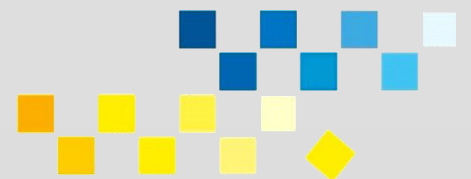


Immigrants in Denmark and suicidal behavior: Methodological experiences and the role of researching religion

Bo Andersen Ejdesgaard

Research Associate, Centre for Suicide Research, Odense, Denmark

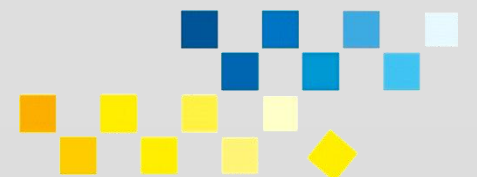


Centre for Suicide Research

Topics:

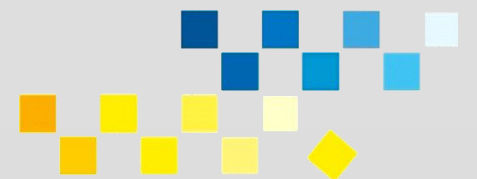
Study: Ejdesgaard B.A. (2009): *Suicidal behavior among ethnic minorities in Denmark*

- Definition of ethnic minorities
- Findings
- The role of researching religion
- Methodological experiences



Study

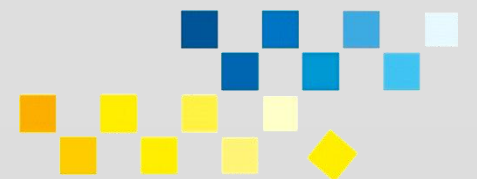
- Questionnaire survey
- 1733 adolescents from primary and secondary schools in Copenhagen, Aarhus and Odense with high density of “bilingual” pupils or adolescents with an “ethnic background other than Danish”
- 5,6% were immigrants from non-western countries
- 7,0% were descendants from non-western countries



Definition of ethnic minorities

Statistics Denmark 2005:

Immigrants and descendants from non-western countries.



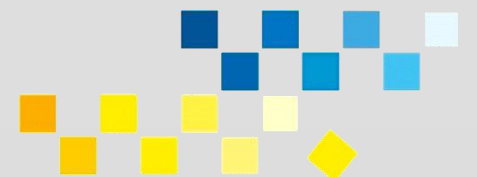
Definition of ethnic minorities

- Origin country:

Defined from mother's country of birth. If this is Denmark, country of citizenship is used. These rules apply to the father if mother's data is unknown

- Western countries:

EU-countries, Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, Vatican State, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand



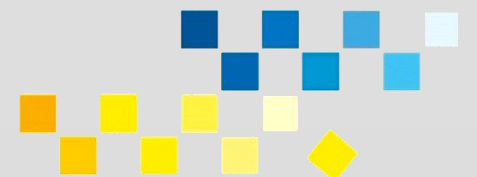
Definition of ethnic minorities

Immigrant from a non-western country:

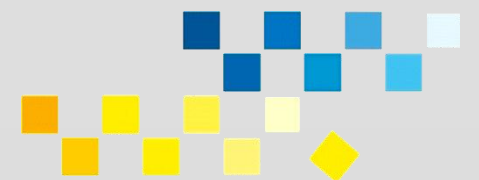
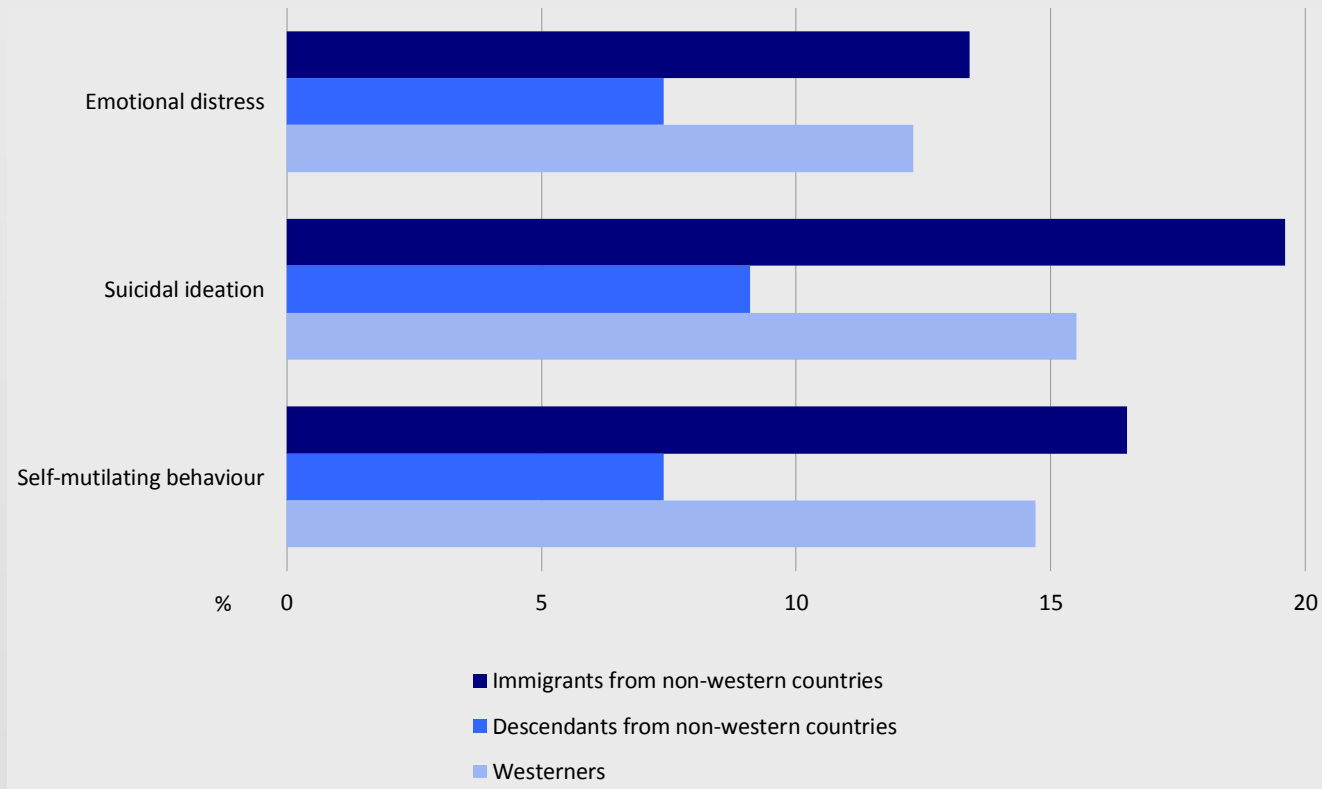
- Born in a non-western country
- Both parents are born in and/or have a citizenship from a non-western country

Descendant from a non-western country:

- Born in Denmark
- Both parents are born in and/or have a citizenship from a non-western country



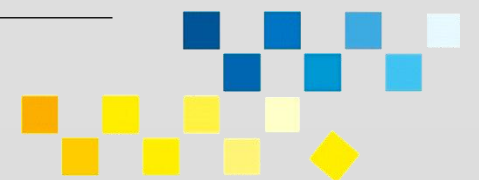
Findings



Findings

Reason for emotional distress	Ethnicity			Total (n=208)
	Westerners (n=186)	Immigrants from non- western countries (n=9)	Descendants from non- western countries (n=13)	
Close family	61,3% 1	66,7%	15,4% 0,13**	58,7%
Friends/schoolmates/colleagues	27,4% 1	66,7% 5,07*	15,4%	28,4%
Loneliness	31,2% 1	77,8% 12,03**	15,4%	32,2%
Personal problems	69,9% 1	44,4% 0,15*	53,9%	67,8%
Physical health	18,8% 1	0,0%	46,2% 4,16*	19,7%
Dependency of drugs/games/alcohol	6,5% 1	11,1%	23,1% 10,63*	7,7%
Money	19,9% 1	44,4%	38,5% 3,88*	22,1%

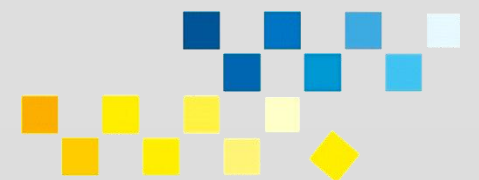
* p<0,05 ** p<0,01 *** p<0,0001



Findings

Why suicidal ideation didn't lead to self-mutilating behavior?	Ethnicity			Total (n=264)
	Westerners (n=234)	Immigrants from non-western countries (n=19)	Descendants from non-western countries (n=11)	
<i>My belief (religion) forbids or hinders me</i>	5,1%	42,1%	54,6%	9,9%
OR	1	17,28***	28,98***	

* p<0,05 ** p<0,01 *** p<0,0001



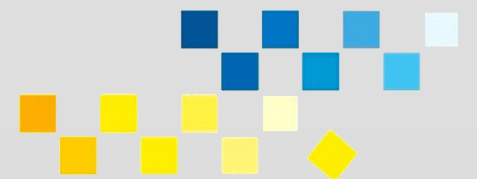
The role of researching religion

Belief/religion – definition?

Religion as a cultural aspect

Secular vs. non-secular countries

Geographical dichotomization



CULTURE - RELIGION



Model: Lilian Zöllner and Ninian Smart

Methodological experiences

Statistical power

The problem of studying two rare subgroups

Ethnic people outside the educating system

Geographical grouping

