

ISPS Newsletter - May 2023

Greetings to all our members and friends throughout the world

I want to report on a number of projects on which the Executive Committee has been working.

But first, I am going to use the bulk of this column to remind the membership about our impressive ISPS Routledge Book Series, which has a list of 32 titles going back to 2006. The entire series can be viewed <u>HERE</u>. We are currently experiencing an abundance of riches.



Personally, I am especially excited about a new volume in the series just out, *Developing Trauma Informed Services for Psychosis: A Multidisciplinary Journey Towards Healing,* by five of my American colleagues: ISPS-US New York branch founding member Mara Conan along with NY branch members Kristina Muenzenmaier and Toshiko Kobayashi, and their co-authors Gillian Stephens Langdon and Andres Ricardo Schneeberger. This book documents the authors' work over a number of years to transform the psychiatric service in which they worked, using a trauma informed focus.

Other brand new books in the Routledge ISPS series are: • from Norway, *Psychosis Risk and Experience of the Self: Understanding the Individual Development of Psychosis as a Basic Self-disturbance*, by <u>Paul Møller</u> • also from the US, *Reconceptualizing Schizophrenia: The Phenomenology of Urhomelessness*, edited by Sarah Kamens,

• and from Belgium, *Community-Based Mental Healthcare for Psychosis: From Homelessness to Recovery and Continued In-home Support,* by <u>Peter Dierinck</u>.

And if you haven't yet seen it, do check out <u>Finding Hope in the Lived Experience of Psychosis: Reflections on Trauma, Use of Power and Re-visioning Psychiatry</u>, by Patte Randal and Josephine Stanton, which was issued in the series last summer. Our ISPS-US Book Club was privileged to dialogue with both New Zealanders in a webinar this past November. Patte's story of recovery in dual roles of psychiatrist and psychiatric survivor is enlightening, inspiring, and well-written.

Again, for the whole ISPS Routledge series, click <u>HERE</u>.

In other EC news, I mentioned in this column last time that the group in Armenia was looking into developing an ISPS chapter, and I am happy to report that they are well on their way. A number of people in India are also once again exploring developing an ISPS chapter, which has in the past proved to be a difficult endeavor in that big country. EC members Jen Kilyon, Alf Gillham, Cecilie Brøvig, and especially former president Ludi van Bouwel have been active in assisting with the development of the new chapters.

In conjunction with ISPS Italy, the EC sponsored a webinar on Amniotic Therapy in March, presented by Maurizio Peciccia, with discussants Dag Söderström and Brian Koehler. The webinar was well received, especially since it included moving testimonies of two people who experienced the therapy - Jens Roved and Miriam Berges.

Margreet de Pater and Dag Söderström are hard at work on a new website which will host the old Learning Resources - you will be hearing more about that very soon. We are also working toward remodeling our <u>ISPS.org</u> website.

The organizing committee of ISPS 2024 in Finland has plans well underway, and we are looking forward to Save-the-Date (early June, 2024) and Submit-Your-Proposal communications coming soon.

All the best to my ISPS colleagues around the world,

Julie Kipp Chair, ISPS



ISPS 2024 23rd ISPS International Conference Need Adapted Care for Psychosis - the Power of Human Interaction Espoo, Finland, June 5th - 8th, 2024

Welcome to Finland, the country of the midnight sun!

More news coming soon at <u>www.isps.org</u> #isps2024 #ispsinternational

Im Memoriam



Yrjö Alanen 1927 – 2022

Our ISPS honorary lifetime member, Professor (emeritus) Yrjö Alanen passed away on the 26th of December 2022.

Yrjö was involved in ISPS for many years and attended the early congresses. Way back In 1971, he organized the fourth ISPS international symposium. This was held in the old Finnish capital of Turku in south-west, Finland. From then on, he served as a member of the international executive committee of the ISPS until 1997.

In 2006, in the Madrid conference, I remember Yrjö taking a very active role both as a chair and plenary speaker. His last major contribution to ISPS can be found in the ISPS book *Psychotherapeutic Approaches to Schizophrenic Psychoses Past, Present and Future* where he shares his extensive knowledge on psychotherapy of psychoses.

Yrjö devoted his career to developing holistic care of the schizophrenia group of psychoses. His academic dissertation book *The Mothers of Schizophrenic Patients (1958)* was and still is a great classic in the history of schizophrenia studies. It is a study of the personality and the mother-child relationship of 100 mothers and their significance in the pathogenesis of schizophrenia. Another classic study is *The Family in the Pathogenesis of Schizophrenia and Neurotic Disorders (1966)*. His magnum opus is his book *Schizophrenia, Its Origins and*

Need-adapted Treatment, (1997), Karnac Books. It has been translated into several languages and has had several reprints.

During his first years at Turku University, he started the internationally famous *Turku Schizophrenia Project*. The main aim was to develop and study the care of those patients within the schizophrenia group of psychoses who were in the public mental health sector. This systematic work led to the development of the well-known Need Adapted Treatment approach.

The term "need-adapted treatment of the schizophrenia group of psychoses" refers to integration of psychotherapeutically oriented treatments into a continuous process, broadly based on the changing needs of the patient, as well as those of the patient's network with whom they interacted.

In addition to research and developmental work, there were also other elements that were pertinent for Yrjö to contribute to their development, e.g: *The psychosis ward* where therapeutic work would take place following the democratic principles of therapeutic communities where hierarchical structures were kept low. All levels of staff had possibilities to participate in long term community psychotherapeutic and psychotherapeutically oriented work under supervision, even if needed for several years. Furthermore, Yrjö's deep knowledge and wide contacts made it possible to invite internationally established psychosis psychotherapists to come quite regularly and lecture at the clinic.

Yrjö was always interested in families, family therapy and family work. In the early years it was seen as a support for individual therapy. At the same time family therapy, family therapy training and other familycentered activities were actively developed in Turku. In 1979, while Yrjö was chairing the Finnish Mental Health Association, the association started a national family therapy training program. This introduced systemic ideas and they were incorporated in the Need Adapted Approach. It started to develop in the directions that still prevail including the development of Open Dialogue.

Yrjö was influential in promoting national mental health policies. He led several national committees and the Need Adapted Approach was spread around the country during the National Schizophrenia Project 1981-1987. Especially important were multi-professional psychosis teams and therapy meetings, where staff members regularly met the patient, his or her relatives and others close to the patient. In the beginning of the 1990s, there were 50 psychosis teams in different parts of Finland. Unfortunately, this development vanished with our severe financial depression and with organizational changes within health care.

During the years that followed Alanen's activity, Finnish psychiatry has faced severe financial cuts and most unfortunately a return to a more traditional orientation, in keeping with the international trend of medication and diagnosis centered treatment. The humanistic Need Adapted Approach, however, survives in some centers.

In 1979 Alanen received the seventeenth annual Stanley R. Dean Research Award, given by The American College of Psychiatrists and The Fund for the Behavioral Sciences in recognition of his basic research accomplishment in the behavioral sciences contributing to our understanding of schizophrenia. To honor his work, the World Psychiatric Association granted him the Philippe Pinel Award in 2008. Alanen remained active in of the International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis, ISPS and became an Honorary Life Member.

Yrjö and his team published very many scientific papers in national and international journals. A glimpse of Yrjö's extensive knowledge in the field can also be found in the book - *Psychotherapeutic Approaches to Schizophrenic Psychoses (2009)* - published in the ISPS book series. The chapter that he authored should be basic reading to all working with psychosis. But it is also important to mention his deep interest in classic authors e.g. Dostoevsky, Strindberg, Shakespeare, Simenon. He even published two books in Finnish connected with these authors.

Yrjö was married to Hanni for fifty years and Yrjö died only some months after Hanni.

For many years and on different occasions Yrjö tried to start ISPS Finland. His wish finally became true in 2018. His other wish was to have the ISPS Conference once more in Finland. The 23rd ISPS Conference Need Adapted Care for Psychosis- the Power of Human Interaction will take place in June 2024 in Finland!

Klaus Lehtinen Chair, ISPS Finland



Review of the ISPS Amniotic Therapy Webinar, 24th March 2023

By Judith Moss

As a mother of a mild psychosis sufferer it was heart - warming to learn about Amniotic Therapy.

Its' potential for long lasting and healing effects, as described by Professor Maurizio Peciccia and patients, suffering from psychosis are convincing. Might Amniotic Therapy, also, be effective in treating other, mental health conditions?

As an Art Psychotherapist, whose training and practice are rooted in awareness of the damage caused by early childhood trauma, Professor Peciccia's reference to child development theorists, Carl Jung, Melanie Klein, Donald Winnicott and others, was heart – warming.

Therapists, who are sensitive and aware of their humanness and process, may enable the deeper, empathy required for "holding" another in therapy. Such "holding", safety and empathy is clearly at the root of Amniotic Therapy.

This was emphasised by the stories told to us and the therapy recorded by Professor Maurizio Peciccia, through video.

Two people shared their experiences of Amniotic Therapy. First Jens Roved, Official ISPS Photographer, from Denmark, whose devastating trauma occurred around 3 – 6 years old. Then Miriam Berges, Art Therapist, from Germany, whose life experience and trauma began at birth. From these two life stories it may be asked, is silent rejection and pretence of caring no less damaging to early life experiences than physical abuse?

Both Jens and Miriam have become strongly functioning people and seem to have transformed negative experiences into positive life styles. These and the benefits gained from their meetings with Professor Peciccia, at different times, led them, both, to experience the deeply, healing process of Amniotic Therapy.

A therapy that emulates the comfort and safety of "being in mother's womb" may for many mental health sufferers be a healing experience.

Professors Peciccia's video shows the therapist, clad in swim wear, "holding" a, similarly clad, client - safely, in water. This went on to show client and therapist later joining other client therapist partnerships, happily and safely gathered, together in a 'communal, "holding" pool. Following the completion of 10 sessions. Miriam described the experience of Amniotic Therapy as a deeply healing and lasting process.

It seems unlikely, in the present, NHS climate of 'quick fix culture' that Amniotic Therapy would be taken up, in UK. It seems, also, unlikely that British people, who's past "stiff upper lip", culture, may colour our attitudes to closeness and touch would engage in Amniotic therapy? That is, should anyone be brave enough to make it available, here? However a visit to Perugia seems vital if holding the belief that Amniotic Therapy may be just the treatment needed to alleviate years of suffering and 'stuckness' suffered, by psychosis. It may be such a condition originates from particular circumstances surrounding birthing? This may also be exacerbated by the ignorance of significant adults concerning the sensitivity of early childhood years. Subsequently a subject's disassociation from deeply fettered emotions, lack of self - worth and inability to seek wellbeing maybe at the root of various mental disorders as well as psychosis.

Judith Moss ISPS UK member

Joseph Isaac Abrahams MD September 27, 1916 – February 22, 2022 A Tribute by Brian Koehler PhD, MS

ISPS-US member Joseph Abrahams MD, age 105, of San Luis Obispo, California passed away on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Joe was born September 27, 1916. I am not sure where I first met Joe Abrahams. It could very well have been at the ISPS London conference in 1997 chaired by Brian Martindale. My wife, Julie Kipp, and I had a lovely and very interesting dinner with Joe and his British wife Elisabeth. Joe and I kept up communication over the phone for years as well as meeting at ISPS events. He was living in California, having migrated from the Washington, DC area. Part of what attracted us to each other was that we were both psychoanalysts working in state hospital settings. When I discovered that Joe met and heard Harry Stack Sullivan lecture, I asked him if he could please write down his memories of his experiences with Sullivan. This was about 25 years ago. He described Sullivan as a person who cared for his patients but was hard on psychiatric trainees, and Frieda Fromm-Reichmann was not enthusiastic for Joe's devotion to group therapies for persons diagnosed with psychosis. Joe was a psychoanalyst and pioneer in family and group therapy. He very kindly sent me his two volume set This Way Out: A Narrative of Therapy with Psychotic and Sexual Offenders Volumes One (2010) and Two (2010). This Way Out, is a report of work done seven decades ago in Howard Hall, the maximum security section of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C. The two volumes of this work help fill a need for specific data on what transpires in psychotherapy, especially that of sexual offenders experiencing distressina psychotic states. Joe adapted psychoanalysis to group and family work. He once told me that, he was able to hospitalize family members rather than just the "identified patient" to positive effect. For Joe, his "intuitometer" (his word) was vital as was a spiritual aspect he called "messianism." In this two volume set. Joe offers the reader narrative accounts of 629 sessions. Early in the work, he presents the microanalysis of a session, to make explicit what he and the therapy partners said and did to alter their significant personal and social alienation. In 2000, Joe wrote a book called: The Messianic Imperative: Scourge or Savior. In 2008, Joe published his book Democracy from the Grassroots: A Guide to Creative Political Action, blending his political activism with psychoanalytic insights. Joe wrote his book A Passionate Psychoanalyst: Poems and Dreams (2007).in a very personal, selfdisclosing, original style. In this book, Joe reported that a dream of himself being in a coffin at the age of 52, facilitated his penetration to deeper levels of his psyche and inner life. In 2014, Joe published his book Terra Incognita: A Psychoanalyst Explores the Human Soul. This volume provides an autobiographical account of Joe's 75-year career as a psychoanalyst, with extensive scientific data, life changing discoveries, and insightful conclusions. Terra Incognita offers a detailed look at his history in psychiatry, psychoanalysis, therapeutic community, and group work; as well as some of the key players in these fields who served as an inspiration for Abrahams throughout his career. Clarence Schultz MD, in his Preface to Terra Incognita wrote: "In this, his latest book, Dr. Abrahams takes us on his lifelong odyssey to conceptualize the use of group members' observations about themselves and each other in order to foster each member's selfawareness of their conflicts as they are manifested within the group" (p. vii). I have seen this myself in groups within a state psychiatric hospital setting, both inpatient and outpatient departments. Members helping other members is also a key principle of Therapeutic Communities, Peer Support, and Open Dialogue.

ISPS and all those who knew and loved Joe, including myself, will miss him.

Brian Koehler ISPS-US member



News from ISPS Regional Networks

News from ISPS Finland

In a weak moment last November we accepted the ISPS executive committee's request to organize the 23rd ISPS conference in Finland. Organizing the conference in Armenia appeared risky due several consequences of war in Ukraine. Since then, this has kept us in ISPS Finland busy!

The conference will be held in the Helsinki metropolitan area, June 2024 from 5th to 8th 2024. To honor late Professor Alanen and his work with the Need Adapted approach, we chose the title **Need Adapted Care for Psychosis - the Power of Human Interaction**. Our aim is to focus on practical work with psychosis patients and their families. At present we are working with the program and a million of the practicalities. We decided to shorten the conference to three days, as the last day of ISPS conferences has always been less well attended and shorter. Now Saturday the 8th will be a full working day and in the evening we are planning to have a nice party to end the conference.

June in Finland is usually beautiful and the time of the midnight sun. We are planning for nice weather and an impressive conference with plenty of pleasant interaction with attendees from around the globe. The conference will be held at the Aalto University building called Dipoli. You can read about it <u>HERE</u>.

You are all warmly welcome to Finland in summer 2024!

Klaus Lehtinen Chair ISPS Finland

ISPS US News Webinar on 19th May: Relating to Voices using Compassion Focused Therapy

This webinar will outline the CFT psychoeducation of how evolution has set humans up with a tricky brain that has a natural threat bias that can incline towards dissociating, problematic attention, and overestimating threat, using 'better safe than sorry' algorithms. It will guide participants through the CFT formulation of voice-hearing, which focuses on their (protective) function for people, particularly in the context of interpersonal threat and trauma. Building on these deshaming foundations in psychoeducation and formulation, participants will learn how to support people in developing a 'compassionate self' identity and how to switch into compassionate mind states that organize multiple physiological processes differently to that of threat states. Participants will learn techniques that support people in applying compassionate competencies to achieve therapeutic change, with illustrative examples of interventions such as parts work, voice-dialoguing, imagery, letter-writing, and interventions that use role play, chair work embodiment and acting techniques.

About the presenter

Dr Charlie Heriot-Maitlanda is a clinical psychologist, researcher and trainer at Balanced Minds (www.balancedminds.com). He recently spent five years researching the application of CFT for people in NHS services who are experiencing distress in relation to psychosis (as an MRC Research Fellow at King's College London and University of Glasgow, 2014-2019). He provides CFT therapy, supervision, consultation, and training, run over a hundred various compassion training workshops both nationally and internationally, and has coauthored (with Eleanor Longden) a new self-help book for voicecalled Relating to Voices CFT hearers using (www.relatingtovoices.com).

Register here

News from ISPS-CH

A conference recently took place with Dag Söderström "psychotic fear and transference". This conference was a great local success and will be available in French on the ISPS-CH website soon!
Creation of a 6 module course on psychotherapy for psychosis that will start in the spring of 2024. This course will be open to every professional who is working with people suffering from psychosis.
An ISPS-CH meeting will take place on the 10th of October 2023 in Lausanne. This year's theme will be: "Interdisciplinarity in psychosis psychotherapies: the art of building bridges" with Prof Ariane Bazan, Prof Jérôme Favrod and others as speakers. More news coming soon at www.isps.org

ISPS Low Lands conference review



"Samen bouwen aan helende ruimtes' waar psychose beluisterd

wordt en tijd krijgt"

ISPS Nederland Vlaanderen/UPC KULeuven, campus Kortenberg 27th January 2023

Picture: Miriam Berges 'Searching for existence' - photo Jens N. Roved (taken during the Art Therapy Festival of the ISPS Conference 2022)

During this conference we got a colored palette of stories about psychosis from personal experiences of psychosis, the struggles and resourcefulness of families and from experiences and insights of caregivers. It was remarkable when this trialogue was also conducted in the audience, among bystanders e.g. during the Alice in family groups-land lecture, we were invited to share expectations and thoughts, in a circle, like how a family group runs. Questions, personal stories and ideas were shared with sincerity. To hear the sighs here and there, this was not always easy. So a polyphonic day!

Nevertheless everyone was unanimous on the importance of initiatives such as Soteria houses and Open Dialogue. The personal stories highlighted the value and relevance of the principles carried by these initiatives. Places in Belgium such as El Camino Bekegem are already dealing with these principles in a concrete and creative way.

I will remember from this day the urge to let ourselves be inspired by these places and ways of thinking in dealing with psychosis and will continue to explore this principles in a very concrete way!

Anne-France Deschryver

Psychologist and psychotherapist in long-term care of psychosis at UPC Kortenberg

I was only able to attend the afternoon program myself, and what stayed with me most of all was the energy and enthusiasm of the various speakers. In 2015 we visited the Soteria house in Bern with a group of enthusiasts from different hospitals. Due to circumstances, we are still following this initiative from the sidelines but it is so gratifying and hopeful to see that this movement is getting bigger and better known within mental health care.

In the past I went through psychosis myself and indeed began to reflect on how things could have been different. I was especially looking for confidence in myself and my environment. The hospital and its workings were too alienating for me to realize this. The people who have especially stuck with me are those who were willing to engage with me regardless of their expertise. Nadia Mahjoub's recovery story gave a lot of recognition and also confirmed the importance of this closeness. The loneliness of psychosis coupled with the loneliness of admission are at times unbearable and traumatic. Being able to offer a warm/ ordinary home-like place should be the basis of good care, it is in itself equally surprising that this most simple safe base has yet to be defended.

Finally, the short film of Niels Bourgonje was played which so clearly showed the disruption and pain of an entire system. Where roles turned and the powerlessness was so palpable. It seems obvious to assist the environment with this same warmth.

In short, it was an inspiring / hopeful day where people with different expertise try to improve care together. The ultimate goal remains to regain control of your own life and sometimes we need warm-hearted support in this.

Patricia Kestens

Care worker patients and family participation UPC Kortenberg- care worker with experience knowledge

ISPS Lombardia

Is organising a conference in October 2023. More news coming soon! Contact ISPS Lombarida via <u>email</u>



FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL APPROACHES TO PSYCHOSIS

ISPS book series

The ISPS book series has been a whirl of activity this year, with five books coming out in the past twelve months, a further one being released in May, and a number currently in production. Ensuing from a variety of disciplines and experiential perspectives, the books support the series' core aim of fostering discussion and debate across the biomedical and social sciences, as well as humanities, and challenging stigmatising perceptions of both psychosis and those living through it.

April 2022 saw the release of Julia Brown's ethnography of the littleknown world of clozapine clinics in Australia and the United Kingdom, **The Clozapine Clinic: Health Agency in High-Risk Conditions.** This text engages with the narratives of people living in extreme health circumstances to challenge assumptions made about clozapine treatment and explore what it means to be diagnosed with 'treatment-resistant schizophrenia.'

This was followed, in June 2022, by *Finding Hope in the Lived Experience of Psychosis: Reflections on Trauma, Use of Power and Re-visioning Psychiatry* by Patte Randal and Josephine Stanton. This offers the reader compelling first-person accounts of the experience of psychosis from the inside and the outside, through the eyes of two doctors, one of whom has experienced psychosis and both of whom have worked for decades in the field of psychiatry.

2023 has so far seen the release of three books, the first of which, In March, was Paul Møller's *Psychosis Risk and Experience of the Self: Understanding the Individual Development of Psychosis as a Basic Self-disturbance.* By engaging with the inner aspects of psychosis and psychosis risk, and its core experiential phenomena, this book details how such experiences might take shape in the human mind and how a better understanding, achieved through detailed clinical conversations, can lead to earlier detection and improved interventions.

April 2023 saw the publication of **Reconceptualizing Schizophrenia: The Phenomenology of Urhomelessness,** by Sarah Kamens. Making an important contribution to the phenomenologicalexistential literature on psychosis, this book presents an international research study that reconceptualizes schizophrenia through an investigation of ways in which the first-hand experiences of those with a diagnosis differ from conventional diagnostic definitions.

Also in April was released Peter Dierinck's **Community-Based Mental Healthcare for Psychosis: From Homelessness to Recovery and Continued In-home Support.** This explores the need for, and how to successfully organize, community mental health teams that provide in-home care and treatment for people experiencing mental health difficulties, particularly those suffering with psychosis. In so doing, it presents two paradigm shifts necessary to bring mental healthcare directly into the community. May 2023 will see the publication of **Developing Trauma Informed Services for Psychosis: A Multidisciplinary Journey Towards Healing,** edited By Kristina Muenzenmaier, Mara Conan, Gillian Stephens Langdon, Toshiko Kobayashi and Andres Ricardo Schneeberger. In this book, a multidisciplinary group of clinicians explore the connections between traumatic experiences and psychosis, charting the development of a series of interventions designed for both inpatients and outpatients over the course of two decades. The volume advocates for a multidisciplinary approach that fosters the development of unique treatment paradigms and leads to a dynamic interplay between verbal and creative arts therapies.

Anna Lavis ISPS Book Series Editor



Finding Hope in the Lived Experience of Psychosis

By Patte Randal and Josephine Stanton

This book offers first-person accounts of the experience of psychosis from the inside and the outside, through the eyes of two doctors, one of whom has experienced psychosis and both of whom have worked for decades in the field of psychiatry.

Underpinned by rigorous academic analysis using an evocative duoethnographic approach, the book explores the cultural and subcultural influences from childhood onwards – both traumatic and resiliencebuilding – that have shaped their lives. Both authors reflect on strategies they learned early in life for dealing with challenges, each managing to function at a high level while avoiding awareness of their vulnerability. They reflect on the potential dangers of using their expertise and position of power in psychiatry simply to diagnose mental illness and prescribe medication. The differences and similarities in the authors' stories provide a productive tension highlighting the complexities of this paradigm shift that is happening in psychiatry.

Written in the form of two interacting memoirs, this book is of great interest to researchers, clinicians, and practicing psychologists, as well as a general audience with interest in psychosis.

Order your copy here



