

understanding of the overall aim of the study but also to the highly topical issue of implementing the religious aspect of their individual into the therapeutic work.

Keywords: trauma, religious change, religiosity, young adults

b. Does Religiosity Moderate the Effect of Sexual Abuse on Sexual Orientation? The Evidence from a USA Nationwide Adolescent Study

Chang-Ho Ji

Research has drawn attention to the adverse effects of sexual abuse. Yet, few studies have addressed whether personal religion can reduce such adverse effects. Using 3,000 teenagers affiliated with an evangelical church in USA, I find that sexual abuse leads to increased sexual activities in heterosexual and homosexual relationships. More importantly, there is little evidence for the moderating effects of personal religion when the samples are taken into account as a whole.

When the samples are grouped by gender, religion continues to remain insignificant in explaining female attitudes toward sexuality. Male teenagers, however, are significantly more negative about heterosexual relationships outside of marriage than are those who are less religious, though this moderating effect disappears when homosexuality is considered. In short, sexual abuse increases sexual promiscuity even among evangelical youth and that the beneficial effects of religion are limited to males in connection with heterosexual relationships, but not homosexuality.

Keywords: religiosity, sexual abuse, sexual orientation, moderating effect

c. 'In search of me, now!' Pain and Growth after Fireworks Trauma

Michael Galea

Background: Studies about fireworks-related trauma has scarce. However, research on traumas from similar tragic events indicate not just the negative reactions, but also some important positive experiences, which fall within the gamut of post-traumatic growth. It is through these benefits that individuals may be holistically enriched emotionally, physically and spiritually. In this study, we looked at the trauma experiences by relatives of victims of fireworks explosions in Malta, and the potential growth that may have ensued.

Method: By using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis, we interviewed 8 individuals who met the inclusion criteria. Analysis of data was guided by the Smith method (1999).

Results: key themes highlighted in this study focused on participants' appreciation of the present, acceptance of reality (others & events), and self-transcendence (sense of relatedness with a God and with others). These themes conform to Tedeschi and Calhoun theory of post-traumatic growth.

Keywords: fireworks, tragedies, trauma, post traumatic, growth, IPA