

CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Seminar Series

The University of Melbourne

**Mental health in the context of natural disasters -
insights into prevalence estimates, predictors, and
the efficacy of prevention programs**

Presenter : Ahlke Kip

Tuesday 12 November 2024

12.30pm - 1.30pm

**Seminar Room 515, Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street,
Carlton
and
Via Zoom**

**[https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83373571164?
pwd=bcwjkb5Bqv2a7KhYYLJsywiWLaQep.1&](https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83373571164?pwd=bcwjkb5Bqv2a7KhYYLJsywiWLaQep.1&)**

Password 380744

My presentation will commence with a brief overview of insights drawn from a living meta-analytic database examining the mental health consequences of natural disasters in the general population. It then moves on to present preliminary findings from a meta-analysis on the association of pre- (e.g., marital status), peri- (e.g., physical injury), and post-traumatic (e.g., loss of job) factors with mental disorders in the aftermath of natural disasters. This meta-analysis focuses on PTSD, depression and generalised anxiety disorder.

Addressing the compounded impact of additional conflict exposure, I will share findings from a study on survivors of the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes in Syria/Türkiye 2023. This longitudinal study explores mental health trajectories over the initial five months post-disaster and examines the role of cognitive predictors in these trajectories.

Finally, I will review the outcomes of a meta-analysis on the efficacy of prevention programs in mitigating symptoms of PTSD, depression, or anxiety following natural disasters, which includes interventions targeting both civilians and rescuers, and encompasses both selective and indicated prevention strategies.



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Ahlke Kip is a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Münster, Germany.

Her research interests include trauma-related guilt, forced displacement, and natural hazards' mental health impacts.

She currently coordinates three multi-centre trials on new treatment approaches for refugees in Germany. She is founding member of the meta-syn collaboration to promote high-quality meta-analytical research in clinical psychology.

These seminars are free. Visitors are welcome to attend.

For more information contact the Centre for Mental Health and Community Wellbeing +61 3 8344 0908