EAPL-S TRAVEL GRANT 2025 WINNER: YEASIR YUNUS

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

Md Yeasir Yunus is a PhD researcher at the University of Portsmouth studying how autobiographical memory and cultural context influence asylum interviews. Drawing on a mixed-methods approach, which includes a systematic review and meta-analysis, qualitative interviews, and ongoing experimental studies, his work examines how communication barriers, trauma-related memories, and culturally bound concepts influence the asylum interview experience. For example, his meta-analysis found that nearly 40% of asylum seekers suffer from PTSD, which varies across different cultural contexts. Also, the in-depth interviews with the asylum seekers and refugees revealed that they frequently face language barriers and cultural misunderstandings of many concepts that distort their testimonies during interviews. Additionally, rapport with interviewers and understanding the importance of certain information influence their willingness to disclose sensitive experiences. He expects that his project will contribute to improving public services and advancing social justice, with broad implications for legal and forensic interviewing across diverse populations.