PS4095 - PSYCHOPATHOLOGY
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Please Note: Preliminary Version - Content might change slightly!

This module aims to describe mental disorders from a psychodynamic, behavioural, cognitive, and neuropsychiatric perspective. Classification systems of mental disorders are compared and evaluated, and research methods and treatment strategies critically discussed. The clinical part of the module focuses on adult mental health (e.g., Mood disorders, Schizophrenia Spectrum disorders, Obsessive compulsive disorders, Trauma and Stress related disorders) and Developmental Psychopathology (e.g., Autism Spectrum disorders). The academic reason for the introduction of this module is to present a novel and clinically relevant module for those students wishing to pursue a career in clinical psychology. Psychopathology is a core area of clinical psychology. A sound knowledge in this field is essential and forms the basis for diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders. Given that a substantial number of students start reading psychology with the aim to work in clinical psychology, adding a course to cover this material will be a valuable addition to the current 4000 level teaching.

The module will consist of weekly 2 hour sessions that will be composed of lecture material and student led seminar teaching based around presenting articles. The topics to be covered will be:

Theoretical Background
Week 1: What is a mental disorder: psychodynamic, behavioural, cognitive and neuropsychiatric approaches.
Week 2: Classification systems: a comparison of DSM-V/ICD-10 with RDOC (the new systems neuroscience approach of the NIMH to define mental disorders).
Week 3: Research in Psychopathology: single case designs, group studies, experimental and correlational designs, cross sectional and longitudinal studies, Randomised controlled Trials, Imaging (MRT (fMRT, DTI, VBM, resting state), PET) and behavioural approaches.
Week 4: Treatment: Psychodynamic, Behavioural, CBT, and Pharmacological approaches

Adult Mental Health
All disorders are introduced by looking at symptoms, prevalence, course, aetiology, and treatment with particular emphasis on aetiology.
Week 5: Anxiety disorders (Phobias, Generalised anxiety disorders)
Week 6: Mood disorders (Depression and Bipolar disorders)
Week 7: Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders (Schizophrenia and its sub-types, Schizoaffective and Delusional disorders)
Week 8: Obsessive Compulsive Disorders
Week 9: Trauma and stress related Disorders (PTSD, Acute stress related disorder, Adjustment disorder)

Developmental Psychopathology
Week 10: Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Week 11: Revision
The teaching will follow the standard structure of senior honours modules in psychology. Students will be given articles to read before the classes and they will take it in turns to present these articles to the class. These will be followed by discussion of the papers and also supplemented by lecture material.

**Assessment**

CA: 50%
Exam: 50%

**CA**
To critically evaluate issues in psychopathology (e.g., “Compare cognitive performance in Schizophrenia and Major Depressive Disorder and discuss similarities and differences in cognitive processing in respect to the underlying neuroanatomy”), students have to write an essay of 3000 words.

**Exam**
However, psychopathology is a key area of clinical psychology and sound factual knowledge in this field is essential for a correct differential diagnosis (e.g., distinguishing unipolar depression from mixed episodes in bipolar depression and borderline personality disorder). To assess factual knowledge about diagnostic criteria, prevalence, aetiology and treatment options of mental disorders I propose to give students a number of case reports (e.g., 5) with clinical data. Their task is to make a differential diagnosis on the basis of symptoms, suggesting further tests to substantiate their hypothesis and making suggestions for treatment. This would be a “seen exam” format, where the students would receive the cases via email and work from their homes in a time frame of 2 hours. responses, would be typed and uploaded into MMS.