

Understanding the Complexities of Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for Children and Young People

Friday 13th July
Professor Peter Fonagy

Complex PTSD as a failure in mentalization and epistemic trust

An up-to-date understanding of the structure of psychopathology includes the assumption of a general psychopathology factor (or p factor) loading on a diversity of symptoms rather than focused on specific diagnoses or spectra of diagnoses. Complex PTSD reflects high p factor loading linked with specific trauma focused experiences. Our current understanding of the p factor is as an indicator of vulnerability or the absence of resilience conceptualized in terms of inaccessibility to social learning. We feel that this hypothesis accounts for the ecophenotype encapsulated by this term. The presentation will expand on this perspective.

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