

In the context of this Joint Section Workshop – jointly organized by the AEP Sections 'Women's Mental Health' and 'Philosophy and Psychiatry' - on 'Scientific reading and writing in psychiatry' the title of this talk poses the question of the rapport between two kinds of knowledge: theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge. Some clinical problems and a paradox derive from this: Does theoretical knowledge stand in the way of practical skills like the immediate grasping of the other's experience as in empathic understanding? Does theoretical knowledge act as a set of prejudices tackling "taking inside" the other's thoughts and feelings? The paradox is the following: Do we understand other persons thanks to our prejudices (or a set of commonly shared prejudices)? A tentative way out from these problems and paradoxes are Giordano Bruno's concept of "docta ignorantia" or Edmund Husserl's definition of the phenomenologist as an "eternal beginner". The notion of epoché, i.e. bracketing one's background knowledge in order to highlight it, may prove useful too.

Workshop: Danish national schizophrenia project, 5 years follow up

W02.01

The Danish national schizophrenia project – two- and five-year follow-up

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Background: The Danish National Schizophrenia project for persons with a first episode psychosis within the schizophrenia spectrum (F20-29) has initially collected data for 562 persons, included consecutively in a 2 years period (1997-1999). The investigation covers 45% of the Danish population.

Objectives: To present a prospectively investigation of three types of treatment: Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, Integrated Treatment and Treatment as usual.

Results: Measurements of psychopathology, social functioning, and psychological functions (Rorschach and WAIS) showed that the group of patients who were treated by the intervention methods did better than the group who received the Treatment as usual. Preliminary 5 years data will also be indicated.

Conclusion: After two years patients receiving integrated treatment and the psychodynamic treatment will do better than the group of patients getting Treatment as usual. Integrated treatment is superior compared with the two other modes of treatment. After five years only minor advantages of adding psychodynamic treatment to Treatment as usual can be shown on the general symptom and social functioning scales.

W02.02

Mental health services in Denmark. Where are people with schizophrenia treated in the Danish national schizophrenia project?

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Mental health services in Denmark are rapidly changing in terms of heightened focus on outpatient and assertive treatment. Community mental health services are closely connected with inpatient treatment and comprises comprehensive services with easy accessibility. There is a strict division between the responsibility of mental health services and social services concerning the individual patient. This puts emphasis on the necessity to provide continuity and to coordinate services between the sectors. The changes in service delivery which has been taking place during the 10 years since the start of Danish National Schizophrenia project will be described and related to key issues of the treatment as usual.

W02.03

The Danish national schizophrenia project. Premorbid functioning and early course in first episode psychosis

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Background: Investigations in the premorbid and early phases of psychosis are important for enhancing early intervention programmes. The purpose of the present study was to examine premorbid functioning in a large sample of individuals admitted to their first treatment for psychosis.

Method: 184 first-episode psychotic patients participated in the study. The relationship between premorbid adjustment, initial presentation and one-year outcome was examined using Premorbid Adjustment Scale (PAS), Positive and Negative Symptoms Scale (PANSS) and Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF). Social and academic dimension of PAS was analysed. Cluster analyses were used to identify patterns of premorbid adjustment over four developmental periods.

Results: A poorer premorbid adjustment was consistently related to more negative symptoms at initial presentation and more negative symptoms and poorer social functioning at one-year outcome. PAS contributed to outcome at one year independent of initial presentation. No relationship between premorbid adjustment and DUP was found and DUP was associated only with positive symptoms at one year. A stable-poor and a deteriorating premorbid adjustment course lead to a similar poorer initial presentation and poorer outcome at one year compared to a stable-good premorbid adjustment. The social dimension seems to contribute more importantly to outcome than the academic dimension.

Conclusions: The results support a heterogenetic view of schizophrenia where premorbid adjustment and DUP could be understood as influencing different rather independent pathological domains. The findings point to a possible need for early intervention in case of social maladjustment, independent of later transition to psychosis.

W02.04

Danish national schizophrenia project. Psychiatric service development in Denmark during the course of DNS

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Background: Conceptualisation of disorders amongst the public as well as service delivery are in some undefined way related to outcome in a naturalistic long term multicenter study, as the Danish National Schizophrenia project. DNS was planned from 1995-1997. Patients were included from 1997-1999. The follow up took place until