Perceived stigma in AI-generated mental health imagery: an online study [Abstract]

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Objectives: The review examines the infringement of RAS' right to health, focusing on the mental health consequences of post-migration stressors faced upon arrival in the EU and the UK. It analyses how these post-migration stressors reflect a violation of human rights (HR), tracing the evolution of human rights theory from natural law to contemporary universal principles. It investigates how post-migration stressors exacerbate psychiatric symptoms in an already vulnerable population present in the EU and UK. It seeks to understand whether the EU faces a moral cosmopolitan duty of humanitarianism towards RAS, exploring the ethical and legal obligations of the EU and UK under key international HR frameworks.

Methods: A systematic search was conducted across several databases, including PubMed, ScienceDirect, and GoogleScholar. The search comprised keywords such as human rights, cosmopolitanism, health justice, post-migration stressors, refugees and asylum seekers, common european asylum system and mental health. Boolean Operators AND and OR were applied. Exclusion criteria included non-English/German/Italian publications, papers focused on non-european asylum policies or refugee populations outside the EU and UK, and study protocols. Studies were synthesised to provide a comprehensive overview of post-migration stressors in the EU and UK and a philosophical deduction of human rights.

Results: Both the EU and UK violate international HR law by failing to ensure the right to health for RAS. Empirical studies from Greece, Italy, and Germany document that post-migration stressors —such as inadequate housing, poor living conditions, and delays in asylum procedures—exacerbate mental health conditions like depression, post-traumatic-stress disorder, and anxiety. The recent reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) demonstrates the gap between legal commitments in international law and current migration policies. This further restricts access to asylum and (mental) healthcare, subjecting RAS to violence and inadequate care.

Conclusions: The EU's and UK's political and legal responses violate basic human rights of RAS, particularly their right to health, despite legal commitments to international HR treaties. This further exacerbates mental health conditions in RAS. A human rights-based approach, integrating mental health into migration policies, is crucial to protecting RAS' dignity and mental health. Until then, the EU and UK will continue to fall short of their moral and legal obligations.

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Perceived stigma in AI-generated mental health imagery: an online study

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Introduction: Artificial intelligence (AI) has enriched the everyday lives of many people and is used in a variety of ways, i.e. as a resource of medical information. One of the most popular AI functions is the generation of images of real-world settings. Recent research (Mei et al. ACM FAcct 2023; 1699-1710) has shown, that AI could reinforce prejudice and can be biased in its answers leading to stigmatization in the online world as well. This has dramatic consequences as stigma is known to affect mental health negatively (Pérez-Garín et al. Psychiatry Res. 2015; 228 325-331). Little is known, however, if and to what extend AI generated images reveal bias towards people with mental illness or corresponding institutions such as psychiatric clinics.

Objectives: The aim of this exploratory study is to investigate whether AI-generated images of psychiatric institutions, scenes, and severe mental illnesses are perceived as stigmatizing compared to other hospital scenes and severe illnesses from patients, mental health experts, and the general population in Germany.

Methods: Two researchers prompted three different AIs to generate various realistic medical scenes (prompts: person suffering from a severe mental illness, person suffering from a severe illness, mental health institution, hospital, psychiatric ward, hospital ward, incident in a mental health institution, incident in a hospital, electroconvulsive therapy session, cardiopulmonary resuscitation session). For each chatbot, one image per prompt was selected randomly for the following online survey. In a mixed subject design, participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups displaying the generated images of one AI. Then, they were asked to rate the images on SAM rating scales, adjective scales, to provide a title for the image, and to decide whether the image stigmatizes specific groups. The survey starts on November 2024 and a total sample size of 100 subjects is aimed for.

Results: Preliminary results will be presented at the congress.

Conclusions: This study examines the effects of AI-generated images on patients, experts and the general population. It attempts to find out whether and to what extent AI-generated images stigmatize people with severe mental illnesses and to what extent psychiatric institutions are portrayed realistically compared to general medical institutions and severe illnesses.

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A correlational study of Greek therapists' responses to sexual and erotic feelings during psychotherapy

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Introduction: Erotic and sexual feelings within therapy are complex phenomena which provide important information on aspects of both the client's and the therapist's relational self and hence bear great significance for the outcome of the therapy. The present correlational study examined Greek therapists' responses to sexual and erotic feelings during psychotherapy.