

Call for Abstracts: Special Issue of *Stress and Health*

Psychological Resilience of Workers in High-Risk Occupations

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Background

Occupations such as police officer, ambulance officer, fire fighter, and military personnel are considered, by nature of the duties involved, to be stressful or potentially traumatic. Because research has demonstrated risks for poor mental and physical health outcomes for workers subjected to stressful events in these occupations, managers within such organisations have an obligation to provide some form of psychological support to their staff.

To date, this psychological support has taken the form of stress management interventions, and employee assistance programmes; the primary intervention strategy that has been utilised is psychological debriefing. In response to mixed evaluations of the utility of these approaches in the scientific literature, there has been a turn toward a focus on prevention and building resilience in at-risk populations. Understanding the factors or attributes that contribute to psychological resilience may be directly transferable to the prevention of pathogenic outcomes due to the stressful nature of work, and may also be directly transferable to assist those who develop pathogenic sequelae.

To date, there is little agreement on how resilience should be conceptualised. Diverse definitions suggest that psychological resilience may be conceptualised as multidimensional rather than a single entity. Recent work also suggests that psychological resilience is able to be learnt, however, sound well tested conceptualisations of resilience are required as the basis of any programmes to deliver resilience training. This special issue will contribute to the theoretical understanding of psychological resilience to the stressful and traumatic nature of these high-risk occupations.

Purpose

This special issue will include papers which explore the conceptualisation of psychological resilience in individuals who work in high-risk or stressful occupations. In particular, we would seek manuscripts that address the following:

1. Theoretical papers which explore and critique the conceptualisation of resilience in the context of stressful work places.
2. Research studies that empirically test models of psychological resilience, or empirically test specific factors of psychological resilience that could be incorporated into multidimensional models.
3. Empirical studies that explore questions regarding the promotion of psychological resilience of workers in high-risk occupations.

Submission Process

The submission process will involve two stages.

1. The first stage will be the submission of an abstract outlining the proposed manuscript. At this stage, the editors will review the abstracts and invite people who best meet the purpose of the special issue to submit full manuscripts. This invitation is no guarantee that the submitted manuscript will be accepted for the special issue. The abstract should be submitted to Dr. Ian de Terte: i.deterte@massey.ac.nz by 30 April 2013. The guest editors will send out invitations to submit a full manuscript by 31 May 2013.

2. The second stage will involve invited authors submitting their manuscript for the special issue. The normal process of manuscript submission to Stress and Health and peer review will apply. See the journal guidelines at:
[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1532-2998/homepage/ForAuthors.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1532-2998/homepage/ForAuthors.html)
The manuscript must be submitted by 30 September 2013. The special issue will be published in 2014.