Here, there and everywhere? A multi-national project on gelotophobia, the fear of being laughed at

Summary / Zusammenfassung
This project is part of a broader project relating to the study of gelotophobia, the fear of being laughed at. Our prior research showed that while gelotophobia is more prevalent in certain groups of patients, tremendous individual differences exist among normal adults. Nowadays, gelotophobia is studied as an individual differences phenomenon at a sub-clinical level. Studies conducted with adults from the German language area (Switzerland, Germany, and Austria) suggested that the prevalence of gelotophobic symptoms in these samples was between 5 and 10%. The aims of the current study are, among others, to (a) provide evidence for the existence of the phenomenon in different countries, (b) evaluate the psychometric properties of an instrument for the subjective assessment of gelotophobia, and (c) evaluate the effects of putative causes of that fear. Researchers from more than 45 countries from all continents and all cultural regions were invited to participate in the multi-national study. The study involves the administration of one instrument for the assessment of gelotophobia which will be adapted to the culture (using a standardized translation and back-translation procedure). The scale and all translations will be available as a free research instrument to anyone interested in gelotophobia research from a Web site of the initiators of the project that accompanies the project. Data from close to 80 countries are already available. Follow-up projects also involve the cross-cultural assessment of gelotophilia (the joy in being laughed at) and katagelasticism (the joy of laughing at others).


Publications / Publikationen


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