Impact of Social Sciences on Addictions Studies, Treatment, Recovery Movement

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Bibliography available at INCASE booth
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Concept of Culture

“Culture” or total lifestyle of a group, major influence on addictions field. There are many cultures of addiction and cultures of recovery and healing.

Many subcultures of addicts are disconnected to a varying extent from their ethnic and community roots. “Suspended ethnicity”

Culture changes so rapidly that cultural competency trainings are often fatally anachronistic. “The past is a foreign country”
*homeless and “bottle gang” subcultures
*semi undomiciled street culture
*crack house subcultures
*barfly drinking cultures
*workplace cultures of drinking
*”rave” drug culture
*”blunt” & “burnout” pot user subculture
*fraternity and other college subcultures of drinking

Are some examples of substance abuse subgroups
**Sociological Concepts**

“Drunken Comportment” Disinhibited Behavior Largely Shaped by Culture (Mac Andrew and Edgerton)


Social Norms Theory of W. Wesley Perkins and Alan Berkowitz
Exaggerated Misperception of Peer Norms in re Alcohol and Drug Use – following imaginary peers. Basis for college prevention programs.

Stigma (Erving Goffman) Reduction of stigma large component of recovery oriented systems of care.

Recovery Capital concept of Grandfield and Cloud emerged from sociological “social capital” from Bordieu et al.

Social science concepts “crossed over” into Recovery/ROSC movement more than in prior addictions paradigms. (culture, recovery capital, stigma)
Anthropological concepts:
* AOD use rarely defined as deviant
* Acculturative stress and failure to assimilate major factor in AOD misuse
This should be included in assessment
*Native American recovery movement and “folk psychotherapies”, analogy to 12 step movements.
*Medical pluralism worldwide and the addictions field in the USA.
12 core functions taken directly from social work!

Entirely codependency & ACOA lit genre taken from family systems theory greats without attribution!