

Symposium | Integrative Approaches to Cross-Cultural Models of Mental Disorders” : [Symposium 113] Cultural Consensus: A Structured Mixed-Methods Approach to Studying Cultural Models of Mental Illness

📅 Sun. Sep 28, 2025 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM JST | Sun. Sep 28, 2025 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM UTC 🏢 Session Room 6 (Conference Room B)

[Symposium 113] Cultural Consensus: A Structured Mixed-Methods Approach to Studying Cultural Models of Mental Illness

Moderator: Andrew Ryder (Concordia University)

[SY-113-02] Understanding Depression in Levantine-Canadians using Cultural Domain Analysis

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Due to the Levant region’s history of conflict, there has been an influx of Levantine migrants to Canada from the late 1800s to the present. Research on Levantine-Canadian mental health beliefs is limited, however; as such, the purpose of this study was to explore beliefs about depression among Levantine-Canadians in Montreal. Using an emic approach, we employed Cultural Domain Analysis, a mixed-method approach originally developed in the field of cognitive anthropology. We conducted a free-listing study whereby participants ($N=32$) completed a survey requiring them to enumerate 6 to 10 words or phrases describing two domains: (1) normalcy and deviancy; and (2) explanatory models of depression. Saliency analyses were conducted using R to determine the most important terms for the two domains and their subdomains (e.g., causes, symptoms and problems, help-seeking). Highly salient items, endorsed by at least 10% of participant and/or with Smith’s S greater than 0.05, were identified. Results provide preliminary evidence supporting a consensus model of depression among Levantine-Canadians. Recurrent themes included importance of religion ($S=0.47$), family ($S=0.5$), community ($S=0.30$), and professional help ($S=0.35$). Overall, our findings contribute to culturally and religiously sensitive approaches to depression assessment and intervention for Levantine-Canadians. The success of the method in this context, moreover, points to its potential utility for studying culture and mental health.