The LEAD Graduate School & Research Network at the University of Tübingen invites you to attend the lecture by

Prof. Stevan E. Hobfoll, Ph.D.
Rush University Medical Center

War and Terrorism’s Impact on the Self and Society: Facing Our Vulnerability and our Resiliency

Monday, April, 3rd 2017, 10.15-11.45 am
Alte Aula, Münzgasse 30, 72070 Tübingen

Abstract: Terrorism clearly has negative impact on individuals. Our research in Israel, the U.S., and Spain illustrates that degree of terrorism exposure, and the consequent resource losses that people experience, are the key factors in producing PTSD, anxiety, and depression. Individuals who lose key personal, social and material resources following political violence are particularly vulnerable to these effects. Schools are affected in many ways by such incidents. They can either be the place where severe violence takes place, e.g. in the case of school-shootings. On the other hand, teachers and school-administrators have to react responsibly to students’ loss of the sense of security in case of terrorist attacks, especially if students are among the offenders. Indeed, such losses can be as devastating as loss of loved ones because such resources are linked to family sustenance and survival. Beyond the impact on individuals, we find that terrorism results in increasing right-wing views associated with authoritarianism, ethnocentrism, and support for extreme political violence. At the same time, we must begin to understand the often parallel pathways of resilience and resistance to war and terrorism. We explore the epidemiology of resilience, how it might be defined, and how it interacts with resource loss and psychological distress. This more comprehensive viewpoint is critical for broadening our theoretical understanding of people’s responding to trauma within cultural context.

Biography: Dr. Stevan Hobfoll has authored and edited 12 books, including Traumatic Stress, The Ecology of Stress, Stress Culture and Community and The Imperfect Guardian (an historical novel set in Eastern Europe at the time of WWI). In addition, he has authored over 250 journal articles, book chapters, and technical reports. He has been a frequent workshop leader on stress, war, and terrorism, stress and health, and organizational stress. He has received over $18 million in research grants on stress. Dr. Hobfoll is currently the Judd and Marjorie Weinberg Presidential Professor and Chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Rush Medical College in Chicago. He was also a Senior Fellow of the Center for National Security Studies at the University of Haifa, Israel. Formerly at Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion Universities, and an officer in the Israeli Defense Forces, he remains involved with the problem of stress in Israel. Dr. Hobfoll was cited by the Encyclopædia Britannica for his contribution to knowledge and understanding for his Ecology of Stress volume and received lifetime achievement awards for his work on stress and health and traumatic stress from several scientific societies. He was co-chair of the American Psychological Association Commission on Stress and War during Operation Desert Storm, helping plan for the prevention of prolonged distress among military personnel and their families, member of the U.S. Disaster Mental Health Subcommittee of the National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB), and a member of APA’s Task Force on Resilience in Response to Terrorism. Dr. Hobfoll published the first randomized clinical trial on the prevention of HIV/AIDS in women. He has been a consultant to several nations, military organizations, and major corporations on problems of stress and health. His work on mass casualty intervention was designated as one of the most influential recent contributions to psychiatry.

His work is highly relevant to both teachers and students as schools are deeply reflective of major cultural shifts in the world around them. Moreover Schools can be a resource for recovery and the development of coping strategies.
Important Publications:

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