



Philosophy of Psychiatry



Newsletter 30

September 2009

INTRODUCTION

Another year and a huge amount has again been occurring in the world of philosophy and psychiatry. Personally, the biggest event for me was attendance at the International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry's (INPP) conference in Dallas, Texas, towards the end of 2008. This combined some fascinating talks on topics ranging from values to freedom, from ageing to Asperger's, from Aristotle to Frege, with a highly memorable feast (there was no other word for it), with demonstrations of cow-herding, at a working Texan ranch, all brilliantly organized by Professor John Sadler. And already the next INPP conference in Lisbon is upon us. It will be but a moment until the 2010 conference, which is planned for Manchester. Our time has come: where will we find the equivalent of the cowboys and cowgirls?!

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) was very well represented in Texas. In these pages new possibilities for study at UCLAN in philosophy and psychiatry are described by Professor Tim Thornton. Once again, we highlight developments in Bulgaria, described by Professor Stoyanov, which include deeper links with this country through UCLAN. Meanwhile, Warwick remains a major centre for the new philosophy of psychiatry, and the new Chair of the Philosophy SIG, Matthew Broome, briefly describes the local group recently formed in Warwick. Other local groups – e.g. in Scotland and the Institute of Psychiatry – continue in their work.

Over the last few years our Newsletter has included pictures of philosophers in the top right of the title page. We've had various people, from Merleau-Ponty to Austin. But who is the handsome devil with the bike? The first person with a correct answer will be encouraged to have a drink with him in Manchester at the INPP conference being planned for 2010. If you want us to buy you a drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic), send us a review of his (the mystery philosophical biker's) latest book: we'll publish it in the next Newsletter (this offer is not open to anyone who has ever had a drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) with him before).

Philosophy SIG Website

For further details concerning the Philosophy SIG, please see our website:
<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/college/specialinterestgroups.aspx>

Remember also to check the website of the ***International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry***: <http://www.inpponline.org/>

Philosophy SIG Newsletter

Remember to send us any news about developments in connection with the philosophy of psychiatry in your area. Also, consider sending us reports on conferences or book reviews. Any contributions would be most welcome!!

Julian C Hughes (j.c.hughes@ncl.ac.uk)

Forthcoming Conferences

- In the year that marks the 20th anniversary of his death:
The Fifth R D Laing conference
THE POLITICS OF EVIDENCE

In conjunction with the Royal College of Psychiatrists (Philosophy Special Interest Group) and the Institute for Philosophy, Diversity and Mental Health (in the International School for Community, Rights and Inclusion at the University of Central Lancashire)
Saturday 10 October 2009 9.30 am – 5.00 pm

This conference will explore the pivotal concept of 'evidence' in today's psychological therapies through a series of debates.

VENUE: King's Fund, 11-13 Cavendish Square, London W1
Further information from the Administrator on:
0207 794 2652
email: paoffice@globalnet.co.uk www.philadelphia-association.co.uk

Programme

The Politics of Evidence: What is Good Care?
Prof David Healy with Joanna Moncrieff Chair: Prof Bill Fulford
Objectivity: Evidence or Demonstration
Dr John Heaton with Dr Lucy King
Evidence, Expression, Violence
Dr Miles Clapham with Dr Paul Caviston Chair: Kate Gilbert (PA)
Sane by Common Consent
Dr Pat Bracken with Richard Gipps Chair: tbc

TO BOOK

Please contact: The Secretary, Philadelphia Association, 4 Marty's Yard, 17 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QW Tel: 020 7794 2652 email: paoffice@globalnet.co.uk
Conference fee: £150 (concessions available) Cheques payable to 'Philadelphia Association'.

From the website of the International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry
<http://www.inpponline.org/>

- **12th International Conference for Philosophy and Psychiatry**
Understanding Mental Disorders
October 22-24, 2009

University of Lisbon, Portugal

- Conference organizers:
- Maria Luisa Figueira, M.D, Phd
- Pedro Varandas, M.D.

Conference office: Ideias ao Quadrado. Rua Mariana Vilar . Bloco 1 ? escrit?rio 1A . 1600-537 Lisboa

phone + 351 21 712 10 10; fax + 351 21 715 90 66
[inpp 2009 conference enquiries](#)

- **International Seminar on Mind, Brain and Consciousness**
Thane, Maharashtra, India
14-15 Jan 2010

Details are available at:

http://vpmthane.org/Arts-Comm/seminar2010/international_seminar.htm

Topics to be selected are at:

http://vpmthane.org/Arts-Comm/seminar2010/topics_for_international_seminar.htm

- **Philosophy of Medicine**

Bristol, UK

circa 15-17 April 2010

Planning committee:

- Michael Bresalier (Bristol)
- Alex Broadbent (Cambridge)
- Havi Carel (UWE)
- Jeremy Howick (Oxford/UCL)

Preliminary topic suggestions:

- philosophy of psychiatry
- epistemology of medicine (evidence and inference);
- ontology/metaphysics of medicine (e.g. health and disease);
- integrated history and philosophy of medicine.

- **Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry**

Call for Abstracts - 22nd Annual Meeting

May 22 & 23, 2010

New Orleans, LA

Theme: PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES IN EVIDENCE-BASED PSYCHIATRY

Conference Co-Chairs:

- David Brendel, M.D., Ph.D., Harvard Medical School
- Peter Zachar, Ph.D. Auburn University Montgomery

The movement toward Evidence-Based Psychiatry has generated a broad range of philosophical, ethical, and practical challenges. As a medical discipline charged with diagnosing, preventing, and treating mental disorders, psychiatry depends on established knowledge and emerging empirical data from the neurosciences, genetics, psychology, and other areas of scientific inquiry. Evidence-Based Psychiatry (EBP) refers to the application of well-supported scientific knowledge to clinical problems affecting mind, brain, and behavior. EBP provides a framework for integrating the current best evidence, clinical expertise and patient values and preferences into clinical practice. A plethora of conceptual and practical questions underlie EBP:

- Can psychiatrists use empirical data alone to select the best diagnostic constructs?
- Can evidence for psychiatric treatments be trusted when much of it comes from data obtained by clinical researchers and pharmaceutical companies with a financial stake in the outcome of the studies they conduct?
- What happens when expertise conflicts with patient values and preferences?

This conference will consider these and related controversies in current psychiatric research and practice. Papers pertaining to Evidence-Based Psychiatry and Evidence-Based Practice in clinical and counseling psychology are welcome.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- What counts as valid evidence for making diagnostic and treatment decisions?
- Can clinical expertise be empirically-based?
- Do political and moral issues affect the definition of successful treatment outcome?
- What are the ethical issues in the use of treatment manuals/algorithms?

- If the best current evidence pertains primarily to patients with single disorders, how should the scientifically –informed clinician respond to multiple, complex, co-morbid disorders?
- What is the relationship between science and humanism in EBP?
- Does ‘best evidence’ vary across cultures?
- How do guild interests (psychiatry versus psychology) influence the articulation of standards of care?

Presentations will be strictly limited to 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts will be blind reviewed, so the author's identifying information should be attached separately. Abstracts should be 500-600 words and should be sent via email by November 15, 2009 to both dbrendel@partners.org and pzachar@aum.edu. Notices of acceptance or rejection will be distributed in early January.

- **International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry**

*The 2010 INPP conference will be held in the UK
Manchester, UK
28th - 30th June 2010*

Book Series

Oxford University Press:

International Perspectives in Philosophy and Psychiatry

International Perspectives in Philosophy and Psychiatry is an international book series focusing on the emerging interdisciplinary field at the interface of philosophy and psychiatry. Volumes in the series will continue the broad theme of 'nature' (for causes/explanations) and 'narrative' (for meanings/understandings), building links between the sciences and humanities in psychiatry, but focusing on more narrowly defined topics.

For details of the series please see:

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/category/academic/series/medicine/ippp.do>

Local Groups

The **Coventry and Warwickshire Philosophy and Psychiatry Group** meet every three months at Warwick Medical School to discuss previously circulated readings.

Members include Dr Matthew Broome, Dr Ken Ma, Dr Marek Marzanski and Dr Moli Paul and we have discussed Heidegger's 'Origin of the Work of Art', Midgley's 'Wickedness', The Trinity Papers, and selections from Gadamer's 'Truth and Method' and 'Enigmas of Health' over the last 12 months.

For more information, please contact Matthew Broome on m.r.broome@warwick.ac.uk

Philosophy of mental health at the University of Central Lancashire

The University of Central Lancashire's *Institute for Philosophy, Diversity and Mental Health* is committed to an international programme of research and teaching. As part of the newly established *International School for Communities, Rights and Inclusion*, led by Lord Kamlesh Patel of Bradford, the Institute aims to bring a new dynamism and cooperation to the University's work in community engagement, social inclusion, equality and human rights, supported by high level philosophical and conceptual analysis. It aims to be:

- research-led, drawing particularly on the resources of philosophy;
- practically focused, contributing to public policy, training and service developments that support user and community engagement, equality and social inclusion, within diverse communities; and
- international in scope, working in partnership with the International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry, and a wide international network of researchers, service users and practitioners of mental health, illness and recovery.

Why Philosophy?

Mental health raises conceptual as well as empirical difficulties; philosophy offers tools to provide conceptual clarification of key issues. Philosophical approaches to mind and meaning, values and ethics, science and knowledge will inform research into the nature of mental health and illness, mental health care, and the central roles and experiences of service users.

Why Diversity?

Increasingly our society is multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. Mass migration, economic change and new information technologies have focused attention on respect for diversity throughout society. This demands positive engagement with the diversity of individual experiences - diversity in relation to gender, age, religion, language, sexuality and other features of human experience. The Institute's resources of philosophy, such as values-based practice, support research and service development that are responsive to the full diversity of individual user's needs, beliefs and experiences.

Why International?

Historically, one of the barriers to developing services that are genuinely responsive to the diversity of user experience has been the dominance of particular models of mental health care and recovery. The Institute is developing a rich international network of partners among service users, researchers and policy-makers, as the basis for a dynamic process of shared learning, drawing on the range of philosophical traditions found in different parts of the world.

The Philosophy and Mental Health teaching programme

The Institute runs a Post-Graduate Certificate, Diploma and Masters course in Philosophy and Mental Health. It is:

- based on the newly published *Oxford Textbook of Philosophy and Psychiatry*
- conducted by distance learning to fit with the busy working lives of those in the field
- led by internationally recognised leaders in the field
- run from starting dates in October and January

Mental health care is in a state of flux. The rise of user-centred care, developments in models of diagnosis and increasingly sophisticated tools to guide values-based practice have all changed the intellectual and policy landscape. The programme in Philosophy and Mental Health critically examines the assumptions that drive the agenda in mental health care. It aims to foster analytic and argumentative skills in its students in order for them to have a theoretically informed understanding of mental health to enhance their professional practice. It also provides a stepping-stone for students to carry out original research and participate in changing this developing field.

For more details, email Tim Thornton, Professor of Philosophy and Mental Health, at TThornton1@uclan.ac.uk or via www.uclan.ac.uk/philosophyandmentalhealth.

**Expanding the influence of Philosophy and Mental Health in
South-Eastern Europe: a report from the Balkan Academy of PPP
Assoc. Prof. Drozdtoj Stoyanov, MD, PhD**

President of the Academy, Deputy Director of the University Centre for Philosophy and
Mental Health, Plovdiv

In the period 2008-2009, as a result of international efforts and hard work, the field of Philosophy and Mental Health in South-Eastern Europe has grown in terms of its influence. The most significant event to be recorded was the Second International Symposium on Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology (PPP) organized by the Balkan Academy of PPP (**BAPPP**)–INPP, the University Centre for Philosophy and Mental Health (**UCPMH**), University of Plovdiv and the Sofia University Clinical and Counseling Psychology Program. This was held in Sofia University on May 22d 2009. We are grateful for the endorsement of the International Network of Philosophy and Psychiatry (INPP) for this enterprise.

- Ahead to the Second International Symposium. UCPMH published in collaboration with BAPPP a collection of **Archives of Philosophy and Mental Health** (2008-2009).
 - Next on the list was the visit of Giovanni Stanghellini. Professor Stanghellini was welcomed in the University of Plovdiv on June 29th 2009 for his inauguration with the degree of *Doctor Honoris Causa*. During the ceremony he presented a lecture entitled “**The Psychopathological interview: a philosophical problem**”. Prof. Stanghellini has also been a guest of the Faculty of Public Health at the University of Medicine in Plovdiv where he conducted most fruitful conversations with the academic management.
 - Establishment of mutual agreement contacts between FPH (Plovdiv) and ISCRI (UCLan). On July 7th 2009 there was initiated a meeting with Prof. Lord Patel of Bradford, OBE which was organized in Preston, UK. Prof. Stoyanov was authorized as a special Deputy on international affairs for the Dean of the Faculty of Public Health in the Medical University of Plovdiv, Professor Jeliuzko Hristov. Prof. Lord Patel of Bradford represented the University of Central Lancashire as Head of its International School of Communities, Rights and Inclusion. Professors Bill Fulford and Christopher Heginbotham also attended this meeting as Co-Directors of the Institute for Philosophy, Diversity and Mental Health at ISCRI. The participants agreed on the following agenda for cooperation:
 1. A joint research programme between the UK and Bulgaria focussing on community engagement with minority communities;
 2. An educational programme with the Faculty of Public Health on healthcare management, public health policy and social care management with a focus on diversity and inequalities in public health; and
 3. A joint conference on philosophy and multi-cultural, cross-national determinants of public health, to be held in Bulgaria in the autumn 2010.
 - **Approval of the MA in Philosophy and Mental Health on July 20th 2009.** The program was designed by members of Expert Board of UCPMH and ratified successfully by the Academic Board of the University. This is the fifth program worldwide, after the Universities of Warwick, Essex, King’s College, and Central Lancashire in UK.
 - **WPA regional meeting in St. Petersburg 2010:** Symposium entitled “**Epistemology and Methodology of psychiatry**”. Co-sponsored by the WPA Section on Philosophy and Humanities (Chairpersons: Prof. Bill Fulford, Prof. Giovanni Stanghellini).
- Further development of the UCPMH.** In February 2009, the first Director of the Centre, Ivan Hristov, resigned. The Board elected in his position Professors Ognyan Saparev and Drozdtoj Stoyanov as Deputy Director. After its establishment in 2008, UCPMH developed a wide range of non-formal task forces and special interest groups on different items of the PPP agenda.

Last but not least, we were honored with the academic endorsement of the Philosophy SIG of the RSPsych for our application before the National Science Trust, aimed at

further expansion of the Network under a novel Integrative Inter-University Centre for Philosophy, Ethics and Mental Health.