

The Impact of Migration on Long-Term Condition Management: An Ethnographic Study



About this poster:

This poster began as a review of literature around migration and long-term condition management. However, in the process of searching for and reading papers that fit the criteria for the review, and having taken the advice to 'be creative' quite literally from my supervisor (!), the idea began for a more visual approach to this poster.

A key critique of this literature is around the question of 'culture'. As a term, culture is used so widely and in so many ways, that it loses both meaning and critical application in this area of work. This lack of definition is problematic in terms of how culture is approached and conceptualised, and in the way in which differences in health behaviours are described as simplistic products of culture. It is also notable in this literature that whilst there are many papers focussed on aspects of long-term condition management for 'migrant' or 'immigrant' groups, this is for the most part used solely as a descriptive label (often muddled up with refugee, ethnic minority, and second/third/fourth etc generation migrants). The experience of migration, what it actually means to be a 'migrant' living in another social and cultural context, and how this contributes to (or complicates) health and wellbeing, is often not the main focus of the research.

The aim of this poster is to challenge the assumptions that go into research about cultural aspects of health and illness. The overall design of the poster is intended to look like a flag in order to represent identity as a key factor in relation to migration. Within this, each of the sections contains images to represent my study and my methodology in the context of this literature. The use of images rather than words serves two purposes: one, to challenge the way we process what we see and the way

that we draw conclusions about that (based on prior assumptions about what we already know); and two, to represent the methodological challenge of conducting research in another (second) language. Stitching the poster together is intended as a reflection of my understanding of culture as a multi-layered, textured, overlapping and messy concept to work with. However, the question still remains of what culture actually *is*: a question that the literature does not give a clear answer to. The pocket in the bottom section of the poster therefore contains images (from magazines, newspapers and the internet) of things and ideas that might (or might not) be associated with culture. Viewers are invited to take a card, and think about what (if anything) the image on the card says about culture.

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