Maastricht University

(Genetic) epidemiology as a tool to identify risk factors for emergence and persistence of illness in the functional psychoses

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Postulations

1. The finding that the same factor is implicated in both onset and outcome of psychosis, in such a way that it can be differentiated from other indicators of risk, is suggestive of the existence of discrete effects (this thesis).

2. An empirical model of heterogeneity in the functional psychoses, based on risk factors for onset and persistence of illness, is a coherent starting point for clinical research aimed at primary and secondary prevention (this thesis).

3. The comparatively large changes in the ethnicity parameters in statistical models after adjusting for other variables, shows that ethnicity as a statistical concept is exceptionally confounded (this thesis).

4. Exploration of the functional significance of brain maturational processes in relation to the onset of psychosis around puberty could provide a challenging arena for the study of brain-behaviour relationships (Galdos et al, 1993).

5. The villainous reputation of the Spanish inquisition in the Netherlands does not match the available scientific material regarding this institution.

6. The amount of psychiatric morbidity, attributable to the actions of a scrupulous and largely unregulated British tabloid press is underestimated, and probably the only kind of psychiatric morbidity in Britain which is more prevalent in the highest social strata.

7. Quality of care in psychiatry is as frequently talked about as its measurability is underestimated.

8. Scientific research should be curiosity driven.

9. Schizophrenia research: the case of the missing controls.

10. Concise reporting is desirable, but the most parsimonious interpretation does not always do justice to the data.

11. Only after the first multi-centre collaboration has been completed, does one really know enough to safely conduct a multi-centre collaboration, if one still has the stomach for it.