

Document Title: **Working Group: Geopsychiatry (2020 – 2023)**

Date: July 2023



The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Geopsychiatry Action Plan Working Group (WG) was established in June 2022. Geopsychiatry is an exciting new intersectoral field focusing on the interface between geopolitical events and their impact on practice of psychiatry across all ages and subspecialties*.

Terms of Remit:

To identify topics related to geopsychiatry that are of substantial interest for psychiatry and create recommendations for WPA's involvement in problem-solving research, policy, practice, teaching, and service development of that type relevant to mental health/mental illness across the globe.

To support member societies, institutions and individuals interested and willing to participate in WPA's programs of research, service development and education related to geopsychiatry

To communicate with other international organisations with a view to ensure that geopsychiatry issues are considered in the work of these groups and vice versa.

Membership: *meetings every month.*

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Professor Emeritus Mental Health and Cultural Diversity, King's College London, London, United Kingdom.

Professor Javid Afzal

President of the World Psychiatric Association

Activities:

Scientific Articles

Our group have produced 2 State of the Art discussion documents titled;
[WPA Migration and Mental Health: The Perspectives from Geopsychiatry](#)

[WPA Geopsychiatry; climate change and geopolitical determinants of mental health](#)

Which will be launched at the WPA Congress in Vienna Austria at the end of September 2023; in addition, an abridged paper titled; *Geopsychiatry Perspective: climate change, migration, and mental health* – is being edited for publication.

A World Health Organization commissioned paper titled- *Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health and Global Health Inequities*-has been submitted and expected to be published in January 2024.

Contributed a chapter titled- *Social justice and policy - The role for mental health professionals in promoting social justice* for a book- *Social Justice, Social Discrimination and Mental Health: Theory, Practice, and Professional Issues*.

Provided a chapter titled -*Geopsychiatry and social psychiatry* for the *Oxford Textbook of Social Psychiatry* published end of 2022. This chapter discusses the geopolitical determinants of mental health and proposes that a greater focus on these factors can improve patient care, through strengthened advocacy, research, policy, and practice.

*International Review of Psychiatry Special Issue-

Our group co-chair, João Mauricio Castaldelli-Maia, guest edited a special issue on Geopsychiatry for the International Review of Psychiatry. A selection of 15 papers (<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/iirp20/34/1?nav=toCList>).

Key topics covered in this issue include (but are not limited to):

- The intersection of cultural psychiatry and global mental health,
- The impact of geopolitical determinants on mental health and psychiatric disorders,
- Methodological challenges in conducting global mental health research,
- The role of digital health interventions in global psychiatry,
- The potential influence of climate change on mental health outcomes.

The WPA Action Plan Group has developed and utilized the Community Assessment of Psychic Experiences (CAPE) in various contexts. This widely-used self-report questionnaire measures the presence and impact of psychotic-like experiences, and is an important tool for assessing individuals' mental health and well-being.

The paper titled "**CAPE Vulnerability Index**" (published in the International Review of Psychiatry, 2021 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32293208/>) introduces and explicates the Compassion, Assertive action, Pragmatism, and Evidence (CAPE) Vulnerability Index, a vital instrument designed by Albert Persaud to identify countries in need of foreign aid and determine the prioritization of such assistance. Authored by Albert Persaud et al., this study uses mental health as the foundation for its analysis.

The second edition **CAPE Vulnerability Index** has been completed and will be published soon,

The paper titled "**Global mental health and climate change: A geo-psychiatry perspective**" (published in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry, 2023 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S187620182300117X>) presents an innovative approach to understanding the impact of global environmental and geopolitical factors on mental health.

The paper titled "**CAPE Vulnerability Index: Compassion, Assertive Action, Pragmatism and Evidence - Version for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAPE VI - LAC) 'Globalisation, conflict, climate change, natural disasters: putting mental health into foreign policy'**" (published in the Anales de la Facultad de Ciencias Medicas, 2021 http://scielo.iics.una.py/scielo.php?pid=S1816-89492021000100021&script=sci_abstract&tlng=en) introduces the CAPE Vulnerability Index as a tool for identifying countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region that should be prioritized for foreign aid. The index is designed to guide bi-lateral agreements by incorporating mental health as a fundamental aspect.

Participation in Global/WPA Events

Our group has presented at many events and has proudly represented the WPA Geopsychiatry Action Plan Group at several global events. Notably, we participated in the WPA meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in 2022, followed by two significant WPA events in Karachi and Lahore, Pakistan in 2023. These events not only provided us the opportunity to interact with professionals and experts globally but also allowed us to present and discuss our research and work. Our group mentor and member, Dinesh Bhugra has been particularly proactive and participated in numerous events, contributing effectively to the knowledge exchange.

Global Webinars

Our group has participated in many webinars where the concept of Geopsychiatry was discussed. These included:

The Geopsychiatry, Royal Society for Public Health, WPA Webinars

The group took an active part in the WPA webinar in collaboration with the Royal Society for Public Health in December 2022. The topic, "*Geopolitical Determinants on Mental Health*," attracted a wide audience. Experts in the field highlighted the significance of geographical and political elements in determining mental health outcomes, emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies in dealing with such complex issues. A paper arising from this event has been accepted by Think Global Health an Initiative from the Council on Foreign Relations in the USA. The webinar can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Omt-ERITy7s>

This webinar followed an earlier, successful event lead by Persaud and Bhugra *Geopolitical Determinants of Health* <https://youtu.be/sUWn4-nllrM>

An insightful webinar titled "Geopsychiatry - Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health: Displacement and Gender-Based Violence" is scheduled on Wednesday, 15th November 2023, from 1:00pm to 2:15pm (GMT). This webinar aims to unravel the complex interplay between mental health, displacement, and gender-based violence under the broader umbrella of geopolitical determinants. We are keen to foster robust discussions and insights during this session.

Centres for Geopsychiatry

Five Centres for Geopsychiatry has been established across the globe -more will be announced in the coming months.

Some selected Geopsychiatry publications.

Persaud A, Bhugra D, Valsraj K, Bhavsar V. Understanding geopolitical determinants of health. *Bull World Health Organ.* 2021 Feb 1;99(2):166-168. doi: 10.2471/BLT.20.254904. Epub 2021 Jan 7. PMID: 33551512; PMCID: PMC7856359.

Persaud A, Valsraj K, Gnanapragasam S, Tribe R. Time for hard choices: A new global order for mental health. *Int J Soc Psychiatry.* 2023 Feb;69(1):227-228. doi: 10.1177/00207640221112538. Epub 2022 Aug 17. PMID: 35979543.

Persaud, A., Day, G., Bhugra, D., Castaldelli-Maia, J. M., Torales, J., Valsraj, K., Bhavsar, V., Watson, C., Clissold, E., & Ventriglio, A. (2021). CAPE Vulnerability Index. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 33(1-2), 43–55.

Bhugra D, Ventriglio A. Overpopulated planet, and mental health? *International Journal of Social Psychiatry.* 2023;69(1):3-4. doi:10.1177/00207640231151774 1.

Bhugra D, Ventriglio A (2023): . Political determinants of mental health. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry.* 2023;69(3):521-522. doi:10.1177/00207640231168544

Bhugra D, Ventriglio A. (2023): Commercial determinants of mental health. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry.* 2023;0(0). doi:10.1177/00207640231175047

Bhugra D, Ventriglio A. (2023): Geographical Determinants of Mental Health. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry.* 2023;69(4):811-813. doi:10.1177/00207640231169816

Anantapong, K, Sampson, EL, Davies, N. A shared decision-making model about care for people with severe dementia: a qualitative study based on nutrition and hydration decisions in acute hospitals. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry.* 2023;e5884. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.5884>

Ornell F, Benzano D, Borelli WV, Narvaez JCM, Moura HF, Passos IC, Sordi AO, Schuch JB, Kessler FHP, Scherer JN, von Diemen L. Differential impact on suicide mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil. *Braz J Psychiatry.* 2022 Nov 24;44(6):628-634. doi: 10.47626/1516-4446-2022-2581. PMID: 35839315; PMCID: PMC9851756.

Ornell F, Borelli WV, Benzano D, Schuch JB, Moura HF, Sordi AO, Kessler FHP, Scherer JN, von Diemen L. The next pandemic: impact of COVID-19 in mental healthcare assistance in a nationwide epidemiological study. *Lancet Reg Health Am.* 2021 Dec;4:100061. doi: 10.1016/j.lana.2021.100061. Epub 2021 Sep 3. PMID: 34518824; PMCID: PMC8427141.

Work in Progress

Geopsychiatry academic training modules

As part of our future, the WPA Action Plan Group has embarked on a mission to produce a series of short *Geopsychiatry academic training modules* led by Helena Moura. Recognizing the intersection of geographic, environmental, and geopolitical factors with mental health, these educational modules will shed light on how these factors influence the mental wellbeing of individuals and communities. The design of these modules will follow a multimedia approach, primarily comprising short video packages, facilitating easier comprehension and engagement.

WPA Vienna September 2023

Our group will hold two State-of-the-Art symposiums and a plenary session led by Dinesh Bhugra at the upcoming WPA Vienna in September 2023. The sessions will delve into the latest advancements and research in our field.

"CAPE Vulnerability Index - Role of Global Vulnerability and Mental Disorders"

The symposium, under the chairmanship of Albert Persaud will provide an in-depth understanding of the methodology, design, and real-world utility of the CAPE Vulnerability Index, João Mauricio Castaldelli-Maia will discuss the implications of the Index in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean. Jibril I.M Handuleh will take the baton next, focusing on the application and outcomes of the CAPE Vulnerability Index in Africa

"Geopsychiatry: Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health - a global perspective"

Chaired by Dinesh Bhugra, this symposium offers a comprehensive exploration of the emerging field of Geopsychiatry. Antonio Ventriglio will start the session by giving a bird's eye view of geopolitical determinants of mental health from a global perspective. Helena Moura will discuss the intersection of these determinants and the climate crisis. Finally, Kanthee Anantapong will present the perspectives from Geopsychiatry on migration and mental health.

In addition, we have an open session dedicated to the development of Geopsychiatry research, policy, and clinical practice.

Textbook on Geopsychiatry:

The Group is working tirelessly on a significant project: a comprehensive textbook on Geopsychiatry. We believe that this endeavor will help consolidate and share our profound understanding of the interface between geographical factors and psychiatric illnesses.

Our textbook is intended to be a cornerstone resource for students, practitioners, and researchers in the realm of Psychiatry. By delving into the influence of geopolitical, cultural, economic, and environmental determinants on mental health, it aims to provide a holistic and nuanced understanding of psychiatric disorders in various global contexts.

Given the breadth and depth of the subject matter, we are committed to making the content engaging, accessible, and pedagogically sound. The textbook will include comprehensive chapters, real-world case studies, latest research findings, and expert insights to facilitate a well-rounded learning experience. Our goal is to spark thought-provoking discussions, inspire further research, and empower informed, culturally sensitive, and effective psychiatric practice worldwide.

Webinars

We are discussing 2 more Geopsychiatry Royal Society for Public Health, WPA State of the Art webinars.

Papers:

We have been communicating with colleagues at the **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation USA**, with a view to collaborating to produce the *third edition of the CAPE Vulnerability Index*. We acknowledge the advice and information they have shared.

A CAPE Vulnerability Index: Compassion, Assertive Action, Pragmatism and Evidence - Version for Africa is being developed with colleagues in Africa. A similar version for Asia is evolving.

We are drafting a paper on how the CAPE Vulnerability Index can prioritize mental health funding for the Climate Crisis in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.

Presentations

Presentations on Geopsychiatry, Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health and the CAPE Vulnerability Index will continue in the coming year. These include:

Geopsychiatry Symposium at COP 28 in Brazil 2024 (possibility)

And a long-awaited presentation with:

UK Members of Parliament and from the House of Lords on Utilizing CAPE Vulnerability Index in Foreign Aid as a Mental Health Foreign Policy goal

Status of this Group

It is proposed that this Action Plan Group be escalated to a World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group (WPAGSIG). This will require an expanded active membership to include a wider cross section of individuals, professions, disciplines to include economist, humanitarians, geographers, politicians, NGOs, entrepreneurs, cartographers, media.

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