May 20th, 2018

Kathleen A. Kendall-Tackett, PhD

Editor, Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy

Dear Dr. Kendall-Tackett:

Please consider the enclosed manuscript, “Predicting Who Will Dissociate during a Traumatic Event and Who Will Develop PTSD”, for publication in the journal Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy.

Using data from an RCT, with adults who attended the ER after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event, we studied the role of peritraumatic dissociation by predicting which subjects would develop peritraumatic dissociation, assessed the role of peritraumatic dissociation as a predictor of PTSD symptomatology, and tested a mediational model with peritraumatic dissociation mediating between traumatic load and PTSD symptomatology.

Our findings show that almost half (45.61%) of individuals who had suffered a traumatic event met criteria for PTSD a month later. Individuals with greater dissociative symptomatology during a traumatic event presented greater PTSD symptomatology a month later. Those who had suffered more traumatic events in their life, and those who were less educated, were more likely to present peritraumatic dissociation. We did not find that peritraumatic dissociation was significantly predicted by age, sex, and social support. We could not prove that dissociation mediates between traumatic load and PTSD symptoms. In our conclusion we draw attention to the importance of identifying persons who dissociate most during a traumatic event since this may help predict the development of PTSD symptomatology. We also conclude that when a large number of persons has been affected by a traumatic event -such as in the aftermath of a natural disaster-, it is relevant to screen first those with a higher traumatic load and lower education due to their higher risk to dissociate. This paper is relevant for clinicians, researchers, and those who work with victims of collective trauma because it identifies important risk factors for dissociation and PTSD.

The manuscript is 22 pages long including the references list. In addition we have included four tables and one figure.

The manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not being simultaneously submitted for publication in another journal. The study was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards of the APA. All of the authors (affiliations and contact information are below) have agreed to the byline order and to the submission of the manuscript in this form. The manuscript has been de-identified and the author note has been included in the title page.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Title:

Predicting Who Will Dissociate during a Traumatic Event and Who Will Develop PTSD.

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