

Symposium | Community care : [Symposium 47] Engaging Culture in the Community

2025年9月26日(金) 14:50 ~ 16:20 Session Room 6 (Conference Room B)

**[Symposium 47] Engaging Culture in the Community**

Moderator: George Eric Jarvis (McGill University)

**[SY-47-03] Investigating the strengths and limitations of communities of practice as an intercultural competence training modality**

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**Background:** Teaching how to integrate “culture” into mental health care and psychosocial intervention is a complex task. It requires not only the transmission of knowledge, but also the questioning of certain assumptions and dominant paradigms, as well as a transformation in learners’ ways of being and doing. Communities of Practice (CoPs) have been proposed as a promising training modality to address these challenges. **Objectives:** This presentation aims to examine the strengths and limitations of CoPs as a modality for intercultural training. **Methods:** Findings from two mixed-methods evaluative studies—one in a healthcare setting and one in a community-based organization—are combined to draw meta-inferences. **Results:** Key strengths identified include collaborative and reflective learning, a sense of group support, resource sharing, and the mitigation of professional burnout. However, several limitations were also observed: certain group dynamics, facilitation challenges, systemic barriers, lack of pedagogical structure, and limited engagement with anthropological knowledge. **Conclusions:** While CoPs offer a valuable space for mutual learning and support, they can also become counterproductive if critical elements—such as skilled facilitation, structural support, and theoretical grounding—are not ensured. These findings invite a more nuanced consideration of how to design and sustain intercultural training initiatives in mental health.