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Parsing the heterogeneity of Major Depression

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Propositions

Parsing the heterogeneity of Major Depression

Biological subtyping and other statistical approaches to unravel the causes of Major Depression

Lian Beijers

1. Only studies that include a comprehensive set of risk factors are able to determine their relevance for public health by establishing their relative importance. (Chapter 2)
2. Family history of depression is one of the most important risk factors for onset and recurrence of Major Depression, and should be taken into account when it comes to preventative efforts. (Chapter 2)
3. The gender gap in Major Depression prevalence remains stable after it arises early in life, and is likely a result of a higher risk of first onset in women. Efforts to reduce the prevalence of Major Depression in women should therefore include a focus on preventing first episodes in adolescent women. (Chapters 2-3)
4. To find biological subtypes that outperform the current classification, we should invest in gathering biological data relevant to the main hypotheses about the etiology/pathophysiology of depression. (Chapters 4-5)
5. Editors and reviewers should always request at least a post-hoc evaluation of the null hypothesis of no cluster structure, and discourage the use of techniques to artificially enhance cluster separation. (Chapters 5-6)
6. Since the choice of algorithm, fit index, and/or distance measure is largely arbitrary, researchers developing subtyping studies should routinely use a high number of analytical specifications. (Chapter 6)
7. The quality of a statistical model depends on the quality of the dataset and methodology, but also on the researcher's understanding of what they are doing. (this thesis)
8. If a model is consistent with reality, then the data should be consistent with the model. But if the data are consistent with the model, this does not imply that the model corresponds to reality.
Kenneth A. Bollen in Structural Equations with Latent Variables (p. 68)
9. You may have a view that you consider to be the truth, but if you cling to it, then that is the end of your free inquiring.
Thich Nhat Hanh
10. I-j kônt iemand wal veur, maor neet in de kop kieken.
(NL: je kunt wel naar, maar niet in iemands hoofd kijken)
Achterboeks gezegde