

The Hidden Crisis: Mental Health in Times of COVID-19
Virtual Panel Discussion · 28 September 2020 · 11:00 – 12:15 (GMT+2)

SPEAKER PROFILES



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PROFESSOR MARCELLA RIETSCHEL (Moderator)

Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim, Germany

Marcella Rietschel is a psychiatrist and clinical geneticist, and is the scientific director of the Dept. of Genetic Epidemiology in Psychiatry at the Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim. She researches genetic and environmental risk factors for psychiatric disease, with a focus on affective disorders, schizophrenia and alcohol dependence. She also investigates the ethical, legal, and social implications of psychiatric genetic research. Dr Rietschel has been a Member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina since 2011.



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PROFESSOR BERTA AUSÍN

Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

Berta Ausín is a Doctor and Professor at the Faculty of Psychology of the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, teaching Psychological Evaluation and Aging. She belongs to the research group “Evaluation and psychological research in mental health and society” of the Complutense University of Madrid, which studies the mental health of disadvantaged and vulnerable populations: homeless, disabled, elderly, with serious mental illness, etc. She has published her work in specialized books and over one hundred national and international scientific publications. Professor Ausín is Member of the UCM-Grupo 5 Against Stigma Chair.



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PROFESSOR OYEWUSI GUREJE

WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Oye Gureje, MBBS, PhD, DSc, FWACP, FRANZCP, FRCPsych is Professor of Psychiatry and Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Research in Mental Health, Neurosciences and Substance Abuse, Department of Psychiatry, University of Ibadan and Professor Extraordinary, Department of Psychiatry, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He is Chair, Mental Health Action Committee and a Member, Ministerial Expert Advisory Committee on COVID-19, both of the Federal Ministry of Health. His main research interests are in epidemiology and global mental health. Described as one of the “most influential scientific minds”, he is listed among the global highly cited researchers by Clarivate Analytics (<https://hcr.clarivate.com>). He is a recipient of many awards among which are Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Medicine, and the Nigerian National Order of Merit (Nigeria’s highest honor for academic achievement).

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PROFESSOR ANDREAS HEINZ

Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité University Hospital, Berlin, Germany

Andreas Heinz is a neurobiologist, psychiatrist and philosopher. Since 2002, he is Professor as well as director and chair of the Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Charité, Berlin, Germany. Since 2015, Heinz is a member of the board of directors of NeuroCure – Cluster for Excellence in Berlin, and since 2018 speaker of the Collaborative Research Centre TRR 265: Losing and Regaining Control over Drug Intake. His research focuses on learning mechanisms in mental disorders. He is investigating the molecular correlates of these mechanisms and the effectiveness of behavioral interventions. He addresses social consequences of neuroscientific research results and promotes intercultural psychiatry and psychotherapy. Since 2015, he is Member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.



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PROFESSOR ASHRAF KAGEE

Department of Psychology, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Ashraf Kagee is Professor at the Department of Psychology, University of Stellenbosch and co-Director of the Alan Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health. He has conducted research on mental health among persons living with HIV and psychological and structural factors influencing adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART). He has also conducted studies on common mental disorders among various populations and is specifically interested in empirically-supported treatments, including cognitive psychotherapy, to ameliorate mental health conditions. He previously served on a working group of the World Health Organisation to decide on diagnostic guidelines for stress-related disorders for the forthcoming edition of the *International Classification of Diseases 11*. He has published in a wide variety of journals including *Global Public Health*, *Social Science and Medicine*, and *Transcultural Psychiatry*.