

Stigmatization (Health Coverage)

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KEYWORDS

framing, stigmatization, mental health, media coverage

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Media descriptions of mental illness and the mentally ill are often characterized by stigmatization. For example, in media coverage mental illnesses are often associated with crimes and violence (Ma, 2017). In consequence, patients are presented not only as peculiar and different, but also as dangerous. Thus, the media maintain misconceptions and stigma (Klin & Lemish, 2008; Srivastava et al., 2018).

FIELD OF APPLICATION

Health communication, anti-stigma communication, anti-stigma research, stigmatization

EXAMPLE STUDIES

Carpiniello et al. (2007); McGinty et al. (2014)

INFORMATION ON CARPINIELLO ET AL. 2007

Authors: Bernardo Carpiniello, Roberta Girau, Maria Germana Orrù

Research questions: The study explores the portrayal of mental illness in Italy's leading national and regional newspapers, asking whether a different pattern emerged in describing criminal offences committed by the mentally ill in reports relating to homicides, suicide, and other acts of violence.

Object of analysis: The total sample included N = 2279 all articles relating to homicides, suicides or attempted suicides as well as acts of violence in two leading Italian newspapers (Corriere della

Sera, n = 387 and La Repubblica, n = 375) and the two leading regional newspapers (L'Unione Sarda, n = 783 and La Nuova Sardegna, n = 733)

Time frame of analysis: October 2002 to March 2003

INFO ABOUT VARIABLES

Variables: For each article it was coded whether or not the criminal offence had been attributed to a mentally ill person (actions were deemed to have been attributed to the mentally ill only when clearly stated or strongly alluded to by the author of the article) as well as use of stigmatizing language (Penrose-Wall et al., 1999)

Reliability: No information

Level of analysis: News article

Topics

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Attempted suicide
- Homicide + suicide
- Sex-related violence
- Other violent acts

Attribution to a mentally ill person

- yes
- no

Stigmatizing language

- Fool/ foolishness
 - Monster/ monstrosity
 - Maniac/ maniacality
 - Mad/ madness
 - Insane/ insanity
 - Lunatic
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