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Exploring the cultural-specific challenges and opportunities of the autism spectrum disorders populations in China and Hong Kong

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There is a wealth of evidence detailing the efficacy of interventions in the treatment of autism spectrum disorders. However, the existing research knowledge base on the use of this intervention in this population in regions outside of the United States and Europe is far more modest. In particular, there is limited data on the efficacy of applied behavior analysis in the treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorders residing in regions of greater China (e.g., the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong). To understand the treatment challenges faced by the families and service advocates for this clinical population, a review of treatment-based research studies and local community service providers were included to explore the possible cultural-specific challenges despite the diagnostic and neuropharmacological advances. Opportunities of effective pharmacological and behavioral strategies for the autism spectrum disorder populations in China and Hong Kong is explored.

Biography

Kay Chang is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Macau. She actively applies the scientist-practitioner framework in both her academic and clinical work since her graduation from the California School of Professional Psychology, Alameda. She is an US licensed Clinical Psychologist and an UK Chartered Clinical Psychologist who has a noticeably diverse experience base by having practiced in US, China, Hong Kong and Macau. She also volunteers for going consultations in abuse cases and disaster trauma work. Her research interests include the applied aspects of positive psychology, medical anthropology, professional development issues, addictive behaviors, creativity factors and resilient capacities.

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