



PSK474 – REFUGEE PSYCHOLOGY

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Course Description

The main aim of this course is to provide knowledge on refugees and asylum seekers from psychological point of view. All materials within the course will be dealt with in multiculturalism perspective. It is well known that it is very difficult to work with refugees and asylum seekers all over the world. It requires humanistic, cultural, professional and legal sensitivities. Therefore, this course also aims to provide a theoretical and practical basis for intervention strategies to work with refugees.

Turkey has a special geographical importance for forced migration and refugee routes. Especially from 2011, the number of refugees and asylum seekers in Turkey has climbed up to nearly five million. Therefore, the need for psychologists who will work on the refugee area has increased accordingly. This course aims to contribute increase the capacity of students who plans to work on refugee and humanitarian work area.

After taking this course the students will be able to;

- Know basic concepts related to immigration and forced immigration.
- Gain knowledge about how being a refugee and an asylum seekers affects individuals in social and psychological way.
- Gain knowledge on psychological characteristics of specific risk groups among refugees and asylum seekers such as children, unaccompanied minors, women, LGBTs and older people.
- Know basic principles utilized in working with refugees.
- Know basic principles of multiculturalism.

Course Organization

This is a lecture course in which topics are presented by the instructor. Depending on the subject, class sessions will include discussions which will mainly focus on both theoretical knowledge and personal experiences. Students are responsible reading weekly materials before classes.



68.5 million forcibly
displaced people
worldwide

Turkey hosts largest
refugee population in
the World (nearly 4
million people)

Source: UNHCR

Nearly 1 person is
forcibly displaced
every two seconds as
a result of conflict or
persecution in the
world

Source: UNHCR

Reading Materials

Books

- Simich, L., & Andermann, L. (2014). *Refuge and resilience: Promoting resilience and mental health among resettled refugees and forced migrants*. NY: Springer.
- Sher, L., & Vilens, A. (2010). *Immigration and mental health: Stress, psychiatric disorders and suicidal behavior among immigrants and refugees*. NY: Nova Science Publishers.

Articles

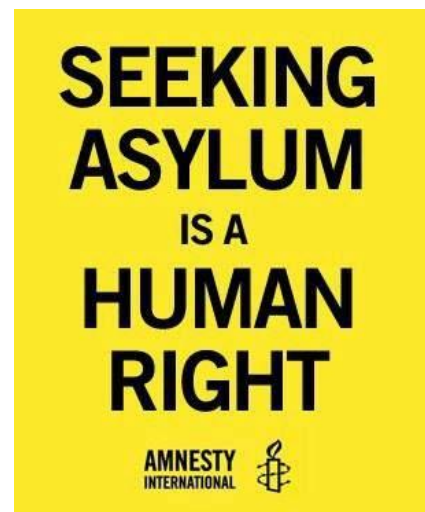
- Barrington, A. J. & Shakespeare-Finch, J. (2014). Giving voice to service providers who work with survivors of torture and trauma. *Qualitative Health Research*, 24(12) 1686–1699.
- Eriksson, C. B. et al. (2013). Factors associated with adverse mental health outcomes in locally recruited aid workers assisting Iraqi refugees in Jordan. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 22, 660-680.
- Puvimanasinghe, T., Denson, L. A., Augoustinos, M., & Somasundaram, D. (2015). Vicarious resilience and vicarious traumatization: Experiences of working with refugees and asylum seekers in South Australia. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 52(6) 743–765.
- Sandhu, S. et al. (2013). Experiences with treating immigrants: a qualitative study in mental health services across 16 European countries. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*, 48,105–116.
- Soliman, H., & Gillespie, D. (2011). A test of stress theory: Relief workers in refugee camps. *Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management*, 35(4) 789-800.
- Splevins, K., Cohen, K., Joseph, S., Murray, C., & Bowley, J. (2010). Vicarious posttraumatic growth among interpreters. *Qualitative Health Research*, 20(12), 1705-1716.

Course web site: <http://www.baskent.edu.tr/~okanc/>

Grading

Grades will be based upon performance on the following:

Graded activity	Weight (%)
Midterm Exam	40
Final Exam	30
Term Project (<i>Due date: 14 December 2018</i>)	30
Total	100



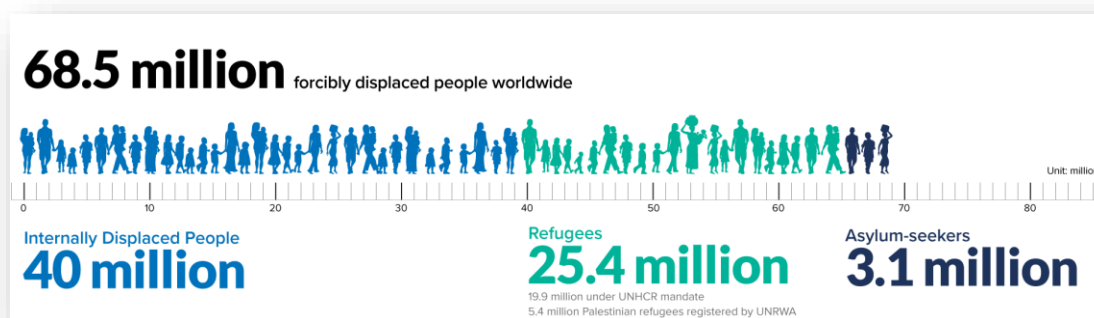
Term Project

Students are expected to prepare a 4-page review on the topics listed below. The reviews should be written according to following criteria:

1. It should include at least 10 articles (books and chapters are not included in this number)
2. It should be written according to APA style
3. It should include 1 cover page, 1 abstract page, 4 pages of main text, and references pages.
4. The topics listed below are the general topics. Therefore, students are free to write their reviews on different topics which are related to refugee psychology. In this case, it is recommended to consult the instructor before deciding. In addition, students are free to write on more focused issues related to topics listed above.
5. Due date: **14 December 2018**

Term project topics:

- Refugee children and mental health
- Refugees with special needs
- Trauma among refugees
- Social adjustment and mental health
- Suicidal behavior among refugees
- Secondary trauma
- Specific refugee groups (elderly, LGBTI, children, adolescents, women, disabled persons and the like)
- Transgenerational trauma among refugees
- Language barriers and its consequences in terms of mental health
- Human trafficking
- Educational problems of refugees
- Acculturation stress
- Intergroup contact and mental health
- Prejudice, discrimination and mental health
- Intrafamilial problems among refugees





Lesbos, Greece, October 2015: A father celebrates with his child on the Greek island of Lesbos after a stormy crossing with his family over the Aegean Sea from Turkey.
 Photo by: Tom Stoddart (<https://www.annenbergphotospace.org/exhibits/refugee/>)

Weekly Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading material
1	28 Sept 2018	Introduction: Basic terminology and immigration status	
2	5 Oct 2018	Stress and resilience among refugees	Simich & Andermann (2014): Ch1-Ch2
3	12 Oct 2018	Determinants of mental health among refugees	Simich & Andermann (2014): Ch3
4	19 Oct 2018	Trauma among refugees and psychosocial treatments/interventions	Simich & Andermann (2014): Ch4
5	26 Oct 2018	Suicidal behaviors among refugees	Sher & Vilens (2010): Ch2
6	2 Nov 2018	Guest speaker	
7	9 Nov 2018	Developmental risk groups (children, unaccompanied minors)	Sher & Vilens (2010): Ch7
3	12-16 Nov 2018	Midterm week	
9	23 Nov 2018	Human trafficking	Simich & Andermann (2014): Ch13
10	30 Nov 2018	Working with refugees: Direct and vicarious trauma	Sandu et al. (2013) Barrington et al (2014) Eriksson et al. (2013)
11	7-Dec 2018	Working with refugees: Direct and vicarious trauma	Splevins et al. (2010) Soliman & Gillespie (2011) Puvimanasinghe et al. (2015)
12	14 Dec 2018	Guest speaker	
13	21 Dec 2018	Social support and refugee status	Simich & Andermann (2014): Ch7
14	28 Dec 2018	Closing and evaluation	