
ABSTRACT

Abstract of the Research Project - Psychiatry, Religion, and Spirituality: A study on how psychiatrists approach religious/spiritual topics in Danish psychiatric clinical practice.

International research has shown that religious/spiritual psychiatric patients employ religion/spirituality as a coping resource, and that this can be a source of both mental health and neurosis. However, more research is needed to understand how psychiatrists interact with mental health inpatients in everyday clinical practice, when the topic is of a religious/spiritual nature, to gain knowledge of how the resources that, for some patients, lie in religion/spirituality can be supported.

The aim of this study is to generate knowledge of how psychiatrists in Danish psychiatric clinical practice approach religious/spiritual topics, how and to what degree they integrate their patients' religious/spiritual life in the treatment, and how the personal religious/spiritual characteristics of the psychiatrists impact their approach to patients.

The study will employ a qualitative and ethnographic research approach, based in the methodology of symbolic interactionism.

The study is among the first in the Danish context, and will contribute to national and international research and literature on how the psychiatrists in a secular society approach topics of a religious/spiritual nature.