

Week 4 - Group Questions

Psychosis & Schizophrenia Spectrum Problems:

1. Regular cannabis use has been associated with higher risk for developing psychotic symptoms. Does this reflect a form of 'self-medication', in which individuals may start using cannabis because of a predisposition for psychotic symptoms, or is there a direct causal link between regular cannabis use and the development of psychotic symptoms?
2. What is the evidence that experienced trauma is a risk factor for first episode psychosis?
3. How do high levels of expressed emotion (EE) in the families of individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia contribute to an increased risk of relapse?
4. Is social skills training an effective way of helping individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia? Should those skills learnt generalise easily to everyday situations?
5. Over the past 20-30 years substance abuse among people diagnosed with schizophrenia has increased significantly. What has contributed to this increase and what can be done to address it?

Personality Disorders:

1. Why are prevalence rates for some personality disorders, such as borderline, avoidant, dependent and paranoid personality disorders significantly higher in females than in males?
2. Risk factors for personality disorders include low socio-economic status, living in inner cities, being divorced, separated, or never married. Are these *causal* factors in developing personality disorders or simply *outcomes* of having a personality disorder?
3. What is the evidence that antisocial personality disorder (APD) and borderline personality disorder (BPD) are the same underlying disorder that manifests differently in men as APD and women as BPD?
4. Are personality disorders discrete disorders or simply representative of extremes on conventional personality dimensions?
5. Many of the personality disorders (e.g. antisocial, borderline, narcissistic personality disorders) have features which make the individual manipulative and unable to form trusting relationships. How does this affect the therapeutic relationship between therapist and client?

