

Parallel session #2

11:30–12:45

S2.1

Prevalence Matters: The Influence of Socio-Demographic and Loss-Related Variables on the Development of Prolonged Grief DisorderManik Djelantik^{a,b}, Birgit Wagner^c, Suzan Soydas^{a,b}, and Clare Killikelly^d^aUtrecht University, the Netherlands; ^bArq Psychotrauma Expert Group/Foundation '45, the Netherlands; ^cMedical School Berlin, Germany; ^dUniversity of Zurich, Switzerland

Track: Assessment & Diagnosis

A meta-analysis is currently being conducted on prolonged grief disorder (PGD) following unnatural losses. Preliminary results indicate a much higher prevalence than the prevalence of PGD following natural losses. In addition, other loss-related variables may be associated with PGD prevalence. This symposium aims to illustrate the clinical implications of these 'prevalence matters' by presenting two studies of large help-seeking samples of bereaved individuals. The first study is based on data from 942 Western homicidally bereaved individuals. The second study examined data from 2404 Arabic speaking bereaved individuals. The third study introduces a culturally-sensitive online assessment measure of PGD for Swiss, Japanese and Chinese bereaved individuals.

Prolonged Grief Disorder in Bereaved Individuals Following Unnatural Losses: Preliminary FindingsManik Djelantik^{a,b}, Geert Smid^b, Anna Mroz^a, Rolf Kleber^a, and Paul Boelen^a^aUtrecht University, the Netherlands; ^bArq Psychotrauma Expert Group/Foundation '45, the Netherlands

Background: Previous research has indicated that 10% of naturally bereaved individuals develops prolonged grief disorder (PGD). Less is known about the prevalence of PGD following unnatural deaths, such as accidents, disasters, suicides or homicides. **Objective:** The aim of the current study is to compute the prevalence of PGD and to determine possible predictors. **Method:** A literature search and a meta-analysis are currently being performed to calculate the pooled prevalence rate of PGD. Multivariate meta-regression is used to explore heterogeneity among the studies. **Results:** Preliminary findings suggest that the prevalence of PGD following unnatural losses is much higher than PGD following natural losses. Loss-related variables

may be associated with the prevalence rate. **Conclusions:** This study could provide valuable information which may help to identify PGD and underscores the importance of addressing PGD in individuals affected by loss and trauma.

Prevalence of Prolonged Grief Disorder in Arabic-Speaking Help-Seeking PopulationsBirgit Wagner^a, Maria Böttche^b, and Christine Knaevelsrud^a^aDepartment of Clinical Psychology, Medical School Berlin, Germany; ^bFree University Berlin, Germany

Background: In the past 30 years, war and conflicts have led to high rates of losses among people in the Middle East. However, few studies to date have measured prolonged grief disorder in this population. **Method:** Prevalence of prolonged grief disorder, sociodemographic characteristics, PTBS and Depression were examined in a help-seeking sample ($N = 2404$) of an Internet-based intervention for PTBS. Grief-related symptoms were assessed with the Inventory of Complicated Grief, depression with the Hopkins Symptom Checklist and posttraumatic stress disorder with the Posttraumatic Diagnostic Scale at pre-treatment. **Results:** The results reveal a prevalence rate of 7.4% for prolonged grief disorder: 23% of the participants experienced the killing of a family member and 93% lost a significant person under other traumatic circumstances. **Conclusions:** This study provides evidence that the prevalence of prolonged grief disorder in Arabic-speaking countries is comparable to Western samples and have substantial mental health implications for those suffering of a pathological grieving process.

Prevalence and Predictors of Psychiatric Disorders in a Large Help-Seeking Sample of Homicidally Bereaved PersonsSuzan Soydas^{a,b}, Geert Smid^a, Barbara Goodfellow^c, Rachel Wilson^c, and Paul Boelen^b^aArq Psychotrauma Expert Group/Foundation '45, the Netherlands; ^bUtrecht University, the Netherlands; ^cASSIST Trauma Care, UK

Background: Literature on grief reactions in the aftermath of a homicide is scarce and inconclusive, often describing small and heterogenous (sub)samples, yielding varying results. **Method:** Data of 942 individuals who