Presentation on: First Meta-Ethnography of Methamphetamine Relapse & Recovery

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Abstract

Methamphetamine addiction remains a grave and novel public health concern internationally. Methamphetamine-related morbidity and mortality has escalated rapidly in recent years. In the field of healthcare, this has been met with minimal innovation or expansion in methamphetamine-specific treatment services. Relapse rates after inpatient rehabilitation episodes can be as high as 90%. Research regarding methamphetamine addiction therapy is diasporic and fragmentary. There is a critical need, therefore, to summarise and integrate the available evidence, and provide a basis for the direction and prioritization of future research areas, and intervention design. As part of a broader program of original ethnographic research, this systematic literature review will generate a meta-ethnography of qualitative findings focused on the process of recovery and relapse for methamphetamine addiction, drawing together existing ethnographies from the fields of psychology, psychiatry, public health, sociology, anthropology, drug and alcohol medicine and nursing, public policy, policing, and social work. This will provide a comprehensive conceptual framework for the current understanding of methamphetamine addiction, and identify common strengths and pervasive weaknesses within the global approach to this disorder. This meta-ethnography will be the first of its kind for methamphetamine addiction, and will act as a foundation for a more coherent, systematic, and innovative approach to reducing the suffering associated with this drug.

Biography

Samuel Brookfield completed his Master of International Public Health by publication at the University of Queensland and is currently completing an ethnographic PhD in the field of methamphetamine addiction and bioethics. He has also completed systematic reviews in the field of sex work and health service access, and qualitative research on disaster management for vulnerable populations. He is a registered emergency nurse with experience in designing innovative simulation programs for the teaching of resuscitation and trauma nursing, and is a teacher with the College for Emergency Nursing Australasia, and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Queensland.

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Session of Interest:
Category: Oral presentation