

Alexis

Media consumption and desire for social distance towards people with schizophrenia

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0924933805000118>

This study showed a relationship between how often one tuned into different media and a their corresponding desire for social distance from someone diagnosed with schizophrenia. This took into account multiple forms of media such as certain channels on TV and different newspapers. This was then compared to how accepting the subject would be if a given tenant, co-worker, member of the same social circle, prospective employee, in-law, or childcare provider had schizophrenia. After comparing the results, it was found that the strongest correlation existed amongst those who watched the most TV and those who had the strongest desire for social distance, and reading the newspaper did not have any effect on desire for social distance. While this is not a very recent study, with the survey dating back to 2001, it could be used with a supplemental study (if found) to compare how this data has changed in recent years. Despite the immense amount of research being done in this subject, there has not been a conclusive statement available if the media does portray those with mental illnesses poorly or not, as it is often up to the opinion of the viewer and the creator.

How Movies Shape Students' Attitudes Toward Individuals with Schizophrenia: An Exploration of the Relationships between Entertainment Experience and Stigmatization.
<http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=5&sid=7c019f36-1842-4e1d-9ca3-81aab8f58436%40sessionmgr4009&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=121775739&db=aph>

This study compared 2 different hypotheses: movies displaying people with schizophrenia would cause viewers to feel a desire for social distancing, and that movies that are deemed more “entertaining” or “fun” would have the opposite effect and could lead to stigma-reduction. This differed from the study shown above as it only focused on one source of media (movies) and that media was not used in the first study. Also, the results of this showed support for both of their hypotheses, showing that there is an effect of how people view those suffering from schizophrenia after witnessing either a positive or negative portrayal of those individuals through an actor’s work in a film.

Cormac

Newspaper reporting on schizophrenia: A content analysis of five national newspapers at two time points

https://ac.els-cdn.com/S0920996407004331/1-s2.0-S0920996407004331-main.pdf?_tid=99f4e9e0-cadf-4a76-8060-9eec0823aa75&acdnat=1541977562_34cf6346f258c30680c60eebab747994

The purpose of the article was to analyze how reporting of schizophrenia in UK national daily newspaper changed between 1996 and 2005. Some indicators that the study checked articles for included the use of the term schizophrenia in relation to violence, metaphorical use of the term, etc. After reviewing 1196 articles, it was determined that there was very little change in the quality of the reporting of schizophrenia, which is concerning. This hinders the ability to improve how mental illness is treated, as the public continues to view those suffering from schizophrenia as dangerous, violent people. Improving the quality of reporting regarding schizophrenia, as well as all other mental illnesses, will help to resolve this problem.

The Impact of Films on Viewer Attitudes towards People with Schizophrenia

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs12144-016-9436-0.pdf>

The study described by this article examined how film affects people's attitudes towards those with schizophrenia. There was a total of 106 participants, and each completed a questionnaire before and after watching a film excerpt. Some participants were shown films that accurately depict schizophrenia, and some were shown inaccurate depictions, while the other participants served as the control group. There were significant increases in stigmatizing attitudes for participants in the inaccurate group compared to the other two groups. This clearly indicates that inaccurate portrayals of schizophrenia in films increase stigmatizing attitudes. The stigma surrounding schizophrenia will continue if films continuously portray schizophrenia in a negative, violent manner.

Suzy

Dispelling Myths about Schizophrenia Through Film

This source is a study in how the accuracy of information in a film corrects viewers' perceptions of mental illness. In this source, Owens explores the contrast between the realities of schizophrenia and how it is portrayed in movies. For example, schizophrenic characters in movies are violent and a danger to others while in real life, those with schizophrenia are apathetic and affective. Because the public gets most of their information about this mental illness from the media, their perceptions of it reflect the misconceptions portrayed in movies; this leads to a negative and harmful public opinion on schizophrenia and people with schizophrenia. Owens also describes a study which measures the extent of this. The study included showing students a 36 minute video of clips from popular movies about schizophrenia and clips from educational sources that present related facts. The study showed that students who watched videos and lectures both had a more accurate understanding of schizophrenia.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.0021-9029.2007.00147.x>

Analyzing media representations of mental illness: Lessons learnt from a national project

<http://ezproxy.stevens.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=87697739&site=ehost-live>

Law & Disorder: The Portrayal of Mental Illness in U.S. Crime Dramas.

<http://ezproxy.stevens.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=111289781&site=ehost-live>

Max

Hollywood Schizophrenia

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/1786249290>

This source creates an argument that Hollywood depictions of “schizophrenia” are both misleading and misattributed: what is actually more commonly depicted is dissociative personality disorder, a mental disorder that is rarely diagnosed outside of the US. Furthermore, while Hollywood describes these cases of mental illness as dramatic shifts in personality from peaceful to violent and as a source of internal conflict for a person, in reality, schizophrenia patients rarely experience aggression, and more commonly experience retraction from society. Also, any aggression developed is usually gradual and easily seen by the people who they are close to. Hollywood also fails to capture the biological aspect of mental illness, and the possibility that mental illness was not a result of upbringing. However, the argument does detail some accurate points, such as the ability for Hollywood to accurately depict how schizophrenia patients relate and believe in the hallucinations and extra voices that can result from the disorder.

Timothy

How the media cover mental illnesses: a review

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/1854729282/EB5062AA0754499DPQ/3?accountid=14052>

This paper provides a general overview of how mental illnesses have been portrayed in works of media and relevant articles. The study finds that media portrayal tends to be dramatized and scientifically inaccurate. This incorrect and often negative portrayal of people with mental illnesses leads to members of the audience forming detrimental stereotypes that are then enhanced by other forms of media that generally have the same level of misrepresentation of mental illnesses. The paper also argues that with some revision, media can be used as a positive tool to properly inform and educate the general public about the mental illnesses and help to reduce the stigma that past works have helped to create and reinforce in society.

The portrayal of mental illnesses in prime-time television

<http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=731330c5-579c-4559-812c-7a5230d7da86%40sessionmgr101&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=11771635&db=aph>

This source analyzes how several different popular and socially-impactful television shows have tended to associated people with schizophrenia with violent crime, a negative quality of life, and an overall detrimental impact on general society. This is made especially concerning due to a past survey determining that adolescents and young adults, an age group that will soon become participants in government and parents in the foreseeable future, find the majority of their sources for mental illnesses. This problem is not specifically due to one particular show or network; rather, this trend is pervasive across multiple prime-time television shows and networks. This paper advises a three-pronged strategy to combat this trend that seeks a short-term, mid-term, and long-term solution and challenges current producers of media to be more fair with their material.