

**COMMUNICATION TITLE:**

Hostility, anger, mistrust and biopsychosocial wellbeing of refugees, asylum-seekers  
and immigrants: a review and a study proposal

**SPEAKER:**

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**ABSTRACT**

The scientific literature has repeatedly underlined the harmful impact of prejudice and discrimination on the biopsychosocial wellbeing of refugees, asylum-seekers and immigrants (hereafter RASI). Despite of this evidence, many studies have revealed that this population in general, and irregular immigrants and asylum-seekers in particular, mistrust and are mistrusted by Government Agencies and the society in general. Tough laws on migration and refugee matters, externalization of asylum, increased fear of detention and/or deportation, negative media views, and even, mistrust and prejudice experienced at public health services seem to lead to a state of constant fear and mistrust. In other words, while the negative experiences that RASI undergo in society or in public services (Home Office, health and social agencies, or others) damage their wellbeing, they also tend to mistrust or even refuse support from professionals, whose help they badly need. More studies are needed, that focus on the impact of anger, hostility and mistrust on the relationship of RASI with helping professionals. This is particularly important for studies using information from RASI, as well as the professionals who have experience in providing care for them.