Geert DOM (Belgium), Meryam SCHOULER-OCAK (Germany)

Speakers: Apostolos VEIZIS (Greece), Ilaria TARRICONE (Italy), Jerzy SAMOCHOWIEC (Poland), Tamer

AKER (Türkiye), Sofie BÄÄRNHIELM (Sweden), Meryam SCHOULER-OCAK (Germany)

The European Psychiatric Association (EPA) has a Task Force on Migration and Mental Health to raise awareness on this important public health problem and outlines strategies for how its member societies and the mental health professionals at large may contribute to managing these challenges. This Task Force on Migration and



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Mental Health aims to increase awareness, basic knowledge and skills of the psychiatrists and other mental health workers related to migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced people and mental health consequences of migration and displacement. The session will be focused on current conditions in different parts of Europe and discuss publications and recommendations of the Task Force.

Location: Madrid

Start date: 06/04/2025

End date: 06/04/2025

PSYCHOTHERAPY IN CHALLENGING SETTINGS

Description:

This session is jointly organised by the Sections on Psychotherapy & Emergency Psychiatry

Chair: Julian BEEZHOLD (United Kingdom), Theodoros KOUTSOMITROS (Greece)

Speakers: Carla GRAMAGLIA (Italy), Thomas GARGOT (France), Selin TANYERI KAYAHAN (Türkiye)

Psychotherapeutic principles apply to everything a psychiatrist does in clinical work. In recent years, psychotherapy has continued to be a basic science of psychiatry, with its application in all clinical settings. In this session, we aim to review situations that may affect therapeutic alliance in such circumstances and emphasize and discuss various perspectives on applying different psychotherapy techniques in challenging settings.

Location: Madrid

Start date: 06/04/2025

End date: 06/04/2025

Election of the new Board

Description:

new Executive Committee was elected: Chair (Ilaria Tarricone), Vice-Chair (Tatjana Graef-Calliess), and Secretary (Jacopo Santambrogio)

Location: online

Start date: 13/06/2025

End date: 13/06/2025

Publications

Influence of post-migration living difficulties on mental health among refugees and asylum seekers: A scoping-review on clinical tools



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Journal:

International Journal of Social Psychiatry, 70(7), 1191-1201

Authors:

Santambrogio, J., Cimminiello, N., Wisidagamage Don, P., Leon, E., Miragliotta, E., Capuzzi, E., ... & Clerici, M.

(Expected) Publication date: 24/07/2024

Acknowledged as official Section publication? No

The challenge of diagnosing cultural syndromes: A narrative review

Journal:

International Journal of Social Psychiatry, 70(6), 1016-1027

Authors:

Santambrogio, J., Ciscato, V., Lorusso, O., Wisidagamage Don, P., Leon, E., Miragliotta, E., ... & Clerici, M.

(Expected) Publication date: 12/03/2024

Acknowledged as official Section publication? No

Artificial intelligence in healthcare and psychiatry

Journal:

Academic Psychiatry, 49(1), 10-12

Authors:

Krysta, K., Cullivan, R., Brittlebank, A., Dragasek, J., Hermans, M., Strkalj Ivezics, S., ... & Casanova Dias, M.

(Expected) Publication date: 01/02/2025

Acknowledged as official Section publication? No

Clinical and screening tools for psychic illness in asylum seekers and refugees: a narrative review

Journal:



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Rivista di psichiatria, 60(3), 93-102.

Authors:

Santambrogio, J., Leon, E., Auxilia, A. M., Capellazzi, M., Terrevazzi, S., Ceccon, F., ... & Clerici, M.

(Expected) Publication date: 01/05/2025

Acknowledged as official Section publication? No

Validation of the Italian Version of the STAR-MH Mental Health Screening Tool in a Sample of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Northern Italy

Journal:

International Journal of Social Psychiatry

Authors:

Santambrogio, J., Leon, E., Cimminiello, N., De Carolis, L., Aiello, E. N., Curti, B., ... & EARTH Group

(Expected) Publication date: 01/12/2025

Acknowledged as official Section publication? No

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

FUNDING IN 2025

Income: None

Source(s) of funding:

None

Expenditure: None

Balance: None

EPA Treasurer audit: No

Confirmation that income / expenditure is via