



WORLD
PSYCHIATRIC
ASSOCIATION

World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group



*Triennium Report for the World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group
October 2023- October 2026*

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Chair

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Co-Chair

Helena Moura, Professor, University of Brasilia, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine. Brazil

Secretary:

Padmavati Ramachandran, Professor & Director at Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) India.



I am proud to have led and inspired this growing global group of like-minded scholars, clinicians, NGOs, practitioners, and others with the intent to understand and address the global multi-dimensional challenges in psychiatry. We aim to deepen the understanding of how global factors, including (but not limited to) conflicts, climate change, migration, inequalities, disasters, and public health crises profoundly influence mental health and the practice of psychiatry at a local level. Due to its expansive scope, Geopsychiatry is inherently interdisciplinary and interprofessional, accentuating bidirectional partnerships across the world, rooted in principles of social justice, cultural relevance, and respect for human rights.

Dedicated to Patrick 'Rick' O'Shea
08th June 1966 – 19th July 2025

*In recognition of his commitment to the global field of mental health,
with deep gratitude and affection*

Albert Persaud
Architect and Creator of
Geopsychiatry, April 2026



The World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group (WPAGSIG) was established at the WPA Congress in Vienna, Austria, in September 2023; a progression from the WPA Geopsychiatry Action Plan Working Group. Confirmation of this decision was made by Professor Afzal Javed, the WPA President.

This WPAGSIG was formally constituted with a ZOOM meeting with the working group in September 2023, followed by an in-person meeting at the World Congress in Vienna, Austria, on the 2nd October 2023. At a planned ZOOM meeting on the 18th October, members of the group, in accordance with WPA Rules, unanimously elected Albert Persaud, Chair, Joao Mauricio Castaldelli-Maia, Co-Chair (Sept 2023-May 2024), Helena Moura (May 2024 to date) and Padmavati Ramachandran, Secretary.

And again, in keeping with the WPA rules, a committee was established comprising Albert Persaud, Joao Mauricio Castaldelli-Maia, Padmavati Ramachandran, Dinesh Bhugra & Afzal Javed.

Background:

Geopolitical events such as conflict, climate change, COVID-19, populism, the erosion of human rights, global austerity, inequalities, terror, and fragile security have created an environment where many determinants of poor mental health are exacerbated and add to the global mental health burden across nations, regions, and communities, thus presenting some of the most fundamental inter-national geopolitical challenges.

Geopsychiatry [1] is an exciting intersectoral field focusing on the interface between geopolitical events and their impact on the practice of psychiatry across all ages and subspecialties. Geopsychiatry offers a different perspective, highlighting the pluralistic nature of mental health and mental health care and focusing on collaboration across regions, organisations, communities, and disciplines.

Geopolitical factors have always influenced health, and as the world is grappling with this myriads of simultaneous challenges, it is time for a new global conceptualisation of Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health [2]. This is an important addition to explaining health, illness, and health-care delivery and their complex relationships from the perspectives of social, cultural, commercial, political, and geographical determinants.

Securing and spending scarce mental health resources has never been more challenging. A more progressive approach to funding mental health would be the utilisation of the CAPE Vulnerability Index [3]. This index is a global foreign policy tool that codifies the countries to be prioritised for foreign aid. It indicates where foreign aid could be used as a tool to build mental health into foreign policy, doing much more than responding only to humanitarian crises.



The WPA has recognised the impact of these current geopolitical changes on mental health and how appropriate responses are still poorly understood; and has thus established this special interest group -**WPA Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group**, with a clear, explicit strategic aim to summarise current evidence and propose strategies to tackle geopolitical challenges on mental health.

Terms of Reference:

- 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 integrate into teaching Geopsychiatry principles that consolidate psychiatric practice and develop and disseminate educational material, participate in seminars, symposia, and webinars.
- To support member societies, institutions and individuals interested and participate in WPA's programs of research, service development and education related to Geopsychiatry.
- To communicate with other international organisations with a view to ensuring that Geopsychiatry issues are considered in the work of these groups and vice versa.

Membership:

The WPAGSIG membership is a wide cross-section of individuals, professions, and disciplines from across the globe, including but not exclusive to: psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, specialist doctors, epidemiologists, social scientists, NGOs, statisticians, academics, lawyers, and more.

Our Values:

At our core, we are committed to integrity, respect, and fairness in all that we do, providing leadership and direction that shapes a global geopolitical mental health mindset.

References

1. Castaldelli-Maia, J. M. (2022). Geopsychiatry [Special issue]. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 34(1). <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/iirp20/34/1>
2. Ventriglio, A. (2023). Geopolitical determinants of mental health: Towards a global perspective. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 69(1), 229–230. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640221112319>
3. Persaud, A., Day, G., Bhugra, D., Castaldelli-Maia, J. M., Torales, J., Valsraj, K., et al. (2020). CAPE Vulnerability Index. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 33, 43–55



WPAGSIG Summary of Achievements:

WPA Geopsychiatry SIG continues to embed this new dynamic discipline into the field of psychiatry. Our group is intersectoral and multiprofessional, involving various professionals examining climate change, trauma, disasters, and geopolitics & socio-economic transformations to understand and explain mental health and mental illness processes. WPAGSIG ZOOM meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

Completed 2 global surveys:

1) *Geopsychiatry and its integration into psychiatry residency curricula: A very first global survey for faculty and psychiatry residents*

To our knowledge, this is the first global survey that explores how Geopsychiatry is, or is not, integrated into formal psychiatric training across countries, and what educators and residents perceive as challenges and opportunities for its inclusion.

Key findings include:

- A strong 62.6 % considered the inclusion of Geopsychiatry in psychiatric education “very important,” especially in Latin America and the MENA region.
- Lack of faculty expertise (48.1%) and educational resources (52.9%) were cited as the main barriers to curricular integration.
- Participation in educational activities and inter-institutional collaborations was significantly associated with greater familiarity and research opportunities in the field.

These findings emphasise the urgent need to equip future psychiatrists and others with the knowledge and skills to address the mental health consequences of climate change, migration, armed conflict, and other geopolitical crises.

2) *Climate Change and Mental Health: A Multinational Survey on Eco-Anxiety, Climate-Related Experiences, Psychological Responses, Coping Strategies, and Perceived Needs*

This multinational study includes data from 44 countries and examines climate anxiety, emotional and functional impacts, coping strategies, and perceived psychosocial support within a Geopsychiatry framework, using the Hogg Climate Anxiety Scale (HCAS) alongside contextual variables.

Key findings include:

- 83.5 % of participants reported exposure to at least one extreme climate event in the past five years, most commonly heatwaves, floods, and severe storms.



- Climate anxiety was significantly higher among women, gender-diverse individuals, and younger adults, particularly in affective symptoms, rumination, and personal impact anxiety.
- Functional disruption related to climate change (especially interference with work or study) emerged as the strongest predictor of climate-anxiety, explaining approximately 25% of score variability.
- Participants exposed to extreme climate events reported significantly higher affective, behavioural, and personal impact anxiety.

These Findings support the need to integrate mental health screening and brief psychosocial interventions into climate adaptation policies and community-based resilience programs, particularly in vulnerable and under-resourced settings.

In addition to two surveys, WPAGSIG members has published over 37 papers across a spectrum of scientific journals/books, including the second edition of the *CAPE Vulnerability Index* and a follow-up paper in response to the termination of USA Foreign Aid: *A new framework for funding foreign aid*.

Three of our published papers are in Portuguese, with a specific focus on the Climate Crisis and Geopsychiatry. Our papers focus on gathering, creating, and sharing knowledge.

Secured the attendance of the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Foundation, two major global grant/research funders, at the WPAGSIG meetings to discuss their policy and opportunities in research.

Delivered 7 state-of-the-art Geopsychiatry webinars in partnership with WPA partners, Royal Society for Public Health, and other collaborators that straddle all continents, some with a distinct focus on Low-Middle-Income Countries and Small Island Development States. (see attached flyers for specific topics covered)

Participated in several academic knowledge-sharing events with several keynote presentations, with many WPA Regional partners, in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, North America, Southeast Asia, and more.

Participated in a five-day academic symposium at the University of Bern, Department of Forensic Psychiatry; **“Global Mindscape: Integrating Geopsychiatry Perspectives Across Continents.”**
Included a visit to the British Ambassador to Switzerland to discuss Geopsychiatry, and the crafting of the “Bern Geopsychiatry Declaration



Many members of this WPAGSIG contributed to the book- *Social Justice, Social Discrimination and Mental Health: Theory, Practice, and Professional Issues*- which has received highly acclaimed reviews.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09540261.2025.2549405>

And some WPAGSIG members contributed to the pioneering report: *Careif- The Health Needs of the Indo-Caribbean Community in the United Kingdom*: <https://www.careif.org/news-and-events/2025-10-9-careif-report-the-health-needs-of-the-indo-caribbean-community-in-the-united-kingdom>

Both publications launched on World Mental Health Day at an international film festival in London.

Our WPAGSIG supported the International Institute for Geopsychiatry to establish the *Geopsychiatry Emerging Academic and Clinical Practice Group*. -a consortium of diverse disciplines, brought together by the collective dedication and shared responsibility to address the urgent challenges shaping mental health worldwide and guide future research and policy-making priorities in Geopsychiatry.

The WPAGSIG chair has met with UK Lawmakers (MPs) to discuss Geopsychiatry and how the CAPE Vulnerability Index can be utilised as a Foreign Policy tool in building mental health into Foreign Aid.

WPAGSIG at “Global Mindscape: Integrating Geopsychiatry Perspectives Across Continents”

In early September 2024, a group of academics and clinicians from the World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group participated in the International Institute for Geopsychiatry academic symposium titled “*Global Mindscape: Integrating Geopsychiatry Perspectives Across Continents*” in Bern, Switzerland. The meeting was hosted by Professor Michael Liebrez, Department of Forensic Psychiatry, University of Bern; Professor Ana Buadze, Department of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, Psychiatric Hospital, University of Zurich, and Dr Alexander Smith, Department of Forensic Psychiatry, University of Bern, and supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Albert kicked off the event with a presentation “*the incubation and birth of Geopsychiatry*” where he articulated how he has been developing this concept of Geopsychiatry over a period of 15 years, understanding the geopolitical challenges and how this interface with psychiatry and overall mental health across the globe. He emphasises that Geopsychiatry pivots on two distinct cogs of a wheel which is Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health and the CAPE Vulnerability Index as a Foreign Aid tool to fund mental health. Albert thanked Dinesh for expanding the Geopsychiatry vision to what is emerging today.

Over 5 days, there were a series of defining state-of-the-art presentations and scholarly discussions highlighting the global, multidimensional challenges and landscape of psychiatry and mental health, including climate change, migration, conflict, suicide, depression, mental illness, microfinance, education, research, policy, and practice.



Key concepts and the interdisciplinary scope of Geopsychiatry, such as geopolitical determinants of mental health and the CAPE Vulnerability Index, with examples and practices presented by Dinesh Bhugra (UK), João Maurício Castaldelli-Maia (Brazil), Egor Chumakov (Russian Federation), Joseph El-Koury (UAE/Lebanon), Afzal Javed (UK/Pakistan), Helena Moura (Brazil), Albert Persaud, (UK/Caribbean/Guyana, Trinidad), Padmavati Ramachandran (India), Rachel Tribe (UK) and Yunyu Xiao (USA/China), along with Michael Liebreuz, Ana Buadze & Alexander Smith from Switzerland. Discussion also highlighted some regional & national issues from Brazil, Lebanon, the Caribbean, India, Guyana, Russia, Pakistan, UK, Europe and the UAE and from the NGO sector, including The Centre for Applied Research and Evaluation- International Foundation.UK (www.careif.org) and Fountain House Pakistan (<https://www.fountainhouse.com.pk/>). The symposium included a field visit to the Psychiatric University Hospital Zürich, where Professor Ana Buadze provided an outstanding presentation on "Neurodevelopmental disorders, ADHD, and treatment modalities in Zürich".

And to conclude this highly successful International Institute for Geopsychiatry academic symposium, a small group were invited by the British Ambassador to Switzerland to his residence to discuss Geopsychiatry and its global significance and application.

WPA Geopsychiatry SIG planned activities until the end of September 2026.

WPAGSIG are currently participating with the International Institute for Geopsychiatry and School of Medical Sciences, National University of Asunción, Paraguay, in a multinational Geopsychiatry study **“Climate Change and the Erosion of Future-Oriented Functioning”** This international study aimed at understanding how climate change relates to hope and psychological well-being across different populations

The WPAGSIG is planning a webinar on Climate heat and mental health in Asia in the coming months

The WPAGSIG will be partnering with the International Institute for Geopsychiatry *Emerging Academic and Clinical Practice Group* on their forthcoming webinar on “Mental Health of Children in Conflict/War Zones”

The Chair of the WPAGSIG will be following up with UK Lawmakers on the use of the CAPE Vulnerability Index as a Foreign Aid tool

Many members of the WPAGSIG will be involved with numerous Geopsychiatry presentations at several academic and clinical events across the globe.

Many Geopsychiatry academic papers continues to be crafted, submitted and some in the process of publication in a spectrum of journals, textbook and other mediums across the globe.



Psychiatric University Hospital Zürich

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Geopsychiatry Team with British Ambassador Bern, Switzerland

Chair

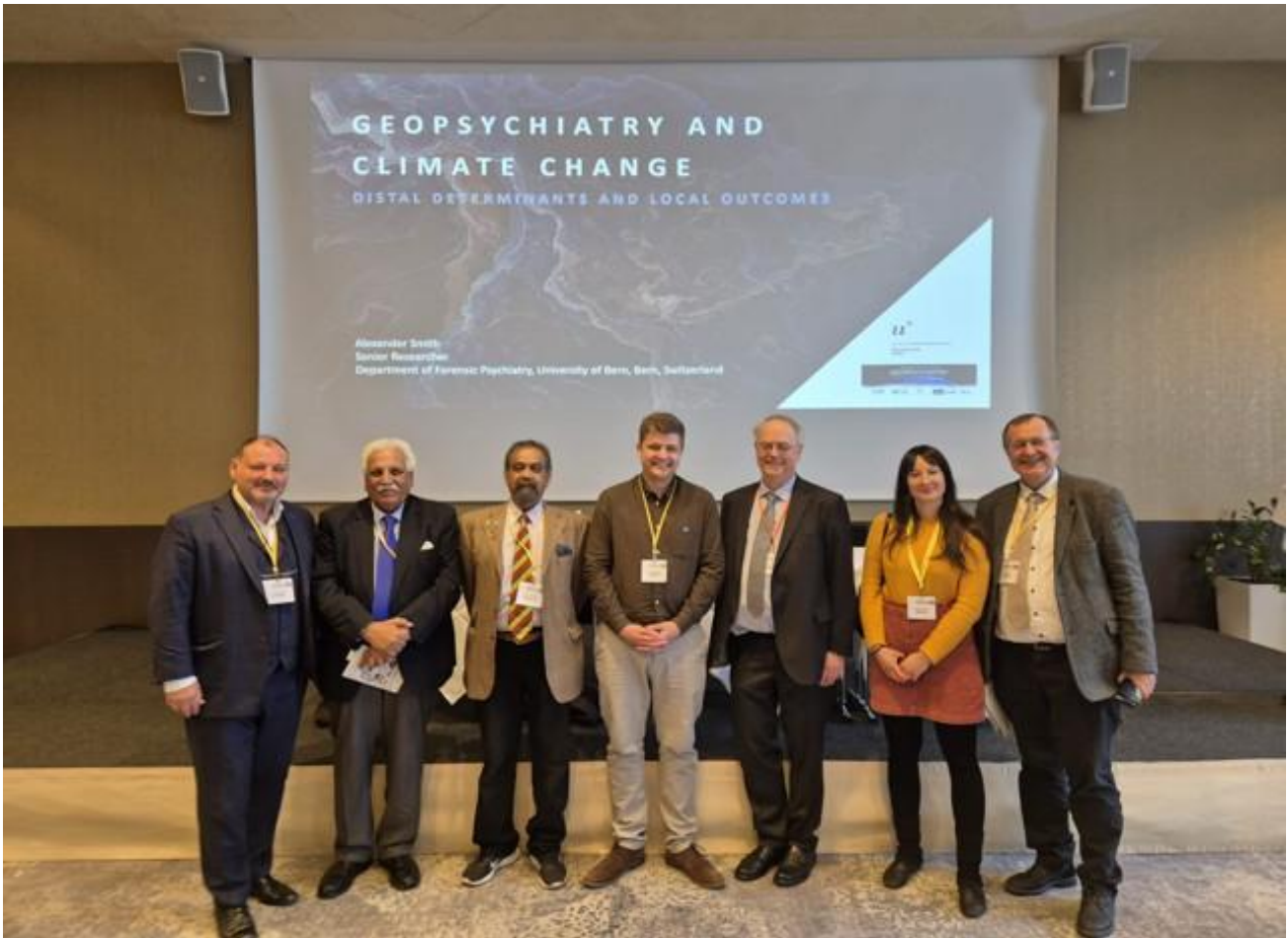
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Austrian Association of Psychiatrists Annual Congress, Vienna, 2025

Chair

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Co-Chair

Helena Moura, Professor, University of Brasilia, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Brazil

Secretary:

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Annual Conference of the Chinese Psychiatrist Association (CPA) on April 10-12, 2025

Chair

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World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group webinars:

1. The Royal Society for Public Health & World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group

Geopsychiatry - Displacement and Gender-Based Violence

<https://youtu.be/1FALZEDEQUHU?si=61vC-CXtLEgvSTgK>

2. The Royal Society for Public Health & World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group

Geopsychiatry - Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Omt-ERITy7s>

3. The Royal Society for Public Health & World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group

Geopolitical Determinants of Health

<https://youtu.be/sUWn4-nllrM>

4. Climate Change & Mental Health

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfFgHnGLP-o>

5. Geopsychiatry & Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health

McGill University Social and Cultural Psychiatry

https://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsy_ch/training/summer

6. What is Geopsychiatry?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGv3esIMhZw>

7. Geopsychiatry -CAPE Vulnerability Index codifying countries and prioritising aid for mental health

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prhSwlCzzTw>



8. Geopsychiatry - climate change, migration, advocacy, research, and mental health

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFUkB125HNk>

9. Plenary Lecture: Professor Dinesh Bhugra CBE

WPA Thematic Congress March 2022 Geopolitical Determinants of Mental Health

<https://youtu.be/OvdctsfQlyw?si=GI3vtDD7VVdi-3LG>

10. Plenary Lecture 3: Dr Albert Persaud

“Geopolitics and Global Mental Health.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdKwSnFv-5s>

11. Geopsychiatry in Policy Making: Implications for War and Peace

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxnQn_Fy_wWc

12. Salud Mental: la nueva pandemia.

Julio Torales

Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología - CONACYT.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cymjmmfz8GE>

13. Climate Change, Psychiatry and Mental Health- Julio Torales (Paraguay)

3rd GPA congress 11-11-2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrq3eiDkLjQ>

14. Dr Albert Persaud discusses Geopsychiatry

<https://www.careif.org/blog/2025-9-28-dr-albert-persaud-discusses-geopsychiatry>

Academic sessions

WPAGSIG members have delivered over 50 educational/seminar/conference presentations across the globe.



Publications:

Textbooks

Geopsychiatry and social psychiatry

Valsraj K, Persaud A, Pemberton M, Bhavsar V. In: Bhugra D, Moussaoui D, Craig TJ, editors. Oxford Textbook of Social Psychiatry. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2022.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/med/9780198861478.003.0014>

Geopolitics of migration and refugees

Persaud A, Ventriglio A, Valsraj K, Bhugra D. In: Bhugra D, editor. Oxford Textbook of Migrant Psychiatry. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2021.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/med/9780198833741.003.0002>

Social Justice, Social Discrimination and Mental Health: Theory, Practice, and Professional Issues

Tribe R, Bhugra D, editors. 1st ed. London: Routledge; 2024.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003351351>

Scientific Papers

Climate change and mental health: A multinational study of climate-anxiety, coping, and psychosocial responses

Torales J, Barrios I, Ventriglio A, Castaldelli-Maia J, Lashley M, Campbell M, Liebrezn M, Ramachandran P, Aggarwal N, Alibudbud R, Chumakov E, Narvaez J, Javed A, Bhugra D, Persaud A. Asian J Psychiatry, 117 (2026).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajp.2026.104859>

Gaza: rethinking and decolonizing mental health responses in humanitarian emergencies

McMahon A, Merchant H, Alkhatib S, Khanyari S, Alami T, Sader E, Nachabe J, El-Khoury J, Sabr J. Int Rev Psychiatry, (2026), pp. 1–12.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09540261.2026.2627503>

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Javed A, Persaud A, Moura H. J Coll Physicians Surg Pak, 36(1) (2026), pp. 2–4.

<https://doi.org/10.29271/jcsp.2026.01.02>

Geopsychiatry and the complex mental health challenges of conflict: a review examining local and distal psychiatric outcomes in a fractured world

Smith A, Graña J, Alibudbud R, Persaud A, Torales J, Buadze A, Liebrezn M. Neuropsychiatry, (2026).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40211-025-00567-x>



Geopsychiatrie und die komplexen Herausforderungen der psychischen Gesundheit bei Konflikten: Übersicht zu lokalen und distalen psychiatrischen Outcomes in einer zersplitterten Welt

Smith A, Graña J, Alibudbud R, Persaud A, Torales J, Buadze A, Liebrezn M. *Neuropsychiatrie*, (2026).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40211-025-00567-x>

As mudanças climáticas e os desafios das ameaças globais à saúde mental

Moura H, Narvaez JCM, Ornell FR, Kessler FHP, Persaud A. *Rev Bras Psicoterapia*, 26(1) (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.5935/2318-040420240004>

Uma carta do Paquistão ao Brasil: ampliando o acesso e o suporte à saúde mental para afegãos afetados pelo conflito

Mufti KA, Mufti AA, Saifi F, Javed A. *Rev Bras Psicoterapia*, 26(1) (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.5935/2318-040420240002>

Uma carta de um Estado Insular em Desenvolvimento do Caribe

Lashley M, Campbell MH. *Rev Bras Psicoterapia*, 26(1) (2025).

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Politicised threats to science endanger global health and humanity

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(25\)02245-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(25)02245-7)

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Narvaez J, Câmara S, Gonçalves T, Levandowski D, Spritzer D, Esswein G, Zelmanowicz A, Amazarray M, Silveira L, Reppold C, Pinheiro L, Roloff J, Telöken R, Veiga E, de Luvizon F, Camargo L, Falcão A, Moreira M, Ramos A, Moura H, Castaldelli-Maia J. *Int J Soc Psychiatry*, 71(7) (2025), pp. 1305–1319.

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A new framework for funding foreign aid

Aggarwal N, Persaud A, Bhugra D. *Int J Soc Psychiatry*, 71(7) (2025), pp. 1201–1203.

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Torales J, Laterza M, Persaud A, O'Higgins M, Torres-Romero A, Caycho-Rodríguez T, Ventriglio A, Castaldelli-Maia J, El-Khoury J, Chumakov E, Liebrezn M, Smith A, Tribe R, Javed A, Bhugra D, Barrios I. *Int J Soc Psychiatry*, 71(6) (2025), pp. 1181–1192.

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Mental health is still a human right during times of war

El-Khoury J, Merchant H, McMahon A, Torales J, Atoui M, Ventriglio A, Moura H, Xiao Y, Castaldelli-Maia J, Tribe R, Campbell M, Lashley M, Narvaez J, Mufti K, Okasha T, Ramachandran P, Sharma D, Persaud A, Javed A, Bhugra D. *Int J Soc Psychiatry*, 71(5) (2025), pp. 817–819.

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A combined water crisis and public health emergency in the Brazilian Amazon

Cativo C, Moura H, Smith A, Liebrezn M, Castro E. *Lancet Reg Health Am*, 48 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lana.2025.101197>

The Compassion, Assertive Action, Pragmatism, and Evidence (CAPE) Vulnerability Index – Asia (CAPE VI-Asia): Integrating mental health into foreign policy to address globalisation, conflict, climate change, and natural disasters

Rajendran K, Ramachandran P, Day G, Javed A, Castaldelli-Maia J, Persaud A, Bhugra D. *Geopsychiatry*, 2 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geopsy.2025.100036>

Book review: European Court of Human Rights and Mental Health, by A Eldergill, M Evans, E Sibley (Bloomsbury, 2024)

Persaud A. *Geopsychiatry*, 2 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geopsy.2025.100012>

Geopsychiatry and its integration into psychiatry residency curricula: A very first global survey for faculty and psychiatry residents

Torales J, Torres-Romero A, Barrios I, Castaldelli-Maia J, Chumakov E, Ventriglio A, Moura H, Narvaez J, Javed A, Bhugra D, Persaud A. *Geopsychiatry*, 1 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geopsy.2025.100004>

A critical review of the evolution and interrelation of traumatic stress disorders

Hamadeh A, El-Khoury J, Torales J, Atoui M, Aggarwal N, Campbell M, Lashley M, Narvaez J, McMahon A, Ventriglio A, Alibudbud R, Ramachandran P, Moura H, Okasha T, Tribe R, Day G, Javed A, Persaud A, Bhugra D. *PLOS Ment Health*, 2(7) (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmen.0000385>

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Padmavati Ramachandran, Professor & Director at Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) India.

**In support of 'Addressing visa inequities in health: a geopsychiatry perspective'**

Nasir S, Shahnawaz M, Giménez-Llort L. *J R Soc Med*, 118(2) (2025), pp. 40–41.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/01410768241309222>

Addressing visa inequities in health: A geopsychiatry perspective

Persaud A, Bhugra D, Ventriglio A. *J R Soc Med*, 118(1) (2025), pp. 26–29.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/01410768241290726>

Dinesh Bhugra: An icon in psychiatry and mental health advocacy

Persaud A, Torales J, Tribe R, Castaldelli-Maia JM, Javed A, Ventriglio A. *Int J Soc Psychiatry*, 71(1) (2025), pp. 216–217.

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Geo-psychiatry: An emerging new discipline in psychiatry

Javed A, Persaud A. *Arch Neuropsychiatry*, 61(4) (2024), pp. 380–381.

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Equipping the next generation of clinicians for addressing conflict mental health: A role for geopsychiatry

El-Khoury J, McMahon A, Kazem F, Atoui M, Castaldelli-Maia J, Narvaez J, Torales J, Lashley M, Campbell M, Liebrez M, Smith A, Xiao Y, Persaud A. *PLOS Ment Health*, 1(3) (2024).

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Restrictive visa policies harm global scientific exchanges

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<https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640221112538>

**Índice de vulnerabilidad CAPE – Versión para América Latina y el Caribe (CAPE VI-LAC):
"Globalización, conflicto, cambio climático, desastres naturales: poner la salud mental en la
política exterior"**

Torales J, Castaldelli-Maia J, Mauricio J, O'Higgins M, Florio L, Santacruz J, Barrios J, Navarro R, Garcia O, Day G, Bhugra D, Sri A, Ventriglio A, Persaud A. An Fac Cienc Med (Asuncion), 54(1) (2021), pp. 21–50.

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Free Webinar Geopsychiatry – Displacement and Gender-Based Violence

15 November 2023 at 1pm GMT

RSPH
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
VISION, VOICE AND PRACTICE

RSPH Sparks Debates –
a public health webinar series

An educational event supported by the World Psychiatric Association, this free webinar will feature a 15 minute talk from all three presenters on their studies in gender-based violence and a 25 minute panel session at the end where the audience will have a chance to ask questions.

Chair
Dr Albert Persaud, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience: King's College London and Co-Chair, World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry

Presenters
Professor Joana Corrêa de Magalhães Narvaez, Professor of Federal University of Health Sciences (UFCSPA)
Dr Prasanna Gettu, co-founder and CEO of the International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care in Chennai
Professor Maggie Rae, President of the RSM Epidemiology and Public Health Section

Visit the RSPH website to book your place: <https://www.rsph.org.uk/event/geopsychiatry---displacement-and-gender-based-violence.html>

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THE WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY REGIONAL HUB AT THE ISSAM FARES INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WITH THE SUPPORT OF UN WOMEN INVITES YOU TO A PANEL DISCUSSION ON

GEOPSYCHIATRY IN POLICY MAKING

IMPLICATIONS FOR WAR AND PEACE

PRESENTER/MODERATOR



JOSEPH EL-KHOURY

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
OF PSYCHIATRY -
PRESIDENT OF THE
LEBANESE PSYCHIATRIC
SOCIETY

PANELISTS



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EMBRACE



SAMAH JABR

PSYCHIATRIST AND
HEAD OF THE
PALESTINIAN MOH
MENTAL HEALTH UNIT



AUDREY MC MAHON

CHILD AND
ADOLESCENT
PSYCHIATRIST AND
WHO GLOBAL MENTAL
HEALTH CONSULTANT

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

BASILE ANTOINE MEGURDICHE CONFERENCE HALL

(IFI AUDITORIUM - LEVEL B) ONLINE + IN PERSON



WEBINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE & MENTAL HEALTH

Friday 13 September, 2024

Time 6:30 pm Pakistan 2:30 pm UK

PROGRAMME

Introduction

Prof. Khalid Mufti

Chairman Horizon NGO, Peshawar, Pakistan
Former Dean Khyber Medical College Peshawar,
Pakistan Former Zonal Representative WPA

Greetings

Dr. Afzal Javed

M.B.B.S; M.C.P.S; D.Psych. (Lond.); Board
Cert. Psych. (U.K); M.Phil. (Edin.); F.R.C.Psych.
(UK) F.R.C.P (Ireland & Edinburgh).
Consultant Psychiatrist, Immediate Past President
World Psychiatric Association.
Honorary Professor Institute of Applied Health
Research, University of Birmingham, UK
Chairman Pakistan Psychiatric Research Centre,
Fountain House, Lahore, Pakistan.

Greetings

Dr. Albert Persaud

Chair World Psychiatrist Association
Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group.
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology &
Neuroscience Kings College London

Vote of Thanks

Dr. M Firaz

Director Institute of Public Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences
Khyber Medical University Peshawar

Organized By:

Pakistan Psychiatric Research Centre (PPRC),
Fountain House, Lahore, Horizon NGO, Peshawar Pakistan,
WPA Special Interest Group on Geo-Psychiatry & Khyber
Medical University Peshawar

Welcome!

Meritorious

Prof. ZIA UL HAQ

Vice Chancellor
Khyber Medical University

SPEAKERS

Prof. Helena Moura (Brazil)

Vice Chancellor
Professor of Psychiatry at University of Brasilia
From historic droughts to historic floods
confronting centuries of climate neglect in Brazil

Prof. Deji Ayonrinde (Canada)

Associate Professor
Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology,
Queen's University, Division Chair and Clinical Director,
Community Psychiatry
Climate change, conflict and the fragmentation of
African communities

Director Program:

Dr. Ali Ahsan Mufti

Consultant Psychiatrist

For Free Registration:

hospitalibadat349@gmail.com





LIVE WEBINAR

Climate Change & Mental Health

October 30th, 2024 / 5:00 pm (GMT)
Bern 6:00 pm, London 5:00pm, Greece 7:00 pm

We are living in an era of fast-moving geopolitical changes with an increasing number of countries experiencing recurrent and protracted chronic crises; the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing global events such as climate change, conflict, inequalities, austerity, and population displacement all reshaping the geopolitical landscape of progress. These geopolitical events are becoming increasingly more important and relevant in the era of globalisation with geopolitical determinants clearly impacting the global burden of mental health, mental illnesses, and mental health inequities. Geopsychiatry is an exciting emerging field and subspecialty in psychiatry focusing on the interface between geopolitical events and the pluralistic nature of mental health and mental health care with the emphasis on collaboration across countries, regions, organisations, communities, and disciplines – both medical and non-medical.

The two presentations (What is Geopsychiatry? & Political Determinants of Mental Health) will present the most poignant multi-dimensional challenges with a new global order for mental health and mental illness that focuses on research, policy and practice

Moderator:

Konstantinos Fountoulakis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

Chairs:

Afzal Javed (WPA Immediate Past President)

Albert Persaud (WPA Special Interest Group on Geo-Psychiatry)

Speakers:

Alex Smith (MA) researcher at the Department of Forensic Psychiatry in the University of Bern and a member of the Geopsychiatry Special Interest Group of the World Psychiatric Association

TOPIC: "What is geopsychiatry?"

Dinesh Bhugra CBE, MA, MSc, MBBS, DSc (Hon), PhD, FRCP, FRCPE, FRCPsych, FFPHM, FRCPsych (Hon), FHKCPsych (Hon), FACPsych (Hon), FAMS (Singapore), FKCL, MPhil, LMSSA, FAcadME, FRSA, DIFAPA

TOPIC: "Political determinants of mental health"

Organization:



Society of Neurosciences
& Rehabilitation



3rd Department of Psychiatry



MSc Clinical Mental Health,
School of Medicine,
Aristotle University
of Thessaloniki, Greece



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FREE REGISTRATION

<https://letstudy.eu/webinars/climate-change-mental-health/>



International Seminar

Saturday 8th March 2025 - GMT 12 noon, IST 5.30 pm
Duration 90 mins. - Mode: ONLINE

Organised jointly by



World Psychiatric Association
Special Interest Group on Geopsychiatry



Asian Federation of
Psychiatric Associations



SAARAC
Psychiatric Federation

In partnership with
The International Institute for Geopsychiatry, Bern Switzerland & Careif (UK)

Theme: The Relevance of Geopsychiatry:
Navigating Climatic Events and Mental Health Complexities

Click this [Zoom Link](#) to join
Meeting ID: 840 1825 7017 Passcode: 047118

PROGRAMME

- Moderators:** Dr G Prasad Rao & Dr Gautam Saha
- Greetings by:** Dr Afzal Javed Imm, Past President, World Psychiatric Association
Chairman, Pakistan Psychiatric Research Centre, Fountain House,
Lahore, Pakistan
Dr Andi Tanra President, Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations
Dr Sheehan Williams President, SAARC Psychiatric Federation
Dr Savita Malhotra President, Indian Psychiatric Society
- Speakers:**
- Dr Albert Persaud** (UK, Caribbean)
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience,
King's College London, London, UK.
Chair, World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry Special
Interest Group
Topic: "Climate Change vulnerabilities, resilience, and mental
health in the Caribbean"
 - Dr Helena Moura** (Brazil)
Professor of Psychiatry, University of Brasilia, Faculty of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Brazil,
Co-Chair, World Psychiatric Association Geopsychiatry
Special Interest Group.
Topic: "From historic droughts to historic floods, confronting
centuries of climate neglect in Brazil"
- Q & A:** Question and Answer Session will be followed
- MoC:** Dr Rajashree Ray

Webinar abstract

Geopsychiatry is a new dynamic discipline within the field of psychiatry. It is an intersectoral and multiprofessional field that involves various professionals looking at climate change, traumas, disasters, and geopolitics & socio-economic transformations in understanding and explaining the mental health and mental illness processes. Climate change can affect mental health directly or indirectly in a variety of ways, including chronic (global warming) and acute (heat waves, floodings and environmental disasters) events. The consequences of climate change are distributed unevenly, with specific groups experiencing a disproportionate impact due to various compounding geopolitical factors. Research on global warming has revealed that a rise of 1 degree Celsius in ambient temperature is linked to a 2.2% surge in mental health mortality, encompassing organic mental disorders, suicide, and self-harm. Additionally, there is a 0.9% increase in mental health morbidity, particularly concerning mood and anxiety disorders, as well as schizophrenia.



LIVE WEBINAR

Climate Change & Mental Health: *Latin America & Caribbean Perspective*

September 3rd, 2025 / 17:00 (GMT)

London 18:00, Brazil 14:00, Caribbean 13:00, Greece 20:00

FREE REGISTRATION

<https://letstudy.eu/webinars/climate-change-mental-health-1c/>

An engaging webinar exploring the impact of climate change on mental health, with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. Distinguished speakers will highlight challenges, share regional perspectives, and discuss future directions in psychiatry within the context of the climate crisis.

Moderator:

Konstantinos Fountoulakis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

Chairs:

Afzal Javed (WPA Immediate Past President)

Albert Persaud (WPA Special Interest Group on Geo-Psychiatry)

Speakers:

Myrna Lashley *Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology (McGill University), Associate Professor of Psychiatry at McGill University, Researcher at the Lady Davis Institute, Honorary Consul of Barbados in Montreal.*

Topic: "Island nations' fight to confront the effects of climate disaster"

Julio Torales *M.D., Ph.D., Full Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, National University of Asunción; Director, Collaborative Centre in Geopsychiatry for Paraguay; International Fellow, International Institute of Geopsychiatry.*

Topic: "Climate Change and the Future of Psychiatry: Navigating the Next Three Decades"

Organization:



E.N.A.
(Society of Neurosciences & Rehabilitation)



MSc Clinical Mental Health, School of
Medicine, Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki, Greece



IN.PY.
(Institute of Psychiatry)



3rd Department of Psychiatry



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geopsychiatry

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A GEOPSYCHIATRY PERSPECTIVE ON RESEARCH, POLICY AND PRACTICE



YOUNG GLOBAL LEADERS IN
GEOPSYCHIATRY



Professor Rachel Tribe (UK)

Chair

January 26th 2026

14:00 PM GMT time

Moderators:

Dr. Ebrahim Sader (South Africa)
Haneefa Merchant (Canada/India)

**Dr. Albert Persaud
(UK/Guyana/Trinidad)**

Geopsychiatry introduction



**Ms. Shagufta Nasir
(Spain/India)**

Registration link and QR code

<https://geopsychiatrywebinar.eventbrite.co.uk>



What is Geopsychiatry? The need for
interdisciplinary action in mental health practice

- Introduces **geopsychiatry** as an emerging interdisciplinary field linking mental health to geography, politics, society, and environment.
- Features a case study of an Indian farmer, illustrating how **context drives both distress and resilience**.
- Highlights the importance of **interdisciplinary collaboration** across psychology, geography, urban planning, sociology, and policy.

The Geopsychiatric Turn: Why Geopsychiatry
Matters in Rethinking Mental Health

**Dr. Rosine Tchatchoua Djomo
(Canada/Cameroon)**

- Explores how major global stressors — **climate change, migration, inequality, and conflict** — are reshaping mental health worldwide.
- Shows how this perspective is transforming education, research, clinical practice, and policy.
- Emphasizes the need for **context-sensitive, culturally informed approaches** over one-size-fits-all mental health models.



Designed by Gašper Kosič, Emily O'Shea and Defne Düzenli:
Geopsychiatry Emerging Academic and Clinical Practice Group - University of Bern.



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Dr Padmavati Ramachandran

Director at Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF, India).
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Final Version

April 2026

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