Torture sequelae in the therapeutic space - Challenges in working with refugees

Modification of the grounded theory coding paradigm to fit the research question and material

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Background

- torture sequelae in refugee population are prevalent, challenging & a neglected topic in research
- social science professionalization research is a helpful perspective to examine challenges in psychosocial work

Method

Research question requires qualitative methodologies

- Interaction-orientated narrative interviews according to Riemann (2000)
- Grounded theory methodology according to Strauss and Corbin (1996) as a thematic analysis strategy for action-theoretical questions
- open, axial & selective coding as iterative procedure

Research issue

How do professionals in the therapeutic field work with people who have experienced torture?
How do they reflect on and overcome the challenges of counseling and therapeutic interaction?

Need for modification

Premise: Key questions of the coding paradigm must match the research question and material.

- the temporal-causal sequence of actions must be supplemented by the central dialogical element of the client-professional relationship
- a mode of cooperation is established in the interaction
- an understanding of the actions of the professionals is relevant for the professional-sociological research question; as with Tiefel (2005), personal and professional orientations must therefore be included

Material

- the interview transcripts contain detailed case narratives that allow for the reconstruction of reflections and actions in the work with people who have experienced torture
- the professionals describe the client and their own actions in interaction with each other

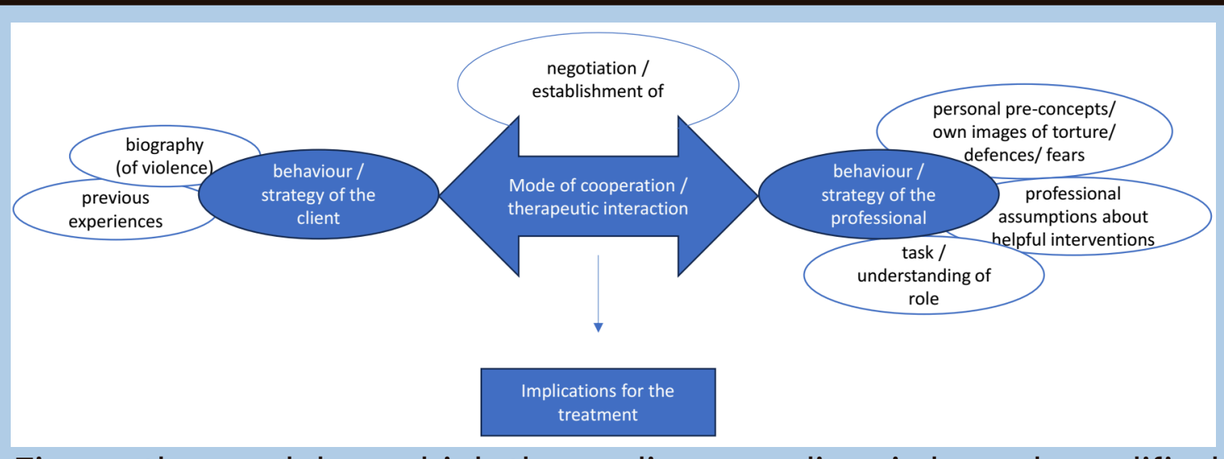


Figure: the model on which the coding paradigm is based, modified after Arthur Kleinman (1984)

Questions of the coding paradigma

based on a challenge in work as a central phenomenon to be analyzed:

1. How does the professional perceive the client?
2. How does the professional perceive themselves?
3. How does the professional shape the therapeutic interaction in negotiation with the client? What mode of cooperation do the parties establish?
4. What consequences does the mode of cooperation have for the professional's work?

References

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