



# **ISPS Executive Board Elections 2009**

## **STATEMENTS OF NOMINEES**

## **Chris Burford**

ISPS has courageously continued for over fifty years to protect and promote psychologically sensitive help for people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia and other psychoses, but sometimes our members have been working in relatively isolated situations.

Now, as the decade of the brain is over, scientific reductionism is collapsing. There is no one gene for schizophrenia. There is no one medication that "cures" it. Early intervention services for psychosis have started in many parts of the world. We now know that psychotic experiences lie on a continuum with normal experiences in the population. For many these experiences are passing ones. For all, there is real hope of recovering self-respect and agency over their lives. Where there has been a history of trauma, it is possible to move on from this. Each life journey is unique. Each individual is unique, and must not be treated merely as vehicle for a "diagnosis".

The first issue of our new journal, "Psychosis", with John Read as editor, is a signal of how far we have come and how the tide is turning.

I have been a member of the committee of ISPS UK since 1999, and of the international executive committee of ISPS since 2006. As moderator I have built up Yahoo email information/discussion groups for the UK and internationally, ISPSUK and ISPS-INT, networking over 500 people. With our improved website, there are exciting possibilities to use a variety of other communications to build a really powerful global network. We now bring together committed people with a wide variety of methods of helping people with many diverse syndromes and different life journeys. In each country, people must have the choices of what will help them best. This needs a total approach insisting on comprehensive, personally flexible services.

Our goal is nothing less than far better services for 10 million people in the world, vulnerable to experiences and diagnoses of psychosis. I am keen to work with all others in ISPS to achieve that breakthrough on a world scale, in the next three years.

## **Martin Cosgro**

In 1984, while an undergraduate student, and working as a psychiatric technician, I had my first significant experience with someone recovering from psychosis (while I was interacting with her!!). Since that time I have worked in in-patient, out-patient, and residential treatment settings, and have watched people recover from psychotic conditions in each of these settings, including a state hospital and state prison. With such experiences behind me, I have great confidence in the ability of individuals to recover from psychotic conditions and the role that psychotherapy and other psychosocial interventions can play in this process. I continue to work at a state prison and in part-time practice.

My experience with ISPS dates back to 1994 at the International Symposium in Washington D.C., when I presented my first of several papers. I joined the US chapter in 2003, and have been actively involved since. Taking on editorship and renovation of our web site in 2004 was my first venture into helping shape the organization. As a co-founder of the Southern California branch with Mary Madrigal in 2005, we went on to host the 8<sup>th</sup> annual ISPS-US conference, "Trauma and Psychosis". I've also been actively involved with renovating the ISPS International website (please see it at [ISPS.org](http://ISPS.org) if you haven't taken a look yet). After being elected Vice President of the US chapter, I initiated regular executive board retreats (working retreats where we have established clear and prioritized goals.) We have been able to focus our efforts more productively and this fall's conference will yield some of this growth.

ISPS has a unique role to play in the world in that we are engaged with the core of intense human suffering and because of that, are in a position to shed light on this global human condition. As we engage the world in a dialog about the human experience behind these symptoms we call psychosis, we have the opportunity to shed more light on all of the deepest human experiences. (Forgive me if this seems grandiose!) For us to forge ahead, as an alternative to well established and well funded biological approaches, we will need to become more mindful of the economics of such an undertaking. We'll need policies and procedures to guide our spending habits, as well as how to ensure the organization benefits properly from our efforts. We need to establish clear financial goals and the means to achieve them. Finding sources of on-going financial support, prioritized spending, and concrete goals for reaching out to educate the public and consumers are simple steps we can take to ensure our future efforts to make meaningful treatment of psychosis a viable option for increasing numbers of people throughout the world.

## Brian Koehler

I am a psychologist-psychoanalyst and currently an executive board member of ISPS and chair of ISPS-US. I was a founding member of ISPS-US, along with David Feinsilver and Ann-Louise Silver. I and my wife, Julie Kipp, were the founding editors of the ISPS-US Newsletter, which can be found online at our website ([www.isps-us.org](http://www.isps-us.org)). Julie was both treasurer and secretary of ISPS-US for many years. I am an Assistant Editor of our new ISPS journal "Psychosis," and co-chair of the ISPS-US Research Committee along with Courtenay Harding and Yulia Landa. I have presented at many ISPS international and national conferences since 1994. In 1996, I organized a New York City Branch of ISPS which continues to meet monthly at New York University. We are the largest and oldest branch of ISPS-US. I and our dedicated group in NYC chaired the last, very successful, annual conference of ISPS-US at New York University. It has required a great deal of work to keep the meetings continuously running, but it has been an eminently worthwhile project. Many persons attend any one particular meeting and besides the educational value, the meetings have provided clinicians and researchers with opportunities to connect and form relationships. Our meetings are also open to persons diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder as well as their families.

I have been working professionally as a psychologist since the late 1970s. I trained for eight years as a psychoanalyst at the Postdoctoral Program at New York University and completed an intermediate-level training in CBT at the Institute of Behavior Therapy in New York in the early 1990s while working at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, NY. I have worked in city and state psychiatric hospitals as a supervising psychologist and have been in private practice since the 1980s. I was an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in NY, teaching psychotherapy to psychiatric residents. I am an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Postdoctoral Program as well as in the School of Social Work at New York University, as well as at the City University of New York, teaching courses on an integration of psychosocial and neuroscience perspectives on severe psychiatric disorders as well as psychopharmacology. I am also a faculty member and supervisor at several psychoanalytic institutes in New York City. I have given many papers in many different countries, often touring their mental health systems and speaking with a range of clinicians and researchers. I have made many friends in Europe and in the United States, and for this I have ISPS to thank. While working as a supervising psychologist at Rockland Psychiatric Center, NY, I had the opportunity to study the neuroscience and genetics of psychiatric disorders through ongoing lectures and library research at the Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research. Part of my life's work has been to bridge the gap between the psychosocial and neuroscience domains of inquiry into the complex etiology and mutative treatments of the schizophrenias and bipolar disorders. In my book-in-progress, "The Schizophrenias: Brain, Mind and Culture, I attempt to establish a "tri-ologue" between these three domains of inquiry. I have published many articles and papers in such journals as Psychotherapy Research, the Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry, Psychoanalytic Dialogues, etc. I have also published chapters in the ISPS Book Series. I have served as a reviewer for such journals as Schizophrenia Bulletin and the International Journal of Psychoanalysis. I maintain a large private practice in Manhattan, in which I see many persons diagnosed with a severe mental disorder in long-term psychotherapy. Medicare reimbursement allows patients on psychiatric disability to be seen multiple sessions a week for many years.

I believe that one of the goals of ISPS should be to internationally make psychosocial approaches more accessible to persons suffering from a severe psychiatric disorder. I believe in establishing and maintaining dialogues, cross-culturally, between clinicians, researchers, patients themselves, as well as their families and support systems. ISPS is an excellent resource in which clinicians from other countries can learn from each other. I also believe in the importance of doing research and education on the efficacy of psychotherapeutic approaches so as to benefit more patients. Establishing ongoing outreach projects, such as what our New York City Branch of ISPS-US is doing by our monthly meetings, is critical for recruiting new members, as well as establishing new branches and chapters (local groups) of ISPS. At some

point efforts can be further made to help establish local groups in Africa, Asia and South America. Establishing dialogue between clinicians and healers in these countries, e.g., in Nepal which is currently lacking mental health resources to deal with the effects of the last war, could potentially benefit all parties involved.

## **Klaus Lehtinen**

I was born in 1951, have been married since 1971 and we have three grown-up children. I was fortunate to get my psychiatric training at the Turku University Psychiatric Clinic where I worked during 1979-1991 in different positions. In 1991 our family moved to Tampere where I finished my thesis and worked as a senior lecturer at the Tampere University with different clinical positions at the Tampere University Hospital. For the last three years I have been working there as the director of the department of adult psychiatry.

From 1980 I have been involved with the development of the needs adapted approach where my interest has been especially in family interventions and integration of different therapeutic modalities into the need adapter approach. This work has included working as a lecturer, trainer and consultant in different mental health services in Finland and abroad. I have received family therapy and psychoanalytic psychotherapy training. Since 1984 I have worked as a family therapy trainer.

In my present work, being in charge of psychiatry at Tampere University Hospital, I am trying to promote the use of psychotherapeutic means in the treatment of psychoses. I am most troubled with the current reductionistic trends in psychiatry and feel that ISPS provides a most important network to maintain, develop and endorse more comprehensive approaches.

I have been in the board for one term now and feel it important to continue for another if elected. My specific responsibilities have been being editor of the Newsletter and working with the Web-pages.

## Brian Martindale

I am currently the Series Editor for the ISPS Book Series. I am standing for the ISPS executive again because it is my view that the next phase of the ISPS requires effective and professional marketing strategy for the Book Series and Journal which will be best effected by representation on the Board.

There is undoubtedly a change of climate in recent years with respect to psychosis. Pharmaceutical companies and pharmaceutical effectiveness are under far greater scrutiny, persons with mental illness and their families are increasingly vocal in expressing their dissatisfactions with poor quality services with their often limited range of professional skills. ISPS members have much to demonstrate how clinical care and therapy can be improved. Effective marketing of our products could contribute to ISPS's influence and to the organisation being in a better financial position to extend its influence in training and other projects, such as that in Stavropol (Russia) supported by our ISPS colleagues in Norway.

My other ISPS involvement:

- ISPS international committee (94-05);
- Chair, organising committees, ISPS 1997 (London);
- Drafted ISPS constitution (laying foundations for the development of local chapters, widening the functioning of ISPS from one organised an international conference every three years to one having additional functions).
- Founding chair ISPS UK (97 -04); saw its development through to a vigorous multimodality network.
- Since moving from London in 2005, I have played a part in developing an ISPS presence in the north east of the UK, through organising annual conferences and other events.
- Initiator and series editor ISPS book series (Routledge). By June 2009 ten books in four years.
- Lead editor of the ISPS book *Psychosis: Psychological Approaches and their Effectiveness* (Gaskell, 2000)

I have a strong interest in effective organisations, believing them to be as essential for professional life as a well functioning family is for personal life. Prior to my ISPS involvement, together with colleagues we set up the European Federation of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in the Public Sector (EFPP). I represented Psychiatry in Western Europe to the World Psychiatric Association from 1999-2005 and currently am on the WPA Educational Committee where I chair an sub-committee that is setting international guidelines for psychiatrists in early intervention in psychosis.

In my work for ISPS at international and national level, I have aimed to create meeting points for diverse ways of thinking about psychosis, whilst at the same time holding onto my experience that psychodynamic / psychoanalytic thinking has a very rich part to play in understanding the difficult human issues involved. ISPS has been one of the most satisfying organisations to have been a part of and I am motivated to contribute to the continuing development of the organisation whether re-elected or not.

## **Margreet de Pater**

I never fitted in clinical psychiatry. When I was a medical resident my first psychotic patient didn't want to talk to me. He said 'he was in the sky'. I thought that was very understandable because he was in a ward with 20 other patients. It was very, very noisy and I had to speak loudly. I would also be in the sky if I was locked up in such a place. My teacher asked me what that told about the state of that patient. Well I said he is in the sky because it is very noisy in the ward. Wrong said my teacher. This answer means that he has schizophrenia! This relation between me and my teacher resembles my relation with clinical psychiatry in the 30 years that I am a psychiatrist.

Working with families of people with a severe mental illness has been my main specialization. I find crisis intervention crucial in the process, I hope that by helping the family to contain the psychotic behavior from the very beginning I make it safer for the psychotic person and hence he can better integrate his psychotic experiences.

Together with Ad van der Ree, he was in Holland a famous family therapist; I developed the so-called transmural family guidance. From the very first crisis, families are involved in the treatment.

Further activities: I am a teacher in community psychiatry for psychiatric residents. I give courses in working with families for psychiatric clinicians. I am a member of the board of the section psychiatry and system [in formation] of the Dutch Association for Family Therapy, a member of the section community psychiatry of the Dutch Association for Psychiatry and chairperson of ISPS network Netherlands-Flanders

What can I do as a member of the board of the ISPS? I believe that the ISPS is a platform for researchers and practitioners who have very diverse ideas, but they all share their love for persons who suffer from psychoses and working with their feet in the mud to help them make life better. ISPS can be a meeting point and an inspiration for them to go on with their difficult work. I'm honored that the members of the board of the network Netherland-Flanders have nominated me. If chosen I will do my best to develop the ISPS further in this direction.

## **John Read**

I worked for twenty years in the USA, UK and New Zealand with people who experience psychosis - as a Clinical Psychologist and a Service Manager. For the past 15 years I have been at the University of Auckland, where I am an Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology. I have published over 50 research papers, mostly about the social causes of psychosis, about stigma, and about the damaging role of the pharmaceutical industry.

I joined ISPS in 2000 and have served on the Executive Committee since 2003 (as Secretary since 2006). I have the honour of being the first Editor of the new ISPS scientific journal '*Psychosis: Psychological, Social and Integrative Approaches*'. I also negotiated the contract for the journal (on behalf of the Executive Committee) with Routledge and was responsible for most of the administrative work involved in getting the journal off the ground. I am the Coordinating Editor of the 2004 ISPS book '*Models of Madness: Psychological, Social and Biological Approaches to Schizophrenia*' (with Professors Loren Moshier and Richard Bentall).

I believe ISPS is the most important international organisation in the field of psychosis and am committed to it. My own goals if re-elected (beyond establishing the journal as a leading publication in the field) are to facilitate the growing understanding between members representing different therapeutic models, to develop our focus on the psycho-social causes of and solutions to psychosis (including primary prevention), and to encourage greater involvement of service users/experience-based experts within ISPS.

## **Michael Robbins**

I am a psychoanalyst with four decades of clinical experience in the intensive treatment of psychotic persons, for more than 25 years at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts and currently in private practice. At McLean I held administrative, consulting and teaching positions. I was professor at the Harvard Medical School and University of California San Francisco. I have been on the faculties of psychoanalytic institutes in Boston and San Francisco. My interest in the way mind works has led to publication of numerous articles in the major psychoanalytic journals as well as two books, *Experiences of Schizophrenia* (Guilford, 1993) and *Conceiving of Personality* (Yale, 1996). My most recent book about what I call primary mental activity, that underlies both the psychoses and many ordinary or “normal” phenomena of everyday life, will be published by Routledge within a year.

I joined ISPS 15 years ago and was on the plenary panel at the 1994 ISPS conference in Washington, DC. I was keynote speaker at the 1997 ISPS conference in London, I am on the plenary panel of this year’s conference in Copenhagen. I designed and moderated an on-line ISPS seminar on psychoanalysis and psychosis.

I have watched ISPS expand from its roots as an every third year conference or exchange of ideas about psychosis among psychoanalytically oriented persons into an organization of persons from all parts of the world with diverse backgrounds, interests and goals, united by a common humanistic concern: the psychological study and treatment of psychotic persons. The expansion of our organization is a reflection of the fact that psychosis is not only a personal tragedy but one of the major problems of our society. What I have to offer ISPS is the philosophy that in order to achieve its goals, ISPS must remain grounded in the effort to understand how the psychotic mind works. Although my professional approach is psychoanalytic I do not believe that any single discipline has all the information about understanding and treating psychosis. I value multi-disciplinary approaches to problems, and support efforts to integrate different points of view, as illustrated by the two panels I have organized for the 2009 Copenhagen meeting and my 1993 book. If elected I will encourage dialogue and exchange of ideas among persons who represent different disciplines and approaches to psychosis, both within the organization and between members and the larger social community.

## **Bent Rosenbaum**

Specialist in Psychiatry, MDsci., Associate research professor, Copenhagen University.  
Head of the Unit for Psychotherapy Education and Research, Psychiatric University Hospital Glostrup. Training analyst in the Danish Psychoanalytic Society and currently president of that society. Former president of the Danish Psychiatric Society (1998-2000).

The psychopathology and treatment of persons with schizophrenia has been one of my main interests since the midst of the 1970'es where I as a young doctor spent 5 years of my life living with the patients on the hospital ground of the biggest mental hospital in Denmark (1600 patients). In this period of my life, I so to speak got the phenomenology and the subjective experience of the patients under my skin.

The teaching from these early years of my career and my interest in semiotics, psychoanalysis and philosophy let me to write a book of "The language of psychosis" (NYU Press 1986) and to become the leader of the Danish part of the Nordic Investigation of the Psychotherapy of Schizophrenia (NIPS) which started in 1983 and was conducted together with Yrjö Alanen, Endre Ugelstad, Rolf Sjöström and Bengt-Aake Armelius.

Since 1983 I have regularly participated in the Congresses of ISPS. I was for a short time member of the ISPS international board after the congress in Torino (1988). I have always believed that ISPS was one of the few international fora for intensive and open-minded discussions of how we best can understand and thus help those who suffer from the psychotic states of the mind. In spite of the suffering in these states, I also believe that mankind may learn from the important creative capacities of these minds.

Besides having been regional leader of the NIPS project, I have been the leader of the Danish National Schizophrenia project (a prospective, comparative, longitudinal multicentre study of three kinds of treatment, with a follow-up of five years) which began in 1997 and is currently publishing papers on psychotherapeutic and psychosocial treatment methods. Furthermore, I have been engaged in a Danish study on prodromal signs to schizophrenia which started 2004 and from which papers and PhDs are emerging.

My research production in national and international journals and my books have been centred around the subjects: the psychopathology and disordered thinking in schizophrenia, the psychotherapy of individuals with schizophrenia, personality disorders and severe trauma, research methodology, psychoanalysis and semiotics.

Finally, I have been a member of the ISPS-International board during the period 2006-2009.