

P02-271 - PSYCHIATRIC TRAINING AS A “RITE OF PASSAGE”: A FIELD STUDY IN SPAIN

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Background: “Rite of passage” is an ethnographic concept developed by VanGennep that defines the vital transition of an individual between two different status. It is divided in three stages: separation, liminal/threshold and aggregation. Turner described the liminal phase, and the terms of “communitas” and “liminoid” (structure of a rite without religious/spiritual elements). One widely-known Rite of Passage is the initiation of the shamans.

Objetives: Study the elements of a rite of passage present in Psychiatric Training.

Method:

- Field study (observational, descriptive, non-experimental).
- Preliminary Sample=10trainees (5man+5women); last year of Psychiatric Training.
- “ad hoc” semi-structured interview (21items subdivided in open questions). 10interviews (average duration=75mins). Permanent register:digital recorder.
- Summary and analysis of the answers. Review of the literature.

Results:

- Psychiatric Training shared the elements and tri-phasic structure of VanGennep’s “rite of passage” concept
- Trainees saw themselves as more empathic(7/10) and humanistic(8/10) than other specialties colleagues. Stigma towards mental illness(8/10) and fear of suicide(9/10) were also considered as their distinctives.
- The collective behaved as a *communitas*(10/10)
- No spiritual elements(0/10): liminoid process
- Resemblances of the ancestral shamans’ Initiation: Despite bloody practices were over, suffering was also present(7/10), but was seen as necessary(6/10) and well tolerated(7/10).
- Trainees felt that they grew spiritual and mentally(7/10) during the training years

Conclusions: Results suggest that Psychiatric Training has stable phenomena that:

- are compatible with the Rite of Passage schema
- Are considered exclusive of Psychiatry by trainees
- Have not been systematically studied as a whole, which could help to improve the training.