



Dr Ross White (PhD, DClInPsy) is an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Liverpool, UK. Dr White set up and directed the MSc Global Mental Health programme at the University of Glasgow. He was lead editor of 'The Palgrave Handbook of Socio-cultural Perspectives on Global Mental Health'. Dr White has research collaborations with the World Health Organization and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees investigating the efficacy of psychosocial interventions for reducing distress experienced by refugees particularly in the context and/or aftermath of humanitarian crises. He also has an interest in the processes involved in the linguistic/cultural adaptation of psychological therapies. Dr White is the Principal Investigator on the ESRC/AHRC funded 'Community-based Sociotherapy Adapted for Refugees' (COSTAR) project that is evaluating a psychosocial intervention for Congolese refugees living in Uganda and Rwanda.

Twitter: @RossGWhite

Email: ross.white@liverpool.ac.uk

Global Mental Health - Opportunities and Challenges for Clinical Psychology

Abstract:

Over 80% of the global population live in low- or middle-income countries where the resources available to support mental health and wellbeing tend to be scarce. Global Mental Health has developed as an area of research and practice concerned with addressing inequities in mental health service provision. As part of Global Mental Health initiatives, concerted efforts are being made to globally disseminate scalable forms of efficacious/cost-effective psychotherapy and psychosocial support. Contention persists about the cross-cultural validity and relevance of interventions developed in the West, and the risk that epistemologies espoused by international agencies and research consortia might undermine local ways of understanding, and responding to, emotional distress. In his keynote address, Dr Ross White (Reader of Clinical Psychology, University of Liverpool) will reflect on the contribution that Clinical Psychologists can make to Global Mental Health, and the opportunities and challenges that this might present. Dr White will refer to work being completed in Uganda and Rwanda as part of the ESRC/AHRC funded *Community-based Sociotherapy Adapted for Refugees* (COSTAR) to illustrate relevant themes and issues. As disenfranchised populations living in low-resource settings, the experiences of refugees living in Africa provide a powerful demonstration of how traumatic episodes and/or persisting social adversity (in the form of a lack of access to basic resources, safety and security) can impact on people's mental health and wellbeing. Dr White will consider the implications that insights gained from working in low-income countries might have for Clinical Psychologists' efforts to work more effectively with marginalised and underserved populations in high-income countries such as the UK.