Religious delusion

An observational study of religious delusion in a population of 313 acute psychiatric inpatients

M. Raja, A. Azzoni, L. Lubich

Dipartimento di Salute Mentale, Servizio Psichiatrico di Diagnosi e Cura, Ospedale Santo Spirito, Rome (I)

Summary

Raja M, Azzoni A, Lubich L. Religious delusion. Schweiz Arch Neurol Psychiatr 2000;151:22-9.

Objective: Little is known about the clinical features associated with religious delusion and how religious delusion may differ across various diagnostic groups. The empirical research on this topic is relatively scanty. The primary purpose of this study was to detect the demographic, sociocultural, and clinical features of patients with religious delusion.

Method: We studied 313 patients consecutively admitted to an emergency psychiatric ward and compared patients with and without religious delusion.

Results: Patients with religious delusion were older, had started their first neuroleptic treatment earlier, had suffered less acute psycho-social stressors, and had presented a worse global functioning during the last year than patients without religious delusion. Furthermore, they received higher SAPS, BPRS total and BPRS psychotic cluster scores and were treated with a higher mean number of different neuroleptics during current hospitalisation. Religious delusion was not related to any diagnostic group.

Conclusions: Our results suggest an alternative outflook on delusions that de-emphasises the importance of diagnosis and looks instead at delusions and other major symptom areas as psychopathological dimensions.

Keywords: emergency psychiatry; delusion; religious delusion; religion and psychology

Correspondence: Michele Raja Dipartimento di Salute Mentale Ospedale Santo Spirite Via Prisciano 26 CAP 00136 - Rome, Italy

e-mail: raja.russo@iot.it.

Introduction

Delusions are common and main symptoms in many neuropsychiatric disorders. Nevertheless, as Spitzer [1] notes, their nature is poorly understood, their actiology is unknown, and their nosological status remains problematic. Furthermore, despite the frequency and the importance of delusions, a relatively small amount of research has been conducted in this field [2]. Questions about how delusions may differ across diagnostic groups are still unanswered.

Some forms of delusion are considered to be characteristic of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, however, no delusional content is specific of these illnesses. Traditionally, religious delusion, with or without hallucinations, has been associated with schizophrenia, affective psychoses, complex partial seizure disorder and drug-induced psychoses. Recent reports have associated religious delusion with epileptic postictal psychosis [3], psychoses characterised by self-inflicted injuries [4–6], psychoses induced by general medical illnesses [7, 8], and mystical-religious fervor [9].

Although religious delusion has regularly been reported throughout the history of neuropsychiatry, surprisingly, there is no systematic study of religious delusion in unselected populations of psychiatric patients. We conducted computerised searches of MEDLINE back to 1966, but we did not find empirical studies on this subject.

As our hospital is situated at the centre of Rome, near St. Peter's Basilica, we have the opportunity to visit an unusually large number of patients with religious delusion. Many of these patients are referred to our centre because they display bizarre, shameful, or dangerous behaviour associated with their psychotic symptoms nearby the Basilica. Visitors to St. Peter's Basilica or to the Vatican displaying an abnormal behaviour are interviewed by town police officers and then referred to our hospital if they are considered mentally ill. This prompted us to undertake the present study to detect the demographic, sociocultural, and clinical features of patients with religious delusion

Religious Delusions

David H. Rosmarin, Harold G. Koenig

Religious Delusions:

Religion and Spirituality in Psychiatry Philippe Huguelet, Harold G. Koenig, 2009-03-30 This book was the first to specifically address the impact of religion and spirituality on mental illness Handbook of Religion and Health Harold G. Koenig, Tyler J. VanderWeele, John R. Peteet, 2024 Beginning with a Foreword by Dr Howard K Koh former US Assistant Secretary for Health for the Department of Health and Human Services this volume examines almost every aspect of health reviewing past and more recent research on the relationship between religion and health outcomes Health Harold G. Koenig, 2018-03-23 Religion and Mental Health Research and Clinical Applications summarizes research on how religion may help people better cope or exacerbate their stress covering its relationship to depression anxiety suicide substance abuse well being happiness life satisfaction optimism generosity gratitude and meaning and purpose in life The book looks across religions and specific faiths as well as to spirituality for those who don't ascribe to a specific religion It integrates research findings with best practices for treating mental health disorders for religious clients also covering religious beliefs and practices as part of therapy to treat depression and posttraumatic stress disorder Summarizes research findings on the relationship of religion to mental health Investigates religion s positive and negative influence on coping Presents common findings across religions and specific faiths Identifies how these findings inform clinical practice interventions Describes how to use religious practices and beliefs as part of therapy **Crimes of Violence by Mentally** Abnormal Offenders W. Boker, H. Häfner, 1982-05-20 Originally published in German in 1973 and first published in English as this Cambridge edition in 1982 this is a detailed and systematic account of the extent to which mentally abnormal offenders are likely to commit crimes of major violence based upon a study of all the 533 men and women in the Federal German Republic from 1955 to 1964 who were detained in hospitals after committing homicide or near homicide The authors calculated that such patients are no more but also no less dangerous than the rest of the population and that the policy of treating psychotic or seriously subnormal patients in the community does not expose the public to risk The book makes important suggestions for the prevention of such disasters by describing the diagnoses special symptoms and social situations which involve a special risk especially to close relatives and those with whom the patient is emotionally involved

Handbook of Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders, Volume III Michael S. Ritsner, 2011-04-13 A few disorders have some of the same symptoms as schizophrenia including schizoaffective disorders schizophreniform disorder schizotypal and schizoid personality disorders delusional disorder and autism schizophrenia spectrum disorders Since the 2000 there has been significant progress in our understanding of the early presentations assessment suspected neuropathology and treatment of these disorders Recent technological breakthroughs in basic sciences hold promise for advancing our understanding of the pathophysiology of schizophrenia spectrum disorders This collective monograph reviewers recent researches regarding the origins onset course and outcome of schizophrenia spectrum disorders In particular this book will be illustrate new

developments in terms of conceptual models and research methodology genetics and genomics brain imaging and neurochemical studies neurophysiology and information processing in schizophrenia spectrum disorders patients Also will be highlighted new developments in our understanding of the childhood psychosis prodromal and first episode states in treatment and rehabilitation Thus the purpose of this book is to provide up to date overview of the rapid advances made in the clinical and basic science studies supporting our understanding of the relationship between cerebral processes and clinical cognitive and other presentations of the schizophrenia spectrum disorders In addition this book aims to monitor important research developments which may be relevant to treatment and rehabilitation of patients Andrew Sims, 2009-03-09 Is faith delusion Is religion bad for your health How in a scientifically and technologically advanced age can people still believe in God spirit other Clearly not all believers are primitive and ill educated an alternative explanation is that they must be mad or at least severely neurotic as suggested by Freud This book starts by looking at and giving reasons for the connection and the division between Christian faith and psychiatry It asks whether science challenges Christians involved with psychiatry as patients or professionals and whether the spiritual needs of patients are recognised The author examines the scope and use of the neuro sciences and considers cause and effect natural selection and determinism He explores the overlap and the difference between psychiatric symptoms and religious belief the possible association between demon possession and mental illness and the idea that some people are intrinsically religious and some are not The variations of personality are examined with their implications for belief Posited as a statement that faith is delusion is always hostile but outcome studies reviewed here show that in general religious belief and practice convey good mental health Religious faith and mental illness are different and their concepts come from different world views A consideration of them in relation to each other is long overdue The author is a former Professor of Psychiatry and President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and has also been Chairman of their Spirituality and Psychiatry Special Interest Group so is exceptionally well qualified to address the subject Although the book is technically proficient it is aimed at the general reader and is illustrated with stories brief case histories and anecdotes Faith and Mental Health Harold G Koenig, 2005-09-01 Koenig opens a window on mental health providing an unprecedented source of practical information about the relationship between religion and mental health Dr Koenig examines how Christianity and other world religions deliver mental health services today and he makes recommendations based on research expertise and experience for new programs to meet local needs Handbook of Spirituality, Religion, and Mental Health David H. Rosmarin, Harold G. Koenig, 2020-04-21 Research has indicated that spiritual and religious factors are strongly tied to a host of mental health characteristics in both positive and negative ways That body of research has significantly grown since publication of the first edition of this book 20 years ago The seconnd edition of the Handbook of Spirituality Religion and Mental Health identifies not only whether religion and spirituality influence mental health and vice versa but also how why and for whom Hence 100% of the book is now revised with new chapters and new contributors Contents address eight categories of mental disorders as well as other kay aspects of social emotional and behavioral health Provides an authoritative comprehensive and updated review of the research on positive and negative effects of spirituality religion on mental health Contains dedicated chapters focused on the relevance of spirituality religion to mood anxiety obsessive compulsive psychotic eating feeding alcohol substance use behavioral addictions and pain related disorders as well as marriage family life suicidality and end of life care Reviews the research on spiritually integrated psychotherapies and provides basic clinical guidelines for how to effectively address spiritual religious life in treatment Reviews the neurobiology of spiritual religious experiences as they pertain to mental health Covers all major world religions as well as spiritual identites outside of a religious context **Psychosis** Helen L Holmes, 2025-06-27 This book offers an introductory overview of treatment of psychosis in inpatient acute ward settings looking at both male and female wards Taking a broadly psychoanalytic perspective the book explores the organizational dynamics on male and female acute wards exploring both patient and staff dynamics Containing detailed case studies from across male and female psychiatric wards in London the author sets out how psychoanalytic concepts such as transference questions of trauma and issues of gender can shape both the presentation of psychosis and our understanding and treatment of it The book then explores the part played by religion in psychosis and equips readers with ideas for future practice and training on psychosis With clear guidance on how to understand and work with psychosis in an inpatient setting and how many unconscious factors can affect patients and staff this is key reading for psychiatrists psychoanalysts and therapists clinical psychologists and other mental health professionals working in inpatient acute care and community Spiritual Truth and Religious Delusions William Edward Breen, 2006-02-08 Spiritual Truth and Religious settings Delusions is an examination of our human spiritual needs and what the various human religions must do to meet those needs It is time to put human religions under the same scientific microscope we have placed all other human endeavors from aviation to zoology What are our needs what must our my religion do to meet those needs Isnt it time to place all religions which dont foster human unity and well being into the wastebasket as we strive for the larger the more workable and the more beautiful human living Hearing Voices, Demonic and Divine Christopher C. H. Cook, 2018-12-07 The Open Access version of this book available at www taylorfrancis com books 9781472453983 has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivative 4 0 license Experiences of hearing the voice of God or angels demons or other spiritual beings have generally been understood either as religious experiences or else as a feature of mental illness Some critics of traditional religious faith have dismissed the visions and voices attributed to biblical characters and saints as evidence of mental disorder However it is now known that many ordinary people with no other evidence of mental disorder also hear voices and that these voices not infrequently include spiritual or religious content Psychological and interdisciplinary research has shed a revealing light on these experiences in recent years so that we now know much more

about the phenomenon of hearing voices than ever before The present work considers biblical historical and scientific accounts of spiritual and mystical experiences of voice hearing in the Christian tradition in order to explore how some voices may be understood theologically as revelatory It is proposed that in the incarnation Christian faith finds both an understanding of what it is to be fully human a theological anthropology and God s perfect self disclosure revelation Within such an understanding revelatory voices represent a key point of interpersonal encounter between human beings and God

Behavior Modification in Black Populations Samuel M. Turner, 2012-12-06 During the past decade research and practice in the field of behavior modification have experienced phenomenal growth Behavioral intervention strategies that were considered strictly experimental a few years ago are now accepted therapeutic modalities and behavioral method ology has been instrumental in creating an atmosphere conducive to the development of scientific rigor in the area of mental health But behav ioral influence has not been limited to mental health There has been considerable impact in education industry government and general health care Although behavior modification has made a significant impact on psychology in general there has been a noticeable lack of theorizing and empirical research on issues primarily related to black populations In fact the black community in general and black psychologists in partic ular often have viewed behavioral approaches with suspicion We hope that the material presented in this volume will serve to clarify what the behavioral approach is and what it is not and that it will help to foster an understanding of the behavioral approach Moreover empirical data demonstrating the effectiveness of behavioral procedures with black populations are presented It is our hope that the material will provide some insight into how behavioral theory methodology and therapeutic strategies can be used to the benefit of black mental health in particular and the overall psychological health of the black community in general The Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner ,1887 The Chicago Medical Journal, 1887 **Introductory Textbook of Psychiatry** Donald W. Black, Nancy C. Andreasen, 2020-05-04 The prevalence of psychiatry in popular culture has coincided with the rise of amateur armchair psychiatrists and this often serves to muddy the waters about what exactly the field entails For all the misconceptions though psychiatry is an endlessly fascinating field charged with defining and recognizing mental illnesses identifying methods for treating them and discovering their causes and developing measures to prevent them Introductory Textbook of Psychiatry dispels common misunderstandings and delves into what makes this such an exciting discipline Now in its seventh edition this bestselling guide is organized along the lines of DSM 5 and has been updated to reflect changes to the manual including new medications and therapies Rigorous in scope Introductory Textbook of Psychiatry is nevertheless accessible and conversational in tone It employs fascinating case vignettes clinical pearls self assessment questions and tables and figures as it offers a summary of The DSM 5 diagnostic system The neurobiological basis of psychiatry Interviewing and assessment including specific questions that patients can be asked The various psychiatric disorders Legal issues Psychiatric emergencies Treatment Initially developed for medical students and beginning residents this guide is also a valuable

reference for nurse practitioners physician assistants social workers and psychologists And because it has been edited to align with the Pocket Guide to Psychiatric Practice it makes an excellent companion piece to that volume as well the Madness Zachary Wheeler, 2024-07-30 Equal to the Madness Countertransference Intensive Psychotherapy for Psychosis is among the first books of its kind to offer a semistructured psychoanalytic treatment for schizophrenia and psychotic disorders Grounded in contemporary psychoanalytic theory with a strong focus on Wilfred Bion's seminal contributions to the treatment of psychotic states this book presents a model for working with psychotic patients that emphasizes the key role of countertransference in understanding the patient and producing change It addresses all the most important areas of treatment in one volume presenting clinicians with comprehensive theory and technique for providing effective and thoughtful care to psychotic patients Equal to the Madness was researched using an intuitive process of distillation and matching a means of selecting and identifying the common elements in treatment from diverse psychoanalytic literature spanning more than one hundred years It effectively condenses synthesizes and streamlines much of psychoanalytic thinking on psychosis into an easy to access treatment compendium The result is an explicit well articulated approach to psychotherapy that is sufficiently organized to be useful as a treatment manual giving clinicians a reliable framework for intervening with psychotic patients Equal to the Madness is didactic and applied in addition to theoretical It offers basic instruction to those who are just learning about the treatment of psychosis for the first time but is far reaching enough to be helpful to more seasoned professionals It provides clinicians with information related to assessment intervention and therapeutic strategies tailored specifically for psychotic patients Rich case materials illustrating important concepts are included to reinforce learning Equal to the Madness is a foundational resource for mental health care providers that delivers an instrumental learning experience The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Psychiatry Robert E. Hales, 2008 Its previous edition hailed as the best reference for the majority of practicing psychiatrists Doody's Book Reviews and a book that more than any other provides an approach to how to think about psychiatry that integrates both the biological and psychological JAMA The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Psychiatry has been meticulously revised to maintain this preeminence as an accessible and authoritative educational reference and clinical compendium It combines the strengths of its three editors Robert Hales in clinical and community psychiatry Stuart Yudofsky in neuropsychiatry and new co editor Glen Gabbard in psychotherapy in recruiting outstanding authors to summarize the latest developments in psychiatry and features 101 contributors 65 of whom are new to this edition The book boasts a new interior design with more figures and color throughout to aid comprehension Each chapter ends with 5 10 key points 5 10 recommended readings and helpful Web sites not only for the clinician but also for patients and family members The book also includes complimentary access to the full text online Online benefits include powerful searching electronic bookmarking and access by username and password from wherever you have Web access especially convenient for times when the print copy of your textbook is not

where you are The online version is accompanied by a downloadable PowerPoint presentation which contains a wealth of material to enhance classroom presentation study and clinical use Among the improvements to this edition s content Of the text s 44 chapters 23 either feature new topics or have new authors making this the most completely revised edition yet New basic science chapters on cellular and molecular biology of the neuron and on neuroanatomy for the psychiatrist conveniently distill essential information on the biological foundations of psychiatric disorders for clinicians A new chapter on human sexuality and sexual dysfunctions and another new chapter on treatment of gay lesbian bisexual and transgender patients equips clinicians to address the entire spectrum of sexual issues and their attendant mental health concerns New chapters on nonpharmacological somatic treatments supportive psychotherapy and combination psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy augment the section on psychiatric treatments A new chapter on the assessment of dangerousness an individual s propensity to commit violent acts presents helpful guidelines for appropriately evaluating and minimizing the risk of violence in both outpatient and inpatient settings Why The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Psychiatry will be your first choice among comprehensive psychiatry textbooks Complimentary Access to the Full Text Online Online benefits include powerful searching electronic bookmarking and download to PDA PowerPoint Presentation Online version is accompanied by a downloadable PowerPoint presentation which contains a wealth of material to help you enhance classroom presentation study and in clinical use Self Assessment An interactive online Self Assessment allows you to assess your knowledge of each chapter with links back to the textbook when more study is needed Summary Points Each chapter ends with 5 10 key points 5 10 recommended readings and helpful web sites not only for the clinician but also for referral to patients and family members Co Editor Glen O Gabbard M D As the third Co Editor Dr Gabbard adds depth and perspective to psychotherapeutic approaches Chapter Authors Partnership of senior and junior faculty brings fresh insights tempered by wisdom and experience Peer Reviewed Rigorously peer reviewed and updated to reflect the rapidly changing profession Disclosure of Interest Statements Disclosure from each chapter author assures you that potential biases have been removed Comprehensive But Concise Inclusion of essential information eases information overload Better Layout Larger type for text makes book easier to read and color figures are provided throughout the text It s no wonder that this text has established itself as both a leading scholarly reference and an indispensable clinical resource The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Psychiatry is a proven teaching tool and an essential component of every practitioner's library *Schizophrenia* Bernard Fried, Bernard Sherma, 2009-09-30 Edited by the president of the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry and featuring an international list of world renown contributors Schizophrenia Second Edition provides psychiatrists neurologists and psychologists with a comprehensive handbook on the latest schizophrenia research and management from diagnosis through tr Health and Well-Being in Islamic Societies Harold G. Koenig, Saad Al Shohaib, 2014-05-17 From the first hospitals to pioneering pharmacy techniques the early history of medicine reflects the

groundbreaking contributions of Islamic physicians and scientists Less recognized however is the impact of Islam on the health and daily health practices of modern day Muslims Meticulously documented with current research sources and relevant religious texts Health and Well Being in Islamic Societies sheds light on the relationships between Muslim beliefs and physical psychological and social health Background chapters trace Muslim thought on health and healing as it has evolved over the centuries to the present The authors provide even handed comparisons with Christianity as the two traditions approach medical and ethical questions and with Christian populations in terms of health outcomes assuring coverage that is not only objective but also empirically sound and clinically useful And as the concluding chapters show understanding of these similarities and differences can lead to better care for clients cost effective services for communities and healthier Muslim populations in general Included among the book s topics Muslim beliefs about health healing and healthcare Similarities and differences between Muslim and Christian health beliefs Impact of religion on physical mental and community health in Muslims Understanding how Islam influences health Applications for clinical practice Implications for public health Cultural awareness is critical to improving both individual client health and public health on a global scale Health and Well Being in Islamic Societies is essential reading for clinical and health psychologists psychiatrists social workers and nurses and will be informative for the general reader as well **Cognitive and Behavioral Dysfunction in Schizophrenia** Ahmed Moustafa, 2021-06-13 According to the World Health Organization schizophrenia affects more than 21 million people worldwide causing distortions in thinking perception emotions language sense of self behavior and hallucinations Cognitive and Behavioral Dysfunction in Schizophrenia provides an overview of topics and theories related to cognitive dysfunction in schizophrenia This book discusses what schizophrenia is and its relationship with the cognitive domains including but not limited to learning working memory attention and both deductive and inductive reasoning This book also reviews theories as to why some individuals develop schizophrenia following cannabis and amphetamine abuse and how these relate to additional cognitive problems The book further discusses recent topics related to religious delusions in psychotic patients impact of sleep on psychosis how urban life increases the likelihood of developing schizophrenia as well as sexual dysfunction in schizophrenia patients Unlike other books Cognitive and Behavioral Dysfunction in Schizophrenia covers many cognitive domains related to the occurrence and development of positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia Advanced students and researchers in cognitive and behavioral neuroscience psychology psychiatry and psychotherapy will find it useful for a well rounded understanding of the subject Covers neural and behavioral studies addressing the symptomology of schizophrenia Discusses recent studies of the relationship between cognition and schizophrenia symptoms Reviews the development of schizophrenia due to genetic and environmental factors

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