



The cultural facet of suicidal behaviour: Its importance and neglect

Erminia Colucci

Department of Psychiatry, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Abstract

Culture is a central but debated concept in many disciplines and its complexity may become an even bigger source of argument in Suicidology. In spite of the intricacy of the study of this construct, the paper illustrates that various scholars have recognised the relevance of culture and ethnicity in the understanding of suicidal behaviour. The author provides evidence of the need to pay more attention to the meaning and interpretation of suicide in cross-cultural research and underlines the necessity to establish cultural-sensitive prevention strategies. The paper closes by providing methodological considerations and suggestions for future research on cultural aspects of suicidal behaviour.

Keywords

suicide, self-harm, cross-cultural, culture, ethnic groups, cultural research, mental health

Contact: Erminia Colucci, Ph.D student, Department of Psychiatry, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia ecolucci@some.uq.edu.au or fera_76@hotmail.com.
Citation: Colucci, E. (2006). The cultural facet of suicidal behaviour: its importance and neglect. *Australian e-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health*, 5(3), www.auseinet.com/journal/vol5iss3/colucci.pdf
Published by: *Australian Network for Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention for Mental Health (Auseinet)* – www.auseinet.com/journal
Received 2 September 2006, Revised 19 November 2006; Accepted 19 November 2006