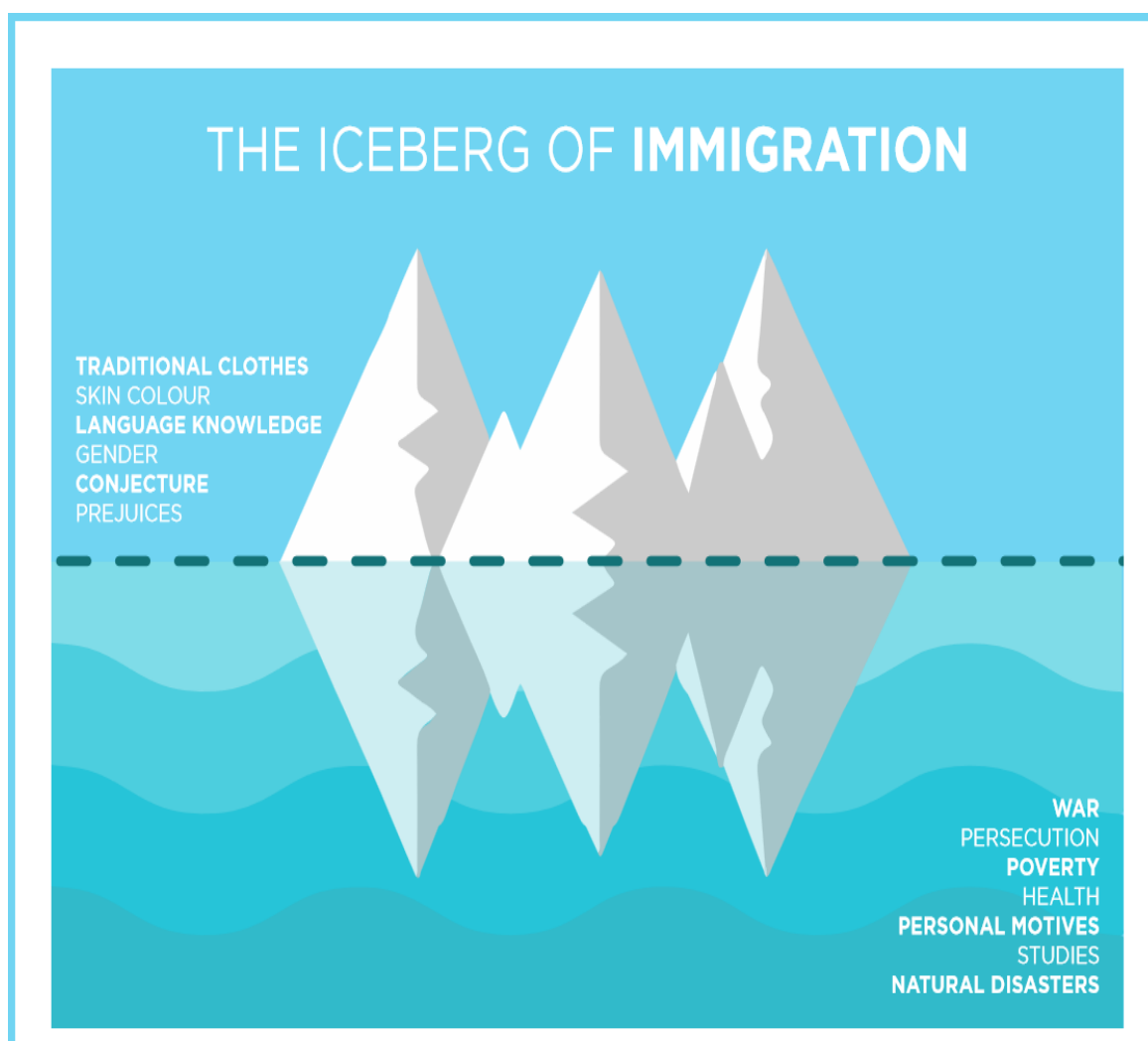


The Iceberg of Immigration

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Danijela Belosevic and Lucía Ferri



The Iceberg of Immigration: save me a place

This lecture is based on our professional experience in the Caritas Migration Service, which advises clients in their first three years of residency in Germany, as well as longer-term migrants in need of integration support. Consultations are performed on a mainly one-to-one basis, and offer psychosocial support in the areas of rights, housing, work and school, mental health, and language acquisition. In addition, we work with local networks and can provide case management for acute cases involving multiple actors in the community.

We believe that an effective psychosocial service is contingent upon an accurate understanding of our clients' individual migration histories; as such experiences have important implications for their ability to face current integration challenges.

Currently, the challenge of integration is exacerbated by housing shortages and discrimination in the housing market, forcing migrants to endure prolonged stays in emergency accommodations, and ultimately segregating the migrant community from the local population. Contact with the local population is integral not only to migrants' successful integration, but also to the development of the receiving society itself - a challenge addressed by our Young Caritas project "*Culture Buddies*".

In the final section of our lecture we illustrate our case management through the example of a psychosocial intervention involving a homeless young father. In doing so, we show how the psychological concepts of positive and negative reinforcement can be employed to affect client behavior, with the ultimate goal of striking a balance between helping on the one hand, and the activation of self-sufficiency on the other.

Keywords: migration, psychosocial services, challenge, integration, reinforcement