

ISPS Newsletter - Autumn 2024

Dear ISPS colleagues and friends of ISPS,

It's been a couple of months now since we met in Helsinki, Finland for the 2024 international conference, and personally I am still feeling the warmth of re-connecting in-person with my colleagues of many years, as well as meeting many new colleagues. And the beauty of our walks along the Gulf of Finland through the birch trees, still in twilight at 23:00 - a memory that will stay with us for a long time.



I want to thank Klaus Lehtinen and the organizing committee of ISPS 2024 once again for a successful, well-organized, and welcoming conference. Now we are on to planning for the next conference, where, in July of 2026 we will celebrate our 70th birthday, in the place where ISPS was born - Lausanne, Switzerland. A new organizing committee is already at work, led by Dag Söderström and Philippe Conus.

I recently posted on the international list-serve (isps-int@googlegroups.com) - please [email ISPS](mailto:isps-int@googlegroups.com) if you are not already a

member of our active discussion group) about two volunteer opportunities working with the Executive Committee of ISPS. We could really use some help, but these are also great opportunities for someone who would like to get more involved with the ISPS mothership, to see and influence the workings of our international organization, and perhaps explore the possibility of running for the EC yourself in the future.

1. Treasurer - we need someone comfortable with simple finances of a non-profit organization. Financial tasks for ISPS are not extensive - the treasurer oversees accounts, makes payments, and tracks income from several sources. This person would work closely with International Organizer, and would attend relevant parts of monthly Executive Committee meetings. Average a couple of hours a week, occasional administrative trouble-shooting may require more.

2. Social Media Czar - this person would be comfortable with social media, especially Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn, able to create and schedule engaging content, and follow up on feedback and engagement statistics. The Czar would be able to advise the Executive Committee on social media initiatives or other potentially effective platforms. Also advise the EC on directions for further content creation (e.g., other initiatives like our Interviews with Pioneers on YouTube).

To apply for either of these volunteer positions - or just to find out more - please contact me on [this email address](#) cc'ing ISPS on this [email address](#).

Julie Kipp

Chair, ISPS

Reflections on the 23rd ISPS International Conference 2024

June 5th- 8th 2024, Helsinki, Finland

“Art and the Voices Workshop: experiences from Serbia and Balkan Hearing Voices Network”

Irena Stojadinović, PhD candidate in Psychology, research assistant and body psychotherapist under supervision and Mina Aleksić, artist and art therapist, president of Prostor association, participated in the 23rd ISPS International Conference in Helsinki thanks to the support of the ISPS.

Irena and Mina were representing the CSO Prostor- community mental health organization from Serbia, the only organization dedicated to providing community-based psychosocial support to people with the experience of psychosis, as well as one of the founders of the Balkan Hearing Voices Network and Serbian Mental Health Movement.

Personal feedback from *Irena Stojadinović*:

Since Serbia is a middle income country, the participation fee on top of travel, accommodation and life expenses in Helsinki was an unattainable goal for us. We addressed the organizers asking for a grant to be able to cover the conference fee. We were very happy to find out our request was approved, since our participation depended on it. We would like to use this opportunity to thank the ISPS personally and to provide our feedback on the Conference.

Serbia is still on a rather low stage of development regarding the mental health protection system, the medical approach being a predominant one, with large asylums on the city skirts still present and little or no community alternatives to support the recovery, especially for people with the experience of psychosis.

In our organization Prostor, we try to implement all the principles we learned studying community psychiatry, the Hearing Voices movement, Open dialogue practice and freedom in psychiatry in general.

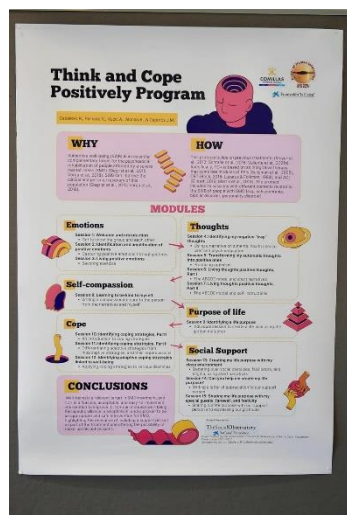
The participation in ISPS Conference gave us a unique opportunity to listen to many world famous experts in this field, meet many people from all over the world and get to know their different approaches, contexts, exchanging ideas and experiences. We were inspired by different practices from the UK, India, USA, the Netherlands, and of course Finland, especially by the different applications of the Open dialogue practice and Soteria houses,

as well as the Hearing Voices approach that we are also advocating for in our region. It was especially important for us to hear the perspectives of the experts by experience from different countries and to learn from their stories what makes a difference on the path to recovery.

We were also rather pleased to have an opportunity to carry out a successful workshop “Art and the Voices Workshop: experiences from Serbia and Balkan Hearing Voices Network” and present our practice to the international audience. During the workshop, we had the opportunity to become familiar with the Conference participants on a deeper level. We witnessed how an approach using both non verbal (artistic expression) and verbal channels of communication can be powerful in connecting with ourselves as well as with others. It was a very rewarding experience creating a safe space for expression, connection and sharing. We are very grateful for it!

Finally, we made some valuable acquaintances and established communication with international colleagues. We learned about different benefits ISPS membership brings, thus we will have what to think about in the upcoming period.

Upon return, we were pleased to share our valuable experience with our team, inspiring them to improve their practice, including some of the new knowledge gained at the ISPS Conference.



Reflections by Dr. Rocío Caballero, Dr. Vanesa Peinado, and Ana Vucic (recipients of the second poster prize)

We were incredibly happy to attend this year's ISPS conference in Helsinki. We believe that the model that ISPS uses really sets it apart from other similar organizations, in that the exchange of information and experiences occurs on a holistic level, including everyone who is affected by and moved by psychosis, both on personal and professional levels. We have felt how much this enriches everyone's

experience at the conference and ensures that everyone is able to contribute something as well as take something away. We were really

excited to hear from all the speakers and attendees and were not let down by the wonderful people we have met this year in Helsinki. It was super special to us to be able to share our project *Think and Cope Positively* with the rest of the conference and we look forward to seeing what collaborations might come from this crossroad that ISPS offers and hope to see everyone again at the next conference!

- Dr. Rocío Caballero, Dr. Vanesa Peinado, and Ana Vucic (recipients of the second poster prize)

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have been able to attend the ISPS international conference this year. I was really honored when I was told that I had been granted a scholarship on behalf of ISPS to attend the event, which made all the experience possible. I am currently getting my Master's in clinical psychology and working as a research assistant, and to be able to hear from so many incredible people at the conference at this stage in my life has felt like a true gift. It was extremely stimulating to hear about all the different research and interventions and social changes that people are carrying out globally, and hearing from people's personal experiences was very enriching and moving. I am looking forward to working towards getting my doctorate and to combining practical with research work, and I have left this conference feeling more motivated than ever. It was so lovely to meet all the kind and inspiring people that I had the pleasure of interacting with at the conference and I cannot wait to being back soon!

- Ana Vucic (scholarship recipient)

ISPS



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
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Presenting four new Honorary Lifetime Members of ISPS!



Brian Koehler

Brian Koehler was presented with ISPS honorary lifetime membership at the ISPS 2024 conference, in appreciation of his contributions to ISPS and to the field of psychosocial approaches to psychosis.

Brian has taught at New York University (in two graduate departments and one post-doctoral program), City University of New York and Columbia University (in two graduate departments, clinical psychology and neuroscience), as well

as at Long Island University. Prior to this, he taught psychotherapeutic approaches to persons suffering from distressing voices and beliefs to medical students through the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, as well as teaching psychiatric residents PGY 2-4 at St. Barnabas Hospital, Bronx, NY.

Brian has given talks on the neuroscience of stress, social factors in psychosis, and psychotherapy of persons experiencing distressing beliefs and voices at New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University (Neuroscience Study Group), Bellevue Medical Center/ NYU Langone Medical Center, and various city and state psychiatric hospitals, as well as universities and organizations in many countries,

Brian did an eight-year Postdoc in the NYU Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis Program and a one-year certificate program in Psychoanalytic Supervision at NYU.

Brian is Associate Editor for the ISPS international journal “Psychosis: Psychological, Social and Integrative Approaches” from its inception. He is a co-founder and past president of the International Society for the Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis- United States Chapter (ISPS-US, www.isps-us.org) and served on the Executive Board of the international ISPS (www.isps.org) for years. Brian co-chaired ISPS’s New York City conference in 2015, and has been a long time and much valued

contributor to the ISPS email discussion groups. He has especially worked to change the term “schizophrenia,” as stigmatizing and unscientific. (Sign the petition here: <https://www.change.org/p/american-psychiatric-association-apa-who-drop-and->

Brian has served as a scientific advisor and reviewer for Schizophrenia Bulletin when it was published by the NIMH, as well as several other journals including the International Journal of Psychoanalysis, Psychoanalytic Dialogues, etc. He has published many articles in peer-reviewed journals and books. Brian’s long-term research interests include developmental traumatology, the effects of chronic stress and social isolation/social defeat on the brain and body, psychosis from a non-reductionistic perspective of DNA to Neighborhood, and medications for psychosis (“antipsychotics”). Brian has worked towards changing and challenging the stigmatising term Schizophrenia in a number of articles.

Brian is a faculty member and supervisor at the NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis and faculty member at the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy. Previously, he was a faculty member at the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Study Center, the Manhattan Institute of Psychoanalysis, and the Center for Modern Psychoanalysis. He occasionally participated in an international CBTp study group led by the late founder of cognitive therapy Aaron Beck MD.

Brian has worked in city and state psychiatric hospitals and clinics and was given the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award in the 1990s by the NYS Office of Mental Health at Rockland Psychiatric Center.

In the 1970’s and 80’s Brian volunteered in many NYC shelters and ‘soup kitchens’ for persons who were unhoused, children with severe autism in an inpatient unit at a state hospital, and helping persons who were migrant workers from Central and South America to organize a union (United Farm Workers) under the leadership of Cesar Chavez and his brother Richard Chavez. He has been in private practice as a psychotherapist, psychoanalyst and psychotherapy/psychoanalytic supervisor for over 40 years in Manhattan and Westchester County.

Biography by Alf Gillham

Francoise Davoine

I met Françoise more than 30 years ago and I will say the same as I did when I first met her : Françoise is inspiring!

Not only with her humor and her way to face the difficulties in the field of psychosis and trauma, but also with her capacity to encounter anyone not regarding titles or hierarchy. In Switzerland, when I was medical director of an hospital, we had started case presentation involving the whole team. A clinician presents on his/her way but then all nurses, social workers, and even the housemaids said their word about what was going on for the person trapped in the psychosis. Françoise worked directly with the different relations in an open way understanding that the whole figure could only be read if one listens to the whole team. Supervision with Françoise is a learning process, where you meet the history of the person, the family background and also the social and political history that gives the deeper understanding of hidden trauma that lies under psychosis.



Psychoanalysis and psychosis may look a difficult topic, but with Françoise it is about a therapeutic fight aiming at a recovery for the person to speak for oneself. Her enthusiastic charisma is grounded in the fight for a free speech, that was denied when trauma drowned the history and when a power made the free speech silent.

History beyond trauma, first published 2004 written with Jean Max Gaudillière, husband and co-author has changed the perspective for a whole generation “whereof one cannot speak, one cannot be silent”.

The meanings of so many psychotic symptoms appeared to us when we heard Françoise and Jean-Max lecturing and supervising all over the world. We could also see how these theories were rooted in their practice both in hospital and in private practice. Empathizing with people trapped in

psychosis but more, giving her own experience of trauma during WWII and helping the other with books to reenter their own narrativity.

Here my generation saw a paradigmatic change in psychotherapy for psychosis and trauma when realizing how these new concepts had a healing impact on the patients and on the care teams.

Then come all the other books, lectures, Mother folly, Don Quixote, Tristram Shandy, Voice of the covid healers, now Françoise is also working with traumatized persons in Ukraine. On the site <https://gaudillieredavoine.com>, everyone may find the books, open lectures, and bibliography where it is important to notice the first translation of Gaetano Benedetti's main book : the death in the soul.

Françoise Davoine with Jean-Max Gaudillière have build up an international network where you meet therapists and friends in New York, Austen Riggs, Mexico, Brussels, Paris, Sweden and Vevey in Switzerland.

Today we are many inspired by Françoise Davoine and her main concepts have been such a success that we all think we know them as they have grown into the common knowledge about psychosis, trauma, history and the reconstruction of a personal and political self.

- Transgenerational trauma linked to psychosis
- War trauma linked to psychosis
- Madness as a social link (title of Françoise and Jean-Max seminar in Paris)
- Catastrophical edges and how to face them
- The psyche of the therapist is there to receive and figure what cannot be said (an open door to understand Wittgenstein)
- The fight against the perverse that want to deny the trauma, and shut up the voice of the traumatized
- The birth of the self is a political moment, thus the necessity to consider the political angle in the circumstances of life.

But the very best is Françoise inspiring laughter that gives us all courage to fight perversion and open us to friendship and disclosure with our patients.

Make us free to speak and to sing.

Our gratitude is immense and we see Françoise as an outstanding lifetime ISPS honorary member.

Biography by Dag Söderström

Klaus Lehtinen

ISPS is proud to recognize Klaus Lehtinen with an honorary lifetime membership, in gratitude for his many contributions to ISPS and to the field of humane approaches to psychosis.

Klaus Lehtinen's most recent contribution to ISPS has been as chair of the 2024 international conference in Helsinki, Finland this past June. Aside from the daunting, multiple administrative tasks of organizing an international conference, Dr. Lehtinen has contributed a special gift in the form of helping ISPS apply the principles of the treatment approach of Open Dialogue to our own workings. The Executive Committee is looking forward to continuing this self-reflective work in our future work and conferences.



This is only the most recent in a long career of commitment to care, and innovation of care, for people with psychosis and their families, as well as to the organization of ISPS. Dr. Lehtinen served for many years on the executive board of ISPS, including serving as Treasurer of ISPS during much of that time.

Dr. Lehtinen is a psychiatrist and received training in family work and psychoanalytic psychotherapy. He has been especially focused on developing family work and family therapy. He authored and co-authored

many papers over the past 40 years, focusing on early treatment and adolescent treatment, uses of medications - including low dose approaches, suicide and reduced mortality of those diagnosed with psychosis. But he is perhaps best known and appreciated for his clinical work and research, alongside his Scandinavian colleagues, on the influential NIPS (Nordic Investigation on Psychotherapy of Schizophrenia) project in the 1980s, and then on Need Adapted Treatment, which has evolved, with his continuing contributions, into our current Open Dialogue approach.

Dr. Lehtinen served as head of psychiatry at Tampere University Hospital in Finland from which he retired eight years ago. He has however continued to be active in volunteer positions - he is chair of ISPS Suomi (our Finnish chapter) and chair of the Pirkanmaa regional group of FinFami, an organization which provides information and support to the families of people recovering from mental illness. He is also on the boards of five more organizations locally and nationally in Finland. He is devoted to his wife of 52 years, his children, and grandchildren - and sailing with them.

I close with a quote from one of Dr. Lehtinen's papers, which contains many of the important values of his life long work.

"Therapy meetings are professional scenes full of human thoughts, experiences, and emotions...Psychotic reactions should be seen as attempts to make sense of one's experience and to cope with experiences that are so difficult that it has not been possible to construct a rational spoken narrative. Therapy meetings are thus a forum for construction and negotiating a positive sense of identity...(I)t is essential to have a reflective attitude towards both the outer and inner dialogue in treatment meetings..." (Borchers, Seikkula, Lehtinen, 2013)

Reference:

Borchers, P., Seikkula, J., & Lehtinen, K. (2013). Psychiatrists' inner dialogues concerning workmates during need adapted treatment of psychosis. *Psychosis*, 5(1), 60-70.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17522439.2012.664775>

Biography by Julie Kipp



Debra Lampshire

Debra holds a very special and groundbreaking role within ISPS International. She was the first person with lived experience of psychosis to become a member of our Executive Committee and has continued to serve since 2012.

"Debra has been a tireless, articulate and persuasive advocate for the rights of people who hear voices and other unusual experiences for decades. She has been invited to speak all over the

world not just at ISPS conferences. She has been a pioneer of the involvement experts by experience within ISPS." John Read

She continues to be an inspiration to myself and many others around the world for her courage, tenacity, kindness and vision.

She is a senior tutor with the Centre for Mental Health Research and Policy Development at the University of Auckland and is Chair of ISPS New Zealand.

She was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to Mental Health in 2023.

Biography by Jen Kilyon

More coming soon...

ISPS



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Calling all ISPS members who are interested in Soteria

Are you an ISPS member?

Are you interested in the Soteria approach to psychosis?

We invite you to join an email discussion group for a new ISPS-Soteria special interest subgroup.

[Contact ISPS](#) to participate.

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News from ISPS Regional Networks

ISPS-CH (Switzerland)

On 27 September 2024, the 17th ISPS Swiss Conference will take place at the Fondation de Nant. Its theme will be "Psychosis and creativity: the need for creativity in care teams".

It will explore ways of reinventing a therapeutic response to each encounter that respects the unique experience of each individual, while drawing on scientific evidence.

Throughout the day, a number of care teams will present original approaches to supporting individuals, such as therapeutic journeys or the use of community radio. The day will conclude with a presentation on the 'effort to think' by Professor Raphaël Gaillard, Professor of Psychiatry at the Hôpital Sainte-Anne in Paris. The conference will conclude with a panel discussion between the various speakers.

- The first edition of the course 'Psychotherapeutic approach to psychosis: essential elements for daily practice' will start on 08 November 2024. This course is in great demand, with more applications than places available.

- The ISPS 2026 International Conference will be held in Lausanne from 6th-8th July 2026. The organising committee, chaired by Prof. Philippe Conus and Dr. Dag Söderström, is currently working on the preparations for this meeting, which will celebrate the **70th anniversary** of the founding of our association. More news coming soon at www.isps.org

ISPS-US

ISPS-US 2024 Hybrid Conference: New Beginnings: Reimagining Psychosis Services & Systems in the US



new beginnings:
reimagining psychosis services
and systems in the US
ISPS-US ANNUAL CONFERENCE | NOV 1-3
DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY | PITTSBURGH, PA | HYBRID ONLINE

keynote speakers



PROFESSOR CRAIG STEEL
BSc, PhD, DClinPsy



BECKY BRASFIELD, MA

ISPS-US's Annual Conference will take place from November 1-3 in Pittsburgh, PA and online via Zoom. Through our hybrid format, we welcome registrants from all over the world; hybrid/online sessions will also be recorded for later viewing.

Chaired by Nev Jones, PhD, this ISPS-US annual conference aims to generate substantive conversation about the current state of psychosis and inspire thoughtful conversations about future change. Panels and presentations will feature leaders across the areas of activism/advocacy, research, policy, and clinical practice.

Full details and registration: www.isps-us.org/conference

ISPS Italy

Upcoming event: “Unconvention Therapies”

September 27-29, 2024

Speakers include: Claudia Bartocci, Simone Donnari, Gianni Giusto, Goriano Rugi, Giuliana Nataloni, Andrea Narracci, Maurizio Peciccia, and many other well-known national and international experts.

More information at www.claudiabartocci.it/blog/2024/04/17/isps-italia-vii-convegno-nazionale/

isps-Germany

ISPS Germany

**Upcoming event: CONFERENCE FOR
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISPS-
GERMANY**

50th Annual Meeting of ISPS-Germany

Topics: Psychosis psychotherapy, social therapies of psychoses, group psychotherapy, especially psychodynamic approaches.

ISPS-Germany - the German branch of the (worldwide) International Society for the Psychosocial Treatment of Chronically Psychotic Patients (formerly: "International Society for the Psychological Treatments of the Schizophrenias and Other Psychoses") - has started as a working group in 1975 and is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with the conference in the lecture hall of the Reichenau Center for Psychiatry from June 26th, 2025 to June 28th, 2025. In 2011, at the conference in ZSP Salzwedel (and its social psychiatric network) the working group was reorganized to become "ISPS-Germany". The focus of the (non-profit) professional association ISPS-Germany is on social psychiatric and psychodynamically oriented therapies for psychoses, but - open to all methods - it also includes psychoanalysis in the strict sense, psychodrama and behavioural therapy. ISPS-Germany has been and is multi-professional in its long tradition, so that, for example, nursing professionals have always participated and given lectures. The conferences are therefore open to all professional groups working in the psychological field.

The conference will be held in German.

Moderation: Prof. Dr. med. Klaus Hoffmann (Uni Konstanz, IfP Kreuzlingen/Switzerland, ZfP Reichenau), Dr. Nicolas Nowack (ZSP Salzwedel)



Thu. 26.6. – Sat. 28.6. 2025 in ZfP
Reichenau

Zentrum für Psychiatrie Reichenau (ZfP)

- Festsaal -

Feursteinstraße 55

78479 Reichenau

Germany

Further information and registration (Anmeldung):

<https://www.zfp-reichenau.de/aktuelles/news/detail/news/psychosen-im-fokus-isps-germany-trifft-sich-in->

[reichenau/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=30736168a14c8d77028a689046cc13fe](https://www.reichenau/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=30736168a14c8d77028a689046cc13fe)

<https://www.zsp-salzwedel.de/isps-germany/>

ISPS Slovenia



Upcoming event:

“Psihoza skozi prizmo sodobnega sveta”

(Psychosis through the prism of the modern world)

Co-organised with the Slovene Association of Psychiatrists SZD

8th-9th November 2024

Hotel Kompas, Bled

Invited speakers from ISPS Croatia and a distinguished speaker from the USA, including Louis Sasso, who is also a long-time friend of ISPS.

Email borut.skodlar@psih-klinika.si for more information

**News
from ISPS Network
The Netherlands-
Flanders**



(formerly ISPS Lowlands)

PAST EVENT:

On June 18th 2024 ISPS- Nederland-Vlaanderen organised a conference with the subject: **'From generation to generations, ghosts from the past'** in the Apeldoornsche Bosch in the Netherlands. ISPS member Elizabeth Anthonis wrote a review that you can [VIEW HERE](#).



EVENTS IN THE FUTURE:

On October 25th 2024 ISPS-Nederland-Vlaanderen will organise a conference with the subject: **'Need adapted care for psychosis, human contact as essential source'** in UPC, KU Leuven, campus Kortenberg. This study day looks back at the 23rd International ISPS Conference, which took place from 5 to 8 June 2024 in Helsinki. Several participants from Flanders and the Netherlands made active contributions in Helsinki. Now they repeat them for a Dutch-speaking audience while Françoise Davoine will be present to give her talk of the Helsinki conference in English again. For more information see <https://www.upckuleuven.be/nl/agenda/need-adapted-care-psychosis>

Two international webinars will be organised by the ISPS network the Netherlands-Flandres in English:

Thursday November 21st from 07:30 till 09:00 PM CET: Mastering inner voices to become more fully yourself. In a transgenerational perspective. A trauma-based understanding of vulnerabilities that makes you lose touch with reality.

With guest speaker **Claire Bien** in dialogue with **Christel Guldentops** and Q&A with the participants. Both have a lived experience with how dealing with inner voices.

Claire Bien is author of the book: *Hearing Voices Living Fully. Living with the Voices in my Head.*

Huguette Beyens, art psychotherapist and member of member of the board of ISPS Lowlands will accompany the webinar and invite for an interactive dialogue with the speakers and you.

More information will follow that you can read on this website:
www. <https://www.isps-netwerk-nederland-vlaanderen.nl/>

Wednesday December 11th from 07:30 till 09:00 PM CET: From survivor's hurt and trauma to a proposal of dialogue

A webinar with Martin Glozman (UBA Universidad de Buenos Aires)

Martin Glozman taught 19th Century European Literature and Russian Literature at UBA, and Writing and Reading workshops at Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento. He organized the 5th International Conference of Dialogical Practices in Buenos Aires (2019) together with Elisa Petroni and a local team.

He has published five books since 2011: *Salir del Ghetto* (Tersites, 2011), *Help a mi* (Milena Caserola, 2012), *No hay cien años* (Milena Caserola, 2016), *Documento de María* (La Bestia Equilátera, 2017) and *Un libro sobre el diálogo* (*A book on dialogue*, Buena vista Editora, 2021, translated into English in 2023.)

Currently, he is studying Psychology at Universidad de Belgrano and coordinating groups of Dialogue with other therapists. He has also done the Intentional Peer Supporter training and Martin is in dialogue with Peer Supporters.

An intergenerational post-war atmosphere and trauma is at stake in the webinar and the heart of the matter on what Martin has survived in life and surpasses by Open Dialogue and literature.

Dag Van Wetter will enter into Dialogue with Martin. Dag is staff officer, 'Open Dialogue compagnon' and Open Dialogue trainer at vzw Psyche, co-creating Open Dialogue practice in Flanders, Belgium. After co-promoting Open Dialogue development in the region of North-West-Flanders since 2016, Dag is now facilitating Open Dialogue meetings, training groups, supporting teams and projects on the development of Open Dialogue practice in the rest of Flanders. In cooperation with mental health care organisations/professionals, peer workers, people with lived/family experience and social welfare partners, Dag and his colleagues are also actively connecting Open Dialogue practice to strengthening and spreading other recovery-based, people-centred and community-oriented practices.

Marc Calmeyn, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, member of the board of ISPS Lowlands will accompany the webinar and invite for an interactive dialogue with the speakers and you.

More information will follow that you can read on this website: <https://www.isps-netwerk-nederland-vlaanderen.nl/>

ISPS Sweden

Upcoming event: "Understanding Psychosis - a unique perspective from within"

On the 15th of November you have the chance to participate in an exclusive workshop in Gothenburg, Sweden.

You will gain a deeper understanding of what psychosis actually means to the individual, from some of the main characters in Se hele meg, from Norway (sehelemeg.no) through a personal story.

Deepen your knowledge and understanding by awakening your mind during a full day of captivating lecture and dynamic discussions from new perspectives.



We at ISPS Sweden strongly believe in the power of the human encounter.

This day offers a unique opportunity to come together to meet and learn from each other. Be a part of spreading knowledge about psychosis and mimicking stigma in our society - Don't miss this!

When? Friday 15th of November 2024

Time? 09:30 – 16:00

Where? Göteborgs Stadsmuseum in the city center of Gothenburg

Members of ISPS have of course a discounted price!

Follow us on Facebook - Svenska ISPS

www.ispssverige.se

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News from India

We are pleased to inform you that the work of Ishita Sanyal, winner of the Feinsilver Award in 2009, has recently been selected by the APA (American Psychological Association) for the Positive Psychology Award. This award is given once every year to a person from around the world. It is really a proud moment for any Psychologist and mental health professional to receive this award. Ishita Sanyal announced to us that she is thankful to everyone involved in the field of Mental Health in India as this award goes to India this year.



Ludi Van Bouwel

On behalf of the ISPS EC

In India often the doors of education & development remain closed for people with psychosocial disability or people with special needs. Parents remain confused about their future & the appropriate paths for their development. People with ID or Psychosocial disability are often considered as “incapable”, “good for nothing” individuals & hence they do not get a proper scope to develop & perform. Though at the beginning of the illness they have denial but once they accept the illness they start accepting this negative image that is incorporated by lack of proper positive opportunities available in society. This leads to frustration, lack of self-confidence, insecurity, anxiety & lack of motivation in them. I tried to break free of these society-imposed boundaries. I wanted to create some hope, and some developmental possibilities for them. I tried to explore a new way to work together, learn together, explore together, and create together a new opportunity, a new meaning of treatment & growth for these people.

My work in the field to initiate Positive Psychology for these people is threefold- 1)to explore the tremendous potentialities of these people through different forms of creativity which creates a sense of satisfaction & achievement increasing their confidence & giving them a positive self-identity, 2) To showcase these potentialities to different people in the society & community to wipe away the invisible shackles of stigma & 3)Social & economic empowerment of people with MI as unless they are financially independent, it is not possible to lead an independent life
[.https://youtu.be/WziGCf6RbAA](https://youtu.be/WziGCf6RbAA)

Each day we learned a lot, played a lot, and discovered a lot that was never published in any Psychiatry book & I was afraid to discuss our discoveries or share our experiences with any professionals who would laugh at “our not-so-professional activities”. It created magic & I learnt that growth & development is possible when we are doing activities together. I discovered how powerful & supportive a group or organization can become in the life of a person with mental illness. I understood how members of an organization start loving the healthy competitive spirit & the way it helps them to overcome challenges in their lives. I got to know that development is not possible alone & that the most important need for any person with an emotional crisis is to get a reliable & supportive friend or friends like

their family members & getting a community. I also had an insight on how their needs can inspire us as professionals to set new targets to achieve & move forward & deny any & every negativism prevalent in society.

At Turning Point we were able to mainstream people & many of our beneficiaries have been able to return to complete either their education or have been able to join a job. For the rest of the people, I thought entrepreneurship could be an answer to resolve the problem & initiated entrepreneurship to generate earnings for making both Social & Economic rehabilitation possible for them. <https://youtu.be/WziGCf6RbAA>

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From the very beginning of my work-I focused on the wellness of the individual concerned & not on illness. At The Turning Point, we make a road map for their development & keep on encouraging them to tap every opportunity that they want for their further development & growth by honing of skills & potentialities embedded in them.

Open The Door- To provide people with Special needs a platform to showcase their potentialities we started a unique talent hunt competition where each participants are considered a winner. We continued this even during Covid period online & it became a national competition from a regional competition & now it has become an International event joining hands with Global Play Brigade, USA, which is having its network in 100 countries.

Ishita Sanyal

Founder Director

Turning Point

www.turningpoint.org.in

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