

Special Issue

Intrusive Thoughts, Mental Imagery, and Rumination: Shared Cognitive Vulnerabilities Across Disorders and Implications for Suicide Risk

Message from the Guest Editors

A growing body of research continues to shine a light on the role of mental imagery in suicidal ideation, which may, on account of the emotional intensity and perceived realism of these images, increase the likelihood of suicidal behaviors. Similar mechanisms may be responsible for other forms of maladaptive behavior and symptom maintenance, such as compulsions, avoidance, or self-harm. For example, intrusive mental imagery may contribute to heightened emotional reactivity in PTSD or play a role in the urge-driven nature of NSSI. Further, mental imagery may be related to, or interact with, other cognitive processes, such as rumination, autobiographical memory, attentional dysregulation, and inhibitory control, to exacerbate distress and contribute to maladaptive behaviors, including those related to self-injurious behaviors.

Thus, this Special Issue seeks to advance our understanding of suicide risk by examining the cognitive, emotional, and neurobiological processes underlying intrusive thoughts and mental imagery across mental disorders.

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