

Track: Transcultural & Diversity

Experiencing the death of a significant other due to a disaster heightens the risk of disturbed grief with comorbid posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression, also referred to as traumatic grief. The present symposium seeks to elucidate the patterns of traumatic grief symptoms following loss in major disasters in over 1500 disaster-bereaved people. First, the results of two latent class analyses on traumatic grief symptoms among Sichuan earthquake survivors and internally displaced Colombians will be discussed. Analyses show that traumatic grief, disturbed grief and/or PTSD symptom classes can be distinguished in disaster-bereaved people. Next, two four-wave longitudinal studies will be presented on people bereaved through the Utøya terrorist attack and the MH17 airplane disaster. Results indicate that the course and aetiology of disturbed grief differs from PTSD and depression. Clinical implications of findings and cultural considerations will be discussed.

Complicated Grief and Posttraumatic Stress Symptom Profiles in Bereaved Earthquake Survivors: Latent Class Analyses

Maarten Eisma^a, Lonke Lenferink^{a,b}, Amy Chow^c, Cecilia Chan^c, and Jie Li^d

^aUniversity of Groningen, the Netherlands; ^bUtrecht University, the Netherlands; ^cUniversity of Hong Kong, China; ^dRenmin University, China

Background: Studies on mental health following disasters have primarily focused on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), yet severe, enduring and disabling grief (i.e. complicated grief, CG) also appears relevant. *Objective:* The present study examines symptom profiles of PTSD and CG among bereaved Sichuan earthquake survivors one year after the disaster. *Method:* Self-report measures of demographic, disaster and loss-related characteristics and symptoms of PTSD and CG were administered among 803 survivors (63% women, mean age = 46.7 years). Latent class analysis (LCA) was performed to identify subgroups of people with different PTSD and CG symptom profiles. *Results:* The LCA demonstrated that a five class solution yielded the best fit, consisting of a CG class with low PTSD and high CG ($N = 208$), a combined class with high PTSD and high CG ($N = 205$), a class with low PTSD and partial CG ($N = 145$), a class with partial PTSD and CG ($N = 136$) and a resilient class with low PTSD and CG ($N = 108$). Being a woman (vs man), losing a child or spouse (vs other), being injured (vs non-injured) and/or having a missing family member (vs non-missing) predicted membership of the CG class compared to other classes. *Conclusions:* CG appears a unique

consequence of disasters involving many casualties. Disaster survivors should be screened for CG and provided with appropriate psychological treatment.

Symptom Profiles of Prolonged Grief and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder among Colombian Internally Displaced Persons

Carina Heeke

Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Background: Exposure to trauma and bereavement is common in conflict-affected regions. Purpose of the study was to (1) identify classes of prolonged grief disorder (PGD) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptom profiles and (2) to examine whether sociodemographic, loss and trauma-related characteristics could predict class membership. *Method:* A total of 308 internally displaced Colombians who had experienced trauma and loss were assessed through measures of PGD (PG-13), PTSD (PCL-C) and social support (DUKE-UNC). *Results:* LCA revealed a four-class solution: a resilient class (23.6%), a PTSD-class (23.3%), a predominately PGD class (25.3%) and a high distress-class with overall high values of PGD and PTSD (27.8%). Relative to the resilient class, membership to the PGD class was predicted by the loss of a close family member and the exposure to a higher number of assaultive traumatic events, whereas membership to the PTSD class was predicted by the perception of less social support. Compared to the resilient class, participants in the high distress-class were more likely to be female, to have lost a close relative, experienced more accidental and assaultive traumatic events, and perceived less social support. *Conclusions:* Specific symptom profiles emerged following exposure to trauma and loss within the context of the Colombian armed conflict. Profiles were associated with distinct types of traumatic experiences, the degree of closeness to the person lost, the amount of social support perceived and gender. The results have implications for identifying distressed subgroups and informing interventions in accordance with the patient's symptom profile.

The Development of Prolonged Grief in Long-Term after Terror: A Study of Parents and Siblings Bereaved by the 2011 Utøya Killings

Pål Kristensen

Center for Crisis Psychology, Norway

Background: Bereavement caused by terrorism is associated with high risk of posttraumatic stress symptoms (PTSS) (Neria, DiGrande, & Adams, 2011), but few have examined prolonged grief (PG)