

Symposium: Cross-cultural neuropsychology in Europe – recent developments and future perspectives

General information

Title of the symposium: Cross-cultural neuropsychology in Europe – recent developments and future perspectives

Organized by: The Danish Neuropsychological Society

Chair: T. Rune Nielsen, PhD, Danish Dementia Research Centre, University of Copenhagen, Rigshospitalet, Denmark.

Brief description of symposium (max 70 words)

This symposium will present recent developments and future perspectives in European cross-cultural neuropsychology. The first presentation will introduce main challenges associated with cross-cultural neuropsychological assessment in culturally, linguistically and educationally diverse populations and present recent European advances in development of cross-cultural neuropsychological tests. The second presentation will present the results from a recent Delphi study exploring the state of cross-cultural neuropsychological assessment in Europe, areas of need and future perspectives.

Presentation1:

Title: Meeting the needs of increasingly diverse older populations – the advent of European cross-cultural neuropsychology

Presented by: T. Rune Nielsen, PhD, Danish Dementia Research Centre, University of Copenhagen, Rigshospitalet, Denmark.

Abstract:

Background: During the past decade, cross-cultural neuropsychology has been established as a discipline within European neuropsychology with key contributions from the Nordic countries. Objective: This presentation will introduce some of the main challenges associated with cross-cultural neuropsychological assessment in culturally, linguistically and educationally diverse populations and present recent European advances in development of cross-cultural neuropsychological tests. Results: European cross-cultural neuropsychology initially emerged from the field of dementia and has mainly explored clinical challenges and ways to bypass these. Conventional neuropsychological tests are often biased by cultural, linguistic and/or educational factors when used in cross-cultural assessments. However, several cross-cultural tests that circumvent some of these biases have been developed and are available to neuropsychologists in the Nordic countries. Conclusion: Despite recent developments in test development and training, European cross-cultural neuropsychology needs further development and clinical implementation.

Presentation2:

Title: Improving neuropsychological assessment of diverse older populations: Recent European initiatives and future perspectives

Presented by: Sanne Franzen, MSc., Department of Neurology, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Abstract:

Background: Over the past decades, Europe has become increasingly diverse, and fair neuropsychological tests are needed to improve diagnosis in culturally, educationally, and linguistically diverse populations.

Method: A Delphi study was conducted across nine European countries to determine the state of the field and areas of need. Results: Tests of social cognition and language, and to a lesser degree executive functioning are urgently needed, as well as initiatives aimed at improving training of clinicians and the use of interpreters. The European Consortium for Cross-Cultural Neuropsychology (ECCroN) was founded in 2019 to address some of these issues. Among other things, the members of ECCroN are involved in the development of a new cross-cultural naming test sensitive to naming impairment in Alzheimer's disease (data presented at this conference) and a new test of social cognition. Conclusion: Joint efforts should be directed at the development, validation and implementation of cross-cultural tests across Europe.