

find more information about those webinars later on in this Newsletter. The local ISPS groups of US, UK, Norway and Russia have their own ISPS Youtube channels and the ISPS email discussion groups make it possible for members to find each other in an accessible way. Information about initiatives and therapies for psychosis are easily exchanged and some interesting topics are discussed by these online social media.

The EC was active as well and hosted a well-attended webinar about 'Covid-19 and Psychosis' on June 25th 2020. We collected more than 25 stories and a call for new stories will be send out to make it possible that a second webinar on this theme can be organised in November 2020 where the triologue model of ISPS will be respected. You will find a report of the past webinar in June in this Newsletter and more information about the new webinar will come very soon. The EC, on behalf of ISPS members, became a signatory of a [petition against racism and social injustice in mental health](#). This was the starting point for the EC to think about organizing a task force for diversity. We are against exclusion, stigmatization, hatred, violence, abuse of power, racism and all kind of discrimination. The EC will further consider how to reach people who are on the inside and not only by email (to the predominantly white and middle class) ISPS membership for joining the taskforce. As the EC is also thinking how funds can be allocated by ISPS to address diversity issues, the theme of diversity will be present in the upcoming meetings of the EC. If you have ideas, please send them to us (isps@isps.org).

Many people are doing an excellent job behind the scenes for the ISPS journal Psychosis and for the ISPS Book Series. This is important work for ISPS because the knowledge can be preserved in a consistent way. The Open Dialogue book edited by Nick Putman and Brian Martindale, an admirable complete volume with many authors from the field, is nearly ready to be published. Also Jos De Kroon and his team are busy working on the ISPS Rotterdam Conference book 'Stranger in the City'.

Finally a precious germ is being prepared by Maurizio Peciccia and his organizing committee in Italy who are working very hard for the Perugia conference in September 2021. The call for abstracts is now open and I advise you to visit the promising [conference website](#). Fingers crossed that we can meet each other in person next Summer!

Ludi Van Bouwel
Chair of ISPS



ISPS Webinar on Covid-19 and Psychosis

On 25th June, the ISPS EC arranged a webinar on Covid-19 and psychosis. The aim of the webinar was to learn from experience in the time of the pandemic from people with lived experience, family members and professionals. Approximately 100 people from all over the world participated and engaged in the chat during the two-hour webinar.

The webinar was divided into two parts:

The first part was a triologue between three panelists. Barry Floyd from the US,

Bert Stavenuiter from the Netherlands and Dag Söderström from Switzerland, wonderfully moderated by Rai Waddingham from the UK. The discussion centered around three questions:

- 1) What are your experiences from the beginning of the pandemic and did your experiences change over time?
- 2) What changes did you notice in the relationship between people with psychosis susceptibility, family members (and other loved ones) and practitioners? What was the effect of less contact with environment, social distancing and what was the effect of other ways of contact facetime, phoning, greetings across the streets etc.
- 3) What changes would you like to save for the future?

The second part was a discussion, of the "coronavirus stories" on psychosis and Covid-19 collected by the ISPS EC before the webinar took place, which was moderated by Debra Lampshire from New Zealand.

The stories we received were from all around the world: from India, USA, Greece, The Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Chile, and Italy. There were stories from experts by experience, family members, and healthcare workers. Most of the stories were from people who have experienced psychotic episodes themselves and were narratives about how they coped during the pandemic. Even though the pandemic caused a lot of anxiety and for some contributed to a new psychotic episode blaming themselves for the viruses, many described how they settled after a while and enjoyed the tranquility the lockdown caused. Some of the themes that stood out from the stories were that the isolation was not a big problem and led to less pressure, creativity and flexibility in finding other ways to connect and learning new skills, how some experienced that their relationships became more profound and deeper, and they felt equality in the sense that we are all in this together.

We experienced the webinar as an important and useful platform to keep in touch with our members and friends around the world. Because of our positive experience with the first one, we are now planning a new ISPS webinar this winter.

Cecilie Brøvig Almås, Debra Lampshire and Dag Söderström
on behalf of the ISPS Executive Committee

Coming soon! COVID-19 and Psychosis webinar

The ISPS EC are preparing a second webinar on COVID-19 and psychosis, planned to take place on 24th November. There will be a Trialogue and Rai Waddingham will be the discussion moderator once again.

More news will be announced in the coming days at www.isps.org

Welcome to Perugia for ISPS 2021



Abstract submission is open!

The scientific committee is pleased to invite authors to submit their abstracts to be delivered at the 22nd International Conference of the International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis (ISPS):

"Co-Constructing Healing Spaces" in Perugia, Italy, 1st-5th September 2021

The organizers welcome the submission of abstracts for original contributions to the field in the following ISPS 2021 thematic areas:

- closing asylums / open healing spaces
- intersubjectivity and psychosis
- family intervention
- early interventions
- trauma, stress, illness and psychosis
- COVID pandemic in therapeutic communities
- creativity and new therapies for psychosis

(All abstract authors are asked to choose the closest relevant thematic area during the submission process)

How to submit your abstract

Follow these easy steps:

1. Decide on whether you wish to submit a paper, workshop, panel/symposium, meet the author, session or poster
2. Select a theme/topic from the suggested list
3. Prepare a 300 word abstract
4. Submit your abstract [here](#)

Types of submissions:

It is possible to present scientific contributions verbally, in symposiums (in English or Italian) or by submitting a poster. Recently published books may also be presented.

- Papers - 20 minutes with 10 minutes for discussion
- Panels/Symposia - 90 minutes. May include two, three, or more participants
- Performance/Workshop - 90 minutes, opportunity for active audience participation and learning
- Meet the Author - 30 minutes discussion of a recently published book.
- Posters - for presentation of research, projects or programs, or other

work on conference themes.

Further information

Important dates

October 1, 2020 - Opening abstract submissions

February 14, 2021 - Deadline for Abstract Submission

March 31, 2021 - Evaluation of Abstracts

April 15, 2021 - Authors notification and nomination of sessions chairs

June 13, 2021 - Deadline early bird registration

ISPS Regional Group News

ISPS Lowlands 2020 conference update

Due to Covid-19 the organising committee of the local ISPS Lowlands conference "**Family connections in psychosis: spores and tissues**" decided to postpone the local ISPS conference to a date that is more safe.



As an alternative, a webinar took place on Friday 16th October instead (10:00 till 12:30), with the same theme. Three approaches of Family Therapy were proposed and opened the dialogue with each other:

Multi Family Therapy with Andrea Narraci and Caterina Tobasso
Open-Hart-Cirkels by Willy Vandamme, Lut Wouters and Lieve Windels
and finally Open Dialogue with Dag Van Wetter.

The webinar was delivered both in English and in Dutch.
The programme can be seen [here](#)

This webinar was an initiative of ISPS Low Lands in collaboration with UPC, KULeuven, campus Kortenberg.

Best wishes from the whole organizing committee,
Ludi Van Bouwel, Martine Lambrechts, Leen Lambrechts, Jef Lisaerde, Niel Van Cleynenbreugel, Saskia Verbesselt

News from ISPS Poland

ISPS Poland has started holding regular online seminars. The first of them, held in September 2020, was titled "Psychosis and dissociation" gathered more than 150 participants and even more viewed the recording of the seminar.

The second seminar, scheduled to take place on 24th October, will expand more on the above mentioned topic as it aroused great interest.

During the two seminars Prof. Katarzyna Prot-Klinger and Dr Radoslaw Tomalski

are discussing the contribution of the field of dissociation to that of psychosis, which creates new ways of understanding psychosis and new possibilities for treatment.

[FB link](#) to the event on 24th October 2020

[General FB link - Polish Chapter](#)

Our website <http://ptpspp.org.pl/>

News from ISPS Denmark

ISPS-DK was established in 2006, and in 2009 Denmark hosted the International ISPS congress in Copenhagen. During the following years we managed to arrange 2-4 seminars every year, and most often with invited guests from abroad to conduct the seminars. Many of these seminars were arranged in collaboration with the Institute of Psychosis Therapy (www.psykoseterapi.dk) – an independent institute that nevertheless is led mainly by ISPS members; it arranges 2-year courses in psychodynamic psychosis psychotherapy and these courses partly certify the participants to become specialists in psychotherapy within the Danish Psychiatric Association and the Danish Association of Psychologists.

Even though we have established a website and a facebook platform during the last couple of years we have had fewer ISPS arrangements than normal. One of the last seminars had the theme: “Creativity, texts, and psychosis”. It contributed to the growing interest in Denmark in ‘Art and Mental Helse’. A pilot project has been conducted in Denmark in which fiction authors are group conductors and psychiatric psychotherapists are ‘co-therapists’, and the participants (in groups of 6-8 persons) are persons in schizophrenia-spectrum states of mind (many of them are inpatients). The activity of the group members consisted of writing text of different kinds that was proposed by the authors. Judging from qualitatively investigated interviews, conducted after 15 sessions of 3 hours, the participants felt satisfied, safe and productive, and expressed an increased ability and courage to express their thoughts and thinking and to be able to receive comments from others in the group on the texts that they have written. These recovery factors showed themselves not only to be limited to the group but were extended to the participants’ private social life spheres.

These matters were presented and discussed in the seminar – not the least the (may be not so surprising) fact that therapeutic effects and recovery mechanisms were gained by not focusing solely on the individual’s psychological pain, conflict, defence and coping mechanisms (like in group therapy), but instead by concentrating on one’s modes of expression and creative capacities (experiencing empowerment), and the increased capacity for receiving the responses from the other group members.

Another seminar was entitled “The psychotic state of mind – Life history and/or history of illness?”. A voice-hearer, a relative of a person with psychosis experience and a mentor for other relatives, and a therapist gave their introductions to the following discussion. In addition, a short film by Jens Roved, about hearing voices in childhood, was shown. It became an interesting afternoon discussing the differences of discourses, points of view, language expressions when the patient as ‘person’ is confronted with the patient as ‘ilness’.

We are preparing a seminar later this fall on the theme “A phenomenological-empirical investigation of double reality and its manner of expression in schizophrenia-spectrum states of mind” – a theme that also was presented by a

Danish group at the ISPS-congress in Rotterdam.

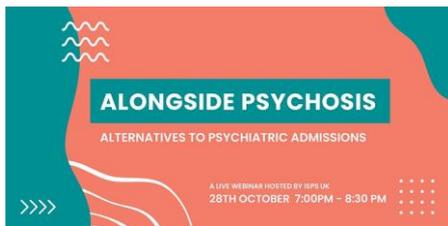
Bent Rosenbaum
Chair of ISPS-DK

The annual ISPS Norway conference must be postponed... but a free webinar will be offered instead this year!

Because of the ongoing pandemic, ISPS Norway have decided to postpone the annual ISPS Norway conference until February 2022. Fortunately all the invited speakers have agreed to postpone their participation until 2022, so that we will be able to offer the same excellent program.

As a replacement we are planning to offer a free webinar for ISPS members on the original date of the conference, 12th February 2021. We are in the process of inviting speakers and planning the program that will focus on psychosis and Covid-19.

More information will be available soon at www.isps.org



ISPS UK Webinar Alongside Psychosis: Alternatives to Psychiatric Admission **28 October 2020, 19.00-20.30**

We are bringing together speakers who work internationally or in the UK and offer support to people who experience a crisis related to psychosis. Our speakers will talk about rights based and person centred support their organisations offer people in these situations. They will talk about their experiences at Leeds Survivor Led Crisis Service, Trieste in Italy, Soteria Vermont in the USA and an activist's experience in Manchester of trying to change the system.

Book your place [here](#)

News from ISPS Croatia

ISPS Croatia is organising a webinar on "Inpatient psychotherapy of patients with psychosis".

The webinar will take place on 6th November 2020.

The webinar will be in the Croatian language.

More information coming soon at www.isps.org

Email contact:
[Branka Restek-Petrović](mailto:Branka.Restek-Petrovic@isps.org)

News from our members

To raise awareness on Mental Health amongst normal school students Turning Point in India have organised a poster competition and Mental Health Quiz. In this program last year almost 500 school students participated and almost 25 NGO's with 600 participants appeared in the Talent Hunt program. This is a one of its kind event not only in West Bengal but in India as a whole, where we explore, encourage and support the hidden talents of people with disabilities (arising out of mental health issues or intellectual disabilities) who are unfortunately generally perceived as burden and good for nothing individuals in India.

As during the past few years, this year too we are organizing "A Talent Hunt" program for them. Our primary focus for this program is to explore the tremendous potentialities of these people & to showcase it to society. Nothing can prohibit us to organize this program, not even the restrictions due to Covid 19. So, this year, we have planned to organize it online and are hoping to get both national & international participants. I hope this program would enable us to form a support system for them.

The inclusion of people with psychosocial difficulties and autism spectrum disorder is the need of the society. Transformation of the outlook of the society is needed for their betterment and growth so that every individual can live with dignity and self-respect. Participation could bring back the lost self-confidence of each individual and eventually bring back their smile and purpose to live.

We hope for more and more people from all over the world to join this program. We want to make it an International Talent Hunt program to motivate people with mental health problems and intellectual disabilities to get back their lost self-confidence and give them a platform to showcase their abilities.

All the entries in the form of video recordings of Music, Recitation and One Act plays must reach us by **5th November 2020** so that we have ample time to send it to respective judges.

The details of the program can be found [here](#) on our Turning Point website.

Ishita Sanyal
Founder Director
Turning Point

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Current Perspectives and Future Directions
Edited by Katherine Berry, Sandra Buccì, and Adam N. Danquah

November 2019, 234x156, 288pp
Hb: 978-1-138-95674-2 | £105.00
Pb: 978-1-138-95675-9 | £23.99
eBook: 978-1-315-66657-3

Edited by Katherine Berry, Sandra Buccì, and Adam N. Danquah. This book provides a practical guide to using attachment theory in the assessment, formulation and treatment of a range of psychological problems that can arise as a result of experiencing psychosis. Katherine Berry, Sandra Buccì and Adam N. Danquah, along with an international selection of contributors, expertly explore how attachment theory can inform theoretical understanding of the development of psychosis, psychological therapy and mental health practice with service users with psychosis.

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NEW! in the ISPS series

Upcoming Events

The ISPS has over 20 regional networks around the globe, many of which organise annual events. Take a look at the impressive range of meetings and conferences taking place in 2020

ISPS events listing

THE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS IS OPEN!
ISPS 2021: The 22nd International Congress of the ISPS
Wednesday 1st - Sunday 5th September 2021
in Perugia, Italy
[More information](#)

Haven't joined ISPS yet?

Here are 4 good reasons why you should join us!

- 1) Members enjoy reduced delegate fees for ISPS conferences such as ISPS Perugia 2021
- 2) Members receive 4 issues of *Psychosis* per year and also have online access to previous issues of the journal
- 3) **20% discount** on books in the ISPS series published by Routledge



