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Evidence indicates that migrant and ethnic minority groups have an elevated risk of psychosis in a number of countries. Social disadvantage is one of the hypotheses put forward to explain these findings. The aim of this study is to investigate main effects, association and synergism between social disadvantage and migration on odds of psychotic experiences. We collected information on social disadvantage and migration from 332 patients and from 301 controls recruited from the local population in South London. Two indicators of social disadvantage in childhood and six indicators of social disadvantage in adulthood were analyzed. We found evidence that the odds of reporting psychotic experience were higher in those who experienced social disadvantage in childhood (OR= 2.88, 95% CI 2.03–4.06), social disadvantage in adulthood (OR= 9.06, 95% CI 5.21–15.74) and migration (OR= 1.46, 95% CI 1.05–2.02). When both social disadvantage and migration were considered together, the association with psychosis was slightly higher for social disadvantage in childhood and migration (OR 3.46, 95% CI 2.12–5.62) and social disadvantage in adulthood and migration (OR 9.10, 95% CI 4.63–17.86). Migrant cases were not more likely than non-migrant cases to report social disadvantage ($p=0.71$) and no evidence of an additive interaction between migration and social disadvantage was found (ICR 0.32 95% CI –4.04–4.69). Preliminary results support the hypothesis that the association between social disadvantage and psychosis is independent of migration status.

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w044

Trauma and migration in first episode psychosis

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Introduction Researches show that the period of migration, or the migration process itself, may confer an increased risk for psychosis. Some studies have addressed whether the high rates of psychosis found in migrants could be due to higher genetic or environmental risk factors. Facing severe or chronic stress such as trauma, social isolation, low socio-economic status, late-life social adversity may result in long term, sometimes permanent, alterations of the biological stress response system, leading to the onset of psychosis.

Objectives This study aims to examine, in a large sample of first episode psychosis patients, whether negative social experiences like stressful life events and difficulties, trauma and isolation have significantly higher frequencies in migrants with respect to natives.

Methods The present study is conducted within the framework of the EUGEI (European Network of National Schizophrenia Networks Studying Gene Environment Interactions) study, a Europe-wide

incidence and case-control study of psychosis conducted in 12 centers chosen to include areas with large first and subsequent generation migrant populations.

Data about age, gender, migration history, trauma, life events, ethnicity, social class and family history of mental disorders have been collected.

Results Preliminary data on the relationship between trauma and migration in first episode psychosis will be presented.

Conclusions Since migration is an important stressful life event, and difficulties in integration in host countries may remain chronic, it is important to identify in each context the most vulnerable minority groups in order to implement targeted prevention interventions.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

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W045

The social defeat hypothesis of schizophrenia: an update

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Research provides strong evidence of an elevated risk for developing psychotic symptoms and psychotic disorder among various ethnic and other minority groups. Furthermore, ethnicity may modify the risk for autism-spectrum disorder, but the evidence of this is still thin. Misdiagnosis, selective migration and other methodological artefacts are implausible explanations for the findings on psychotic disorder. Instead, we propose that 'social defeat', defined as the chronic experience of being excluded from the majority group, may increase the risk for psychotic disorder by sensitizing the mesolimbic dopamine system. Future challenges lie in connecting the underlying biological mechanisms to behavioral expression in socially excluded groups, as well as in bridging the gap with the clinical field and the wider society by stimulating the implementation of strategies that strengthen the position of minority populations.

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W046

Migration history and the onset of psychotic disorders

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Introduction Research has established that there are high rates of first episode psychosis (FEP) in immigrant populations. These findings could indicate that socio-environmental risk factors, such as individual social class, social capital, early trauma, life events, neighborhood deprivation could be relevant in explaining the differences in incidence rates observed between migrants and natives, following the socio-developmental model of Morgan et al. (2010). Some preliminary results also indicate that migration history itself versus ethnicity could implicate higher risk of the onset of psychotic disorders.