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Results: From pioneering studies in the early 1960s on the relationship between medical education, medicine and psychology, he emphasized his focus on the role of technological progress in the doctor-patient relationship, from a psychological point of view. He highlighted that relationship between doctor and patient was the heart and the art of medicine. Although patients are becoming more and more expert regarding all health-care issues, they are still looking for shared perceptions and feelings regarding the nature of health issues, the supposed goals of treatment, and psychosocial support. What the patient is looking for is no longer a qualified “technician” but a passionate “supporter”. As the works of Cesa-Bianchi demonstrated, the doctor must have an in-depth knowledge of the main communicative and relational mechanisms (both verbal and non-verbal, cognitive and emotional), a holistic vision and an understanding of the expressions of human discomfort.

Conclusions: Marcello Cesa-Bianchi was not only a pioneer of psychogerontology, but also a methodologist: psychology had to redefine its formulation and definition, in the light of more and more old patients, their rights, their creativity.

ASSOCIATION AMONG ROMANTIC ATTACHMENT, COUPLE RELATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND POSITIVE OUTCOME IN ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT

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Abstract

Infertility represents a major life crisis that can negatively affect a couple’s psychosocial health. A supportive relationship and a secure romantic attachment appear to represent protective factors that may reduce the stress arising from the experience and also play an important role in the success of Assisted Reproductive Treatment (ART). The general aim of the study is to investigate the association among romantic attachment, couple characteristics and ART outcome.

76 infertile women (mean age=38.52; sd= 5.58) enrolled in a clinic in Rome completed the Experience in Close Relationship-Revised (ECR-R), the Couple Relationship Inventory (CRI) and a socio-demographic questionnaire.

Data analyses showed a significant positive association between ECR-R Anxiety and CRI Idealization/Persecution ($r=.246$; $p<.05$) and Mistrust ($r=.319$; $p<.01$), and between ECR-R

Avoidance and CRI Mistrust ($r=.270$; $p<.05$), whereas a significant negative association between ECR-R Avoidance and CRI Attunement ($r= .280$; $p<.05$) was found. ART positive outcome was negatively related to ECR-R Avoidance ($r=-.247$; $p<.05$) and positively related to CRI Dependence ($r=.255$; $p<.05$). A multi-variable logistic regression showed that ECR-R Avoidance decreased the probability of pregnancy ($B= -.055$; $\text{Exp}(B)= .95$; $\text{CI}= .900- .996$; $p<.04$).

ART success appears to be related to lower levels of fear of dependence and interpersonal intimacy, and to higher abilities in self-disclosure within the romantic relationship and to higher aspects of tenderness and care in the couple. Further investigations are needed also with the aim of developing specific therapeutic interventions in order to promote the quality of couple relationships thereby increasing the rate of successful ART outcomes.

THE ROLE OF REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY AND CONTEXT SENSITIVITY IN A SAMPLE OF PALLIATIVE HOME CARE PRACTITIONERS AT RISK OF BURNOUT

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Abstract

Introduction: This study aimed to examine the symptoms of burnout and the differential contribution of the professional role in a sample of palliative home care practitioners. In addition this study aimed to explore the role of the sensitivity to context and the emotional flexibility for the three factors of burnout.

Methods: A convenience sample ($n = 65$) of specialist palliative care practitioners participated at this study. Participants were recruited in two palliative home care services characterized by a prevalence of patients with cancer at the end-of-life.

Participants were asked to complete a demographic questionnaire, and provide data about their work and experience. The Italian version of the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI), the Flexible Regulation of Emotional Expression (FREE) Scale (a measure of emotional

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Abstract

This paper illustrates a case study about Eberstadt Süd, a suburb of the city of Darmstadt known for a large presence of immigrants and social problems related to unemployment and alcohol abuse. The present study had the aim to explore the affective symbolizations shared among people within the neighbourhood because, as literature declares, the possibility to find out new local developmental strategies is related to the understanding of the collusive dynamic which organize the relationship of people sharing the same context. Twelve stakeholders were administered a semi-structured interview about the quality of life in the neighbourhood, the relationship with the near city, and future developing strategies. The interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed and analysed through Emotional Text Analysis. The analysis detected four clusters of words (CL). CL1 evokes a physical place still under construction; people living there represent themselves like elders needy for help. CL2 describes a feeling of judgement and devaluation from the main city, emotionally perceived as far and separate; people living in Eberstadt are represented as weak and defective. CL3 refers to the difficulties to develop a sense of citizenship in people living in Eberstadt, seen as being an active and productive part of the whole community. The projects made by social services are felt as incapable of bringing substantial changes in the neighbourhood. CL4 seems to refer to the reassuring, comfortable dual relationship between a child and his/her fundamental caregiver. Institutions are emotionally perceived as good mothers supporting their children. The results highlight that the relationship between Eberstadt and the near city of Darmstadt is experienced as asymmetrical. The neighbourhood is symbolized as little and needy, whereas the city is big, adult and powerful. These results were discussed with the stakeholders, giving them the opportunity to imagine possible future development.



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