



## Torture Treatment Literature Selection, Q3 2014

The PATH bibliography is a resource for current literature on the topic of the mental health status of and treatments for torture survivors, war trauma survivors, refugees, and asylum seekers. This also includes research in the areas of social work that relate directly to the psychological wellbeing of these populations. The bibliography includes peer reviewed journal article citations in these areas; select original summaries of those articles; and links to their publicly available abstracts and full text versions. This bibliography is updated and distributed on a quarterly basis. It does not currently include articles on policy or advocacy.

### Contents:

<b>Selected Article Summaries:</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Community Partnerships between Undergraduate Students and African Refugees address the Social Determinants of Mental Health</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Depressive Symptoms</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Selected Article Citations (organized by topic):</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Trauma, Treatment, and Rehabilitation:</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers:</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Conflict and Post-Conflict:</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Women and Girls:</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Children and Adolescents:</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Illness and Disease:</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Miscellaneous:</b> .....	<b>9</b>



## Selected Article Summaries:

### Community Partnerships between Undergraduate Students and African Refugees address the Social Determinants of Mental Health

Goodkind, J. R., Hess, J. M., Isakson, B., LaNoue, M., Githinji, A., Roche, N., Parker, D. P. (2014). Reducing refugee mental health disparities: a community-based intervention to address postmigration stressors with African adults. *Psychological Services*, 11(3), 333–346. doi:10.1037/a0035081. [[abstract](#)]

Summary by: Eden Almasude, Qualitative Researcher at the Center for Victims of Torture

This study presents the model and results of a project to partner African refugees with undergraduate students in a community-based intervention to promote advocacy, post-migration stressors, and English language proficiency. The goal of the program was to address the social determinants of mental health, which are particularly salient for a refugee population that deals with issues navigating a new system, often with a lack of financial resources and language barriers. These daily stressors compound any psychological stress resulting from refugee-related trauma.

The project, adapted from the Refugee Well-Being Project, had two primary components: twice-weekly Learning Circles (LCs) and a community advocacy model. The LCs took place between African-origin refugees and undergraduate students, with the involvement of interpreters, and took the form of facilitated discussions on topics of healthcare, U.S. culture, and arts. These created a safe space for the refugees to express their struggles before and since arriving in the U.S., including experiences of racism and cultural alienation. The advocacy component was based on another model used with women and children with experiences of domestic violence, and allowed each refugee-student partnership to take on the unmet needs of the refugee partner and work in the community to improve that lack or barrier to access a range of activities. The students and refugees shared their languages with each other and students aided their refugee partners in getting these and other necessary items.

The intervention was evaluated across three years, monitored by weekly progress reports, logbooks, qualitative interviews, and quantitative analysis of psychological well-being, quality of life, and other scales. The outcomes demonstrated decreased psychological distress, increased quality of life, resources accessed, enculturation, English proficiency, and social support. The study suggests that this model may be used to address mental health disparities for refugees, but also for other communities in the U.S. who have experienced trauma. In addition, it deals with cultural integration and allows universities, clinics, and communities to connect with each other through a community-building effort. Under the Affordable Care Act, some clinics could receive insurance reimbursements for such programs.



## Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Depressive Symptoms

Dekel, S., Solomon, Z., Horesh, D., & Ein-Dor, T. (2014). Posttraumatic stress disorder and depressive symptoms: joined or independent sequelae of trauma? *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 54, 64–69. doi:10.1016/j.jpsychires.2014.03.003. [[abstract](#)]

Summary by: Hollie Nyseth Brehm, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Ohio State University

Despite the prevalence of the co-occurrence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression, little is known about the relationship between symptoms of these two manifestations of trauma. Some scholars claim that they are part of the same general traumatic stress construct, while others maintain that PTSD and depression are distinct. In this article, the authors follow a cohort of men over 17 years in order to better understand the long-term prevalence, course, and interrelation of symptoms of PTSD and depression.

To analyze the relationships between PTSD and depression, the authors draw a sample of veterans from the October 1973 Yom Kippur War. Using the Israel Defense Force files, they identified 240 individuals who had been prisoners of war (POWs) and asked them to participate in the study. They also sampled 280 veterans who had been exposed to general stressors during the war (e.g., combat, deaths) but who had not been POWs. They then matched the ex-POWs and the control group based on socioeconomic status and military background. All participants were men, and their mean age was 53.

The authors analyzed participants' symptoms of depression and PTSD in 1991, 2003, and 2008. To assess symptoms of PTSD, the authors used a self-reported measure of symptoms over the previous month corresponding to the 17 PTSD symptoms in the DSM-II-R. To assess symptoms of depression, the authors administered a subscale of the Symptom Checklist-90 and asked participants to indicate the frequency of symptoms during the previous two-week period.

Overall, the authors found that depressive symptoms were more prevalent than symptoms of PTSD in both groups. Comparing the groups revealed that PTSD and depressive symptoms, as well as their co-occurrence, were higher among ex-POWs at all points in time. Furthermore, while depressive symptoms increased among members in each group over time, symptoms of PTSD only increased among ex-POWs. The severity of ex-POW's PTSD levels also increased over time, while the control group's PTSD levels did not change. The trauma of captivity (beyond the general trauma of war) likely partially explains these differences.

Despite this, the authors find that the symptoms of PTSD and depression are interrelated over time. Symptoms of PTSD appeared to mediate the effect of captivity on depressive symptoms, and depressive symptoms likewise mediated the effect of captivity on PTSD symptoms. Confirmatory Factor Analysis also revealed a single underlying dimension of PTSD and depressive symptoms. This suggests that PTSD and depression may be part of a single general



traumatic response and that health professions should monitor depressive symptoms, as they may be markers of ensuing symptoms of PTSD.

When interpreting these results, it is important to keep in mind that this study does not provide information on causal relationships between symptoms of depression and PTSD. The focus on long-term changes may also mask changes over shorter periods of time. Additionally, all participants did not take part in assessments at each of the three time periods. Lastly, the use of self-reported measures may influence overestimation of symptom prevalence, and future research should consider including clinical assessments.

## Selected Article Citations (organized by topic):

### Trauma, Treatment, and Rehabilitation:

Baarnhielm, S., Edlund, A.-S., Ioannou, M., & Dahlin, M. (2014). Approaching the vulnerability of refugees: evaluation of cross-cultural psychiatric training of staff in mental health care and refugee reception in Sweden. *BMC Medical Education*, *14*. doi:10.1186/1472-6920-14-207. [[Full Text](#)] [[abstract](#)]

Biruski, D. C., Ajdukovic, D., & Stanic, A. L. (2014). When the world collapses: changed worldview and social reconstruction in a traumatized community. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*, *5*. doi:10.3402/ejpt.v5.24098. [[Full Text](#)] [[abstract](#)]

Buhmann, C. B. (2014). Traumatized refugees: morbidity, treatment and predictors of outcome. *Danish Medical Journal*, *61*(8). [[abstract](#)]

Carlsson, J., Sonne, C., & Silove, D. (2014). From pioneers to scientists: challenges in establishing evidence-gathering models in torture and trauma mental health services for refugees. *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, *202*(9), 630–637. doi:10.1097/NMD.000000000000175. [[abstract](#)]

Dekel, S., Solomon, Z., Horesh, D., & Ein-Dor, T. (2014). Posttraumatic stress disorder and depressive symptoms: joined or independent sequelae of trauma? *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, *54*, 64–69. doi:10.1016/j.jpsychires.2014.03.003. [[abstract](#)]

Hall, B. J., Bonanno, G. A., Bolton, P. A., & Bass, J. K. (2014). A longitudinal investigation of changes to social resources associated with psychological distress among Kurdish torture survivors living in Northern Iraq. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, *27*(4), 446–453. doi:10.1002/jts.21930. [[abstract](#)]

Higson-Smith, C. (2014). Complicated grief in help-seeking torture survivors in sub-Saharan African contexts. *The American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, *84*(5), 487–495. doi:10.1037/ort0000009. [[abstract](#)]

- Katsounari, I. (2014). Integrating Psychodynamic Treatment and Trauma Focused Intervention in the Case of an Unaccompanied Minor With PTSD. *Clinical Case Studies*, 13(4), 352–367. [[abstract](#)]
- Knaevelsrud, C., Bottche, M., Pietrzak, R. H., Freyberger, H. J., Renneberg, B., & Kuwert, P. (2014). Integrative testimonial therapy: an Internet-based, therapist-assisted therapy for German elderly survivors of the World War II with posttraumatic stress symptoms. *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 202(9), 651–658. doi:10.1097/NMD.000000000000178. [[abstract](#)]
- Loncar, M., Plasc, I. D., Bunjevac, T., Hrabac, P., Jaksic, N., Kozina, S., ... Marcinko, D. (2014). Predicting symptom clusters of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in Croatian war veterans: the role of socio-demographics, war experiences and subjective quality of life. *Psychiatria Danubina*, 26(3), 231–238. [[Full Text](#)] [[abstract](#)]
- Morkved, N., Hartmann, K., Aarsheim, L. M., Holen, D., Milde, A. M., Bomyea, J., & Thorp, S. R. (2014). A comparison of Narrative Exposure Therapy and Prolonged Exposure therapy for PTSD. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 34(6). doi:10.1016/j.cpr.2014.06.005. [[abstract](#)]
- Ratcliffe, M., Ruddell, M., & Smith, B. (2014). What is a “sense of foreshortened future?” A phenomenological study of trauma, trust, and time. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2014.01026. [[Full Text](#)] [[abstract](#)]
- Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers:**
- Gilliver, S. C., Sundquist, J., Li, X., & Sundquist, K. (2014). Recent research on the mental health of immigrants to Sweden: a literature review. *European Journal of Public Health*, 24 Suppl 1, 72–79. doi:10.1093/eurpub/cku101. [[abstract](#)]
- Goodkind, J. R., Hess, J. M., Isakson, B., LaNoue, M., Githinji, A., Roche, N., ... Parker, D. P. (2014). Reducing refugee mental health disparities: a community-based intervention to address postmigration stressors with African adults. *Psychological Services*, 11(3), 333–346. doi:10.1037/a0035081. [[abstract](#)]
- Graham, B., Herlihy, J., & Brewin, C. R. (2014). Overgeneral memory in asylum seekers and refugees. *Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry*, 45(3), 375–380. doi:10.1016/j.jbtep.2014.03.001. [[abstract](#)]
- Hawes, E. M., & Viera, A. J. (2014). Immigrant and refugee health: mental health conditions. *FP Essentials*, 423. [[abstract](#)]



- Heilala, C., Kalland, M., Komulainen, E., Solovieva, S., & Santavirta, N. (2014). Effects of evacuation in late adulthood: analyzing psychosocial well-being in three cluster groups of Finnish evacuees and non-evacuees. *Aging & Mental Health, 18*(7), 869–878. doi:10.1080/13607863.2014.896864. [\[abstract\]](#)
- Jensen, N. K., Johansen, K. S., Kastrup, M., Krasnik, A., & Norredam, M. (2014). Patient experienced continuity of care in the psychiatric healthcare system-a study including immigrants, refugees and ethnic danes. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 11*(9), 9739–9759. doi:10.3390/ijerph110909739. [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[abstract\]](#)
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- Measham, T., Guzder, J., Rousseau, C., Pacione, L., Blais-McPherson, M., & Nadeau, L. (2014). Refugee children and their families: supporting psychological well-being and positive adaptation following migration. *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care, 44*(7), 208–215. doi:10.1016/j.cppeds.2014.03.005. [\[abstract\]](#)
- Medeiros, G. C., Sampaio, D., Sampaio, S., & Lotufo-Neto, F. (2014). Mental health of refugees: report of a successful case in Brazil. *Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria (Sao Paulo, Brazil: 1999), 36*(3), 274–275. [\[Full Text\]](#)
- Mölsä, M., Punamäki, R.-L., Saarni, S. I., Tiilikainen, M., Kuittinen, S., & Honkasalo, M.-L. (2014). Mental and somatic health and pre- and post-migration factors among older Somali refugees in Finland. *Transcultural Psychiatry, 51*(4), 499–525. [\[abstract\]](#)
- Shakespeare-Finch, J., Schweitzer, R. D., King, J., & Brough, M. (2014). Distress, Coping, and Posttraumatic Growth in Refugees From Burma. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies, 12*(3), 311–330. [\[abstract\]](#)
- Van Melle, M. A., Lamkaddem, M., Stuiver, M. M., Gerritsen, A. A. M., Deville, W. L. J. M., & Essink-Bot, M.-L. (2014). Quality of primary care for resettled refugees in the Netherlands with chronic mental and physical health problems: a cross-sectional analysis of medical records and interview data. *BMC Family Practice, 15*. doi:10.1186/1471-2296-15-160. [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[abstract\]](#)
- Vukojevic, V., Kolassa, I.-T., Fastenrath, M., Gschwind, L., Spalek, K., Milnik, A., ... de Quervain, D. J.-F. (2014). Epigenetic modification of the glucocorticoid receptor gene is linked to traumatic memory and post-traumatic stress disorder risk in genocide survivors. *The Journal of Neuroscience : The Official Journal of the Society for Neuroscience, 34*(31), 10274–10284. doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1526-14.2014. [\[abstract\]](#)



Yehuda, R., Daskalakis, N. P., Lehrner, A., Desarnaud, F., Bader, H. N., Makotkine, I., ... Meaney, M. J. (2014). Influences of maternal and paternal PTSD on epigenetic regulation of the glucocorticoid receptor gene in Holocaust survivor offspring. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, *171*(8), 872–880. doi:10.1176/appi.ajp.2014.13121571. [[abstract](#)]

### Conflict and Post-Conflict:

Amawi, N., Mollica, R. F., Lavelle, J., Osman, O., & Nasir, L. (2014). Overview of research on the mental health impact of violence in the Middle East in light of the Arab Spring. *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, *202*(9), 625–629. doi:10.1097/NMD.000000000000174. [[abstract](#)]

Hall, B. J., Tol, W. A., Jordans, M. J. D., Bass, J., & de Jong, J. T. V. M. (2014). Understanding resilience in armed conflict: social resources and mental health of children in Burundi. *Social Science & Medicine* (1982), *114*, 121–128. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.05.042. [[abstract](#)]

Hess, J. M., Isakson, B., Githinji, A., Roche, N., Vadnais, K., Parker, D. P., & Goodkind, J. R. (2014). Reducing mental health disparities through transformative learning: a social change model with refugees and students. *Psychological Services*, *11*(3), 347–356. doi:10.1037/a0035334. [[abstract](#)]

Kane, J. C., Rapaport, C., Zalta, A. K., Canetti, D., Hobfoll, S. E., & Hall, B. J. (2014). Regular drinking may strengthen the beneficial influence of social support on depression: findings from a representative Israeli sample during a period of war and terrorism. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, *140*, 175–182. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2014.04.014. [[abstract](#)]

Lai, B. S., Hadi, F., & Llabre, M. M. (2014). Parent and child distress after war exposure. *The British Journal of Clinical Psychology / the British Psychological Society*, *53*(3), 333–347. doi:10.1111/bjc.12049. [[abstract](#)]

Lai, L. (2014). Treating substance abuse as a consequence of conflict and displacement: a call for a more inclusive global mental health. *Medicine, Conflict, and Survival*, *30*(3), 182–189. doi:10.1080/13623699.2014.917356. [[abstract](#)]

O’Callaghan, P., Branham, L., Shannon, C., Betancourt, T. S., Dempster, M., & McMullen, J. (2014). A pilot study of a family focused, psychosocial intervention with war-exposed youth at risk of attack and abduction in north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *38*(7), 1197–1207. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2014.02.004. [[abstract](#)]

Robertson, C. L., & Hoffman, S. J. (2014, October 9). Conflict and Forced Displacement: Human Migration, Human Rights, and the Science of Health. *Nursing Research*, pp. 307–308. [[Full Text](#)]

### Women and Girls:

Al-Modallal, H., Abu Zayed, I., Abujilban, S., Shehab, T., & Atoum, M. (2014). Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Among Women Visiting Health Care Centers in Palestine Refugee Camps in Jordan. *Health Care for Women International*. doi:10.1080/07399332.2014.948626. [\[abstract\]](#)

Gagnon, A. J., & Stewart, D. E. (2014). Resilience in international migrant women following violence associated with pregnancy. *Archives of Women's Mental Health*, 17(4), 303–310. doi:10.1007/s00737-013-0392-5. [\[abstract\]](#)

Kuwert, P., Glaesmer, H., Eichhorn, S., Grundke, E., Pietrzak, R. H., Freyberger, H. J., & Klauer, T. (2014). Long-term effects of conflict-related sexual violence compared with non-sexual war trauma in female World War II survivors: a matched pairs study. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 43(6), 1059–1064. doi:10.1007/s10508-014-0272-8. [\[abstract\]](#)

Verelst, A., De Schryver, M., Broekaert, E., & Derluyn, I. (2014). Mental health of victims of sexual violence in eastern Congo: associations with daily stressors, stigma, and labeling. *BMC Women's Health*, 14. doi:10.1186/1472-6874-14-106. [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[abstract\]](#)

### Children and Adolescents:

Ertl, V., Pfeiffer, A., Schauer-Kaiser, E., Elbert, T., & Neuner, F. (2014). The challenge of living on: psychopathology and its mediating influence on the readjustment of former child soldiers. *PloS One*, 9(7). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102786. [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[abstract\]](#)

Verelst, A., De Schryver, M., De Haene, L., Broekaert, E., & Derluyn, I. (2014). The mediating role of stigmatization in the mental health of adolescent victims of sexual violence in Eastern Congo. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 38(7), 1139–1146. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2014.04.003. [\[abstract\]](#)

Vindevogel, S., Wessells, M., De Schryver, M., Broekaert, E., & Derluyn, I. (2014). Dealing with the consequences of war: resources of formerly recruited and non-recruited youth in northern Uganda. *The Journal of Adolescent Health : Official Publication of the Society for Adolescent Medicine*, 55(1), 134–140. doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2013.11.023. [\[abstract\]](#)

### Illness and Disease:

Nakimuli-Mpungu, E., Wamala, K., Okello, J., Alderman, S., Odokonyero, R., Musisi, S., ... Mills, E. J. (2014). Outcomes, feasibility and acceptability of a group support





psychotherapeutic intervention for depressed HIV affected Ugandan adults: a pilot study. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 166, 144–150. doi:10.1016/j.jad.2014.05.005. [[abstract](#)]

### Miscellaneous:

Bolton, P. A. (2014). The Unknown Role of Mental Health in Global Development. *The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, 87(3). [[Full Text](#)] [[abstract](#)]

Palmer, V. S., Mazumder, R., & Spencer, P. S. (2014). Interprofessional global health education in a cosmopolitan community of North America: the iCHEE experience. *Academic Medicine : Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges*, 89(8), 1149–1152. doi:10.1097/ACM.0000000000000363. [[abstract](#)]

Shannon, P. J. (2014). Refugees' advice to physicians: how to ask about mental health. *Family Practice*, 31(4), 462–466. doi:10.1093/fampra/cmu017. [[abstract](#)]

### Additional Relevant Resources:

- Dignity (The Danish Institute Against Torture) provides a database that allows you to search for a wider range of articles, books, and other publications on the topic of torture (<http://www.reindex.org/RCT/rss/Portal.php>)
- IRCT (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims) provides free access to their journal, *TORTURE Journal* (<http://www.irct.org/media-and-resources/library/torture-journal.aspx>)

### CVT Volunteer and Staff Contributions to this Bibliography:

- **Carolyn Easton** conducted the literature search and compiled the citations for this bibliography
- **Eden Almasude** (*CVT staff*) and **Hollie Nyseth Brehm** wrote summaries of selected articles for this bibliography
- **Jared Del Rosso** reviewed and provided feedback on the summaries of selected articles for this bibliography
- **Austin Dufort** organized, formatted, and edited the content of this bibliography
- **Jennifer Esala** (*CVT staff*) oversaw and coordinated the development of this bibliography