Introduction to the International Speakers

Amita Dhanda  https://www.nalsar.ac.in/amita-dhanda

Prof. Amita Dhanda is Professor of Law at National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad. She also heads the Centre for Disability Studies at the University. She has a substantive interest in the field of public law and human rights with special reference to disability rights. Prof. Dhanda’s doctoral thesis critically appraising the laws relating to the mentally ill was a pioneering effort at evaluating the human rights conformity of mental health laws in the country. The thesis was later brought out as a book entitled “Legal Order and Mental Disorder”.

Her doctoral work had got Prof. Dhanda to conclude that the social stigma of mental illness was reinforced by the law. Legal exclusion needs to be challenged and the legislative regimes providing for the incapacity and disqualification of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disability dismantled. This insight informed the work she did on legal capacity in the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee negotiating the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Prof. Dhanda is presently engaged in research which would promote the new paradigm of universal legal capacity with support


Natalie Drew is a Technical Officer with the Mental Health Policy and Service Development team at the World Health Organization. As part of her work she supports countries to reform national policies, plans and laws in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international human rights standards. In addition, she oversees the WHO QualityRights Project, which, among other things, supports countries to assess and improve quality and human rights conditions in mental health services, and builds capacity among key national stakeholders to understand and promote the rights of people with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities.
Michelle Funk

Dr. Michelle Funk is responsible for the work in mental health policy, planning, service development, human rights and legislation for the World Health Organization in Geneva. As part of her work she leads the WHO Quality Rights Project, which, among other things, builds capacity of stakeholders to understand and promote the human rights of people with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities and supports countries to develop services, policies and laws which uphold international human rights standards, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Gábor Gombos
www2.ohchr.org/SPdocs/CRPD/CVMembers/GaborGOMBOS.doc

Gábor Gombos is a world renowned independent disability rights defender. A person with a psychosocial disability himself, Gabor’s work and activism ranges from grassroots peer support by users and survivors of psychiatry, through national, regional and international non-governmental organizations, up to the United Nations. Until the end of 2012 Gabor served as Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a body of independent experts, which monitors the implementation of the Disability Convention. His work in the field of disability and mental health rights has been recognized by the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary (2009). Mr Gombos is a Fellow of Ashoka Innovators for the Public (2001) and his activism was profiled in the Speak Truth to Power educational project by the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (2000). He serves on the Advisory Board of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award.

Mary O’Hagan  http://www.maryohagan.com

Mary O’Hagan was a key initiator of the mental health service user movement in New Zealand in the late 1980s, and was the first chairperson of the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry between 1991 and 1995. She has been an advisor to the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Mary was a full-time Mental Health Commissioner in New Zealand between 2000 and 2007. Mary has written and spoken extensively on recovery and user/survivor perspectives in many countries. Mary is now an international consultant in mental health and runs a social enterprise that has developed PeerZone – peer led workshops in mental health and addiction. She is also leading the development of Swell – an online recovery toolkit for people with mental distress and the people who work with them. Mary has written an award-winning memoir called ‘Madness Made Me’. She was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2015.
Will Hall  http://willhall.net

Will Hall, MA, DipPW is a therapist and trainer internationally recognized for his innovative work with psychosis treatment and changing the social response to madness. He is host of Madness Radio on KBOO FM in Oregon, author of the *Harm Reduction Guide To Coming Off Psychiatric Drugs* (available in 15 languages), co-founder of Portland Hearing Voices and past co-coordinator of The Icarus Project. Will was trained in Open Dialogue at the Institute for Dialogic Practice and holds a masters degree in Arnold Mindell’s Process Oriented Psychology. A schizophrenia diagnosis survivor who was forcibly treated and San Francisco's Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, Will has been featured in several documentary films and coverage in the New York Times, Newsweek, Forbes, and The Guardian, and his writing has appeared in the *Journal of Best Practices in Mental Health* and Oxford University's *Textbook of Modern Community Mental Health Work: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. He works with individuals and families from around the world, and his new book is *Outside Mental Health: Voices and Visions of Madness*.

Chris Hansen  http://www.intentionalpeersupport.org

Chris Hansen is the Director of Intentional Peer Support, and has been co-teaching and developing Intentional Peer Support in the United States and in other countries with Shery Mead for the past eight years. Chris has spent the last twenty years involved in local, regional, national and international peer support and advocacy initiatives, and in mental health sector planning and politics from a user perspective. Other roles have included clinical and management roles in both inpatient and outpatient mental health services, leadership within NZ’s award-winning anti-discrimination campaign, research for the NZ Mental Health Commission, and involvement in the development of the NZ national mental health strategic plan and workforce development strategy. Chris was a member of the New Zealand delegation to the United Nations for the development of the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and has served on the board of the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry and has played a key role in the development of a number of peer-run crisis alternatives.

Petra Hohn

Petra is registered nurse, network therapist and has a master for teaching for health services. Petra has been working since 1993 in different psychiatric services for outpatient and inpatient care, first at Kriscenter Soteria (1993-1997), an integrated model for care for first brake psychotic people. Kriscenter Soteria was part of the Swedish Parachute Study. Since1997 to 2001 she was working as chief for outpatient centers, first in Södertälje Psychiatric Sector with integrated NIP (Newly Identified Psychosis) teams and integrated teams for social work and psychiatric treatment according to the NATM principles. Presently Petra is working at Psychiatry South Stockholm as chief for two outpatient units. Together with Volkmar Aderhold and others she has been developing and doing systemic trainings in Germany according to the NATM model since 2008. These trainings have been recently delivered as NATM training for the Parachute Project in New York City from 2013-2015. Her interest to work dialogical in healthcare started with her job at Kriscenter Soteria. Cornerstones of practice were the implicit attention given to clients and their family’s words and language, the acknowledgement that every human being is born into relationships, embedded in them and that we as human beings are and need to be dependent on fellow humans. To be human and to become who we are we need the answer of others, others need to see,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yana Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mentalhealthexcellence.org">www.mentalhealthexcellence.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yana Jacobs, LMFT is currently chief development officer at the Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care, a Non-Profit community foundation with a mission to bring alternatives into the mainstream public and private sectors. She began her work at Soteria House as a staff member in the mid 70s, mentored by Loren Mosher, MD. Soteria House became her foundation as she moved into other areas of employment within the mental health world. Yana spent over 30 years working both in private practice as a therapist and in the public sector at Santa Cruz County Mental Health in California. She first worked with their crisis team and later became the Chief of Adult Outpatient/Recovery services. As an ally to people with lived experience she implemented a Peer-Run Respite House, funded by a federally funded SAMHSA Transformation Grant. Yana believes we must work both as an activist on the outside and with our allies on the inside if we are going to bring about real change. She teaches about “Being With” people who are in extreme states, based on her work and life experience at Soteria House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumeet Jain</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/staff/social_work/jain_sumee">http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/staff/social_work/jain_sumee</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sumeet Jain is Lecturer in Social Work at The University of Edinburgh. Sumeet’s research and teaching engages with the disciplines of global health, transcultural psychiatry, medical anthropology and social work. His research aims to contribute to improvement of community mental health by drawing on inter-disciplinary knowledge and mixed methods. This work unpacks the notion of a 'global' mental health and attempts to inform development of approaches that account for local experiences and understandings of psychological distress. Sumeet’s research examines the nature of local and culturally grounded ‘innovations’ in community mental health care in the ‘global south’; alternative forms and sources of ‘evidence’ in global mental health; and the relationships between mental health, poverty, and development. Sumeet is conducting long-term ethnographic research on community mental health services in policies in Uttar Pradesh state, India. He is Associate Editor, <em>Anthropology and Medicine</em> journal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayasree Kalathil</td>
<td><a href="http://www.survivor-research.com">www.survivor-research.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jayasree Kalathil is a researcher and survivor activist with a background in critical humanities and cultural studies. For over 15 years, she has worked to link activism and experiential knowledge to academia and knowledge production, mobilising community participation to influence policy and practice. Her research interests include intersections of ‘race’, gender and madness, and cultural representations and narratives of madness. Her publications include a co-authored textbook <em>Values and ethics in mental health</em> (Palgrave, 2015); <em>Recovery and resilience: African, African Caribbean and South Asian Women’s narratives about recovering from mental distress</em> (Survivor Research and Mental Health Foundation, 2011); <em>Dancing to our own ounes</em> (NSUN, 2011); and <em>The Sackclothman</em> (DC Books, 2008). She is a coordinator of the Inquiry into the ‘Schizophrenia’ Label. Jayasree lives in London and runs Survivor Research, a virtual...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Laurence J. Kirmayer

Laurence J. Kirmayer, MD, is James McGill Professor and Director, Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University. He is Editor-in-Chief of Transcultural Psychiatry, and Director of the Culture & Mental Health Research Unit at the Institute of Community and Family Psychiatry, Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, where he conducts research on culturally responsive mental health services, the mental health of indigenous peoples, and the anthropology of psychiatry. His past research includes studies on cultural consultation, pathways and barriers to mental health care for immigrants and refugees, somatization in primary care, and indigenous concepts of mental health and resilience. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and the Royal Society of Canada.

Diana Kingston

Diane Kingston OBE (formerly Diane Mulligan) born 4 October 1966 is a UK-based disability rights campaigner. She is Deputy Director of the International Advocacy and Alliances department at CBM, an international Christian development organisation committed to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in poor communities. In 2012 she became the UK elected member of the Expert Committee for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Kingston was elected as a Vice-Chairperson of the Expert Committee in March 2015.

Peter Lahmann

Peter Lehmann is an independent publisher, author and freelance activist of humanistic antipsychiatry in Berlin. Since 1990, co-editor of the Journal of Critical Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy (United Kingdom). Since 2013, Patron for the Berlin Organisation of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry. In 1987, co-founder of PSYCHEX (alliance of lawyers, doctors and survivors of psychiatry to support people who are incarcerated in psychiatric institutions in Switzerland). In 1991, co-founder of the European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP); Since 2013, he has been a blogger at Mad in America. In 2010, awarded an Honorary Doctorate in acknowledgement of "exceptional scientific and humanitarian contribution to the rights of the people with psychiatric experience" by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In 2011, awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in acknowledgement of service to the community by the President of Germany. Book publications include, "Alternatives Beyond Psychiatry" (edited 2007 together with Peter Stastny, ebook 2014; "Coming off Psychiatric Drugs: Successful withdrawal from neuroleptics, antidepressants, mood stabilizers, Ritalin and tranquilizers" (edited 2004, ebook 2013).
Kwame McKenzie  http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com

Dr. Kwame McKenzie is CEO of the Wellesley Institute. He is an international expert on the social causes of illness, suicide and the development of effective, equitable health systems. As a physician, researcher and policy advisor, Dr. McKenzie has worked to identify the causes of illness and in cross-cultural health for over two decades. He is an active, funded researcher of social, community, clinical and policy issues with nearly 200 academic publications including five books.

In addition to his post at Wellesley Institute, Dr. McKenzie is the Director of Clinical Health Equity at CAMH. He is a full Professor and the Co-Director of the Division of Equity Gender and Population in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto. Dr. McKenzie sits on the Boards of the United Way Toronto and the Ontario Hospitals Association. He is a Senior Fellow at Massey College.

Dr. McKenzie is a member of the Ontario Government’s Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council and sat on the Expert Advisory Group for Ontario’s Homelessness Strategy along side numerous other committees. He has a respected track record for setting up award winning services, training clinicians and researchers, offering clinical care to some of the most marginalized patients, and helping to develop health policy for Governments in Canada, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and United States.

Dr. McKenzie completed his medical training at the University of Southampton and was trained in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital and Institute of Psychiatry and Harvard University.

China Mills  http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/education/staff/academic/millsc

China Mill’s research explores the psycho-political effects of the globalisation of the psy-disciplines, the medications and mentalities they elicit, and how they shape our very understandings of ourselves and of the social conditions in which our lives are embedded. She is interested in exploring how the psy-disciplines and psychotropic drugs function in local and global contexts of entrenched inequality, chronic poverty, (neo)colonial oppression, and increasingly under the politics of austerity. In 2014, China Mill published the book ‘Decolonizing Global Mental Health: the Psychiatrization of the Majority World’ (Routledge), which draws on research with NGOs and user-survivor organisations in India (including Bapu Trust), and analyses global mental health policies as forms of colonial discourse. She has since published work on the mental health-poverty nexus, and on poverty, stigma and social isolation. Previously China worked with the Hearing Voices Network in the UK, and has grown up alongside family members who hear voices, and who have a Schizophrenia diagnosis.

Steve Morgan  http://www.intentionalpeersupport.org

Steven Morgan has worked in peer support services for the past decade. He was originally trained as a Georgia Certified Peer Specialist and worked in traditional service agencies, where he became intimately familiar with the difficulties of practicing peer support within a medical model. This led to an interest in developing alternative supports, so in Vermont he helped create a peer-run respite, was Executive Director for four years of a peer-run agency called Another Way, and finally became project developer for Soteria-Vermont. Steven has provided many trainings in systems change at both a local and national level, and has served on several Boards of Directors for peer support organizations. In 2013, he joined Intentional Peer Support as Operations Manager with a passion for creating instruments of social change, a love of organizational development, and a belief in the transformative power of community. On full moons, he
Vikram Patel

Vikram Patel is a Professor and Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the Public Health Foundation of India. He is a co-founder of Sangath, an Indian NGO which works in the fields of child development, adolescent health and mental health. He is a Fellow of the UK’s Academy of Medical Sciences and serves on two WHO expert committees (mental health, and maternal, child and adolescent health) and several Government of India committees. He is a recipient of the Chalmers Medal from the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (UK), the Sarnat Medal from the US Institute of Medicine, an Honorary Doctorate from Georgetown University, the Chanchlani Global Health Research Award from McMaster University and an Honorary OBE from the UK Government. He was listed in TIME Magazine’s 100 most influential persons of the year in 2015.

Olga Runciman

Olga Runciman is the first and so far only psychologist in Denmark with her own practice specializing in working with youth and adults typically described as psychotic. She is a board member of the Danish Psychosocial Rehabilitation Network and Intervoice the international Hearing voices network. She is chair and co-founder of the Danish Hearing Voices network. She sees the hearing voices movement as post-psychiatric, working towards the recognition of human rights while offering hope, empowerment and access to making sense of one’s experiences both on an individual as well as on a social and societal level. She has worked extensively with trauma and abuse, voice hearing and other sensory experiences, as well as healing and recovery.

Gayathri Ramprasad

Gayathri Ramprasad is the Founder and President of ASHA International a non-profit organization promoting personal, organizational, and community wellness. And, the author of Shadows in the Sun: Healing from Depression and Finding the Light Within. Her successful battle in overcoming life-threatening mental illness and her amazing recovery taught her the power of hope and holistic wellness. Now, she shares that message with others. Since the launch of ASHA International’s wellness campaign, Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives in 2006, Gayathri’s keynotes, wellness workshops, and cultural competence trainings have reached more than 45,000 people nationally and internationally, with a resounding message of hope and recovery. Gayathri is a member of the Global Speakers Federation and winner of the prestigious Eli Lilly Welcome Back Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Voice Award for Consumer Leadership sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. She is also the winner of the 2008 Outstanding Alumna Award from her alma mater George Fox University, and the recipient of the 2015 Esperanza Hope Award.
Jolijn Santegoeds is a user/ survivor of psychiatry. At age 16 she was institutionalized against her will after a suicide attempt for a period lasting 3 years. She was called “a danger to herself” and was subjected to long-term solitary confinement, restraints and various other forms of forced treatments. After being transferred to another institution, where she was treated in a more humane way, she was not suicidal anymore. Eventually after 3 years she left this institution; she was then homeless for over 2 years. At age 22 she found a place to stay and finished college receiving a degree in Sustainable Engineering. She realized that her drive was to change the injustices in the mental health care system and started a protest group in the Netherlands called Rage against Isolation! (Tekeertegen de isoleer!), which later became an NGO called Mind Rights. Jolijn’s main activities are aimed at stimulating alternatives to forced treatments and the prevention of torture and ill-treatment in health care. In the context of the Dutch law reform on forced psychiatric interventions, she developed an alternative model, called the “Eindhoven Model”, which is based on using Family Group Conferencing for supported decision-making to avoid forced psychiatric interventions. This method has received support from the Dutch government and is currently in a pilot phase. Jolijn is generally active at all levels from practical alternatives in mental health services to policymaking and United Nations expert sessions. She is a board member of the European Network of (Ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP), and also a co-chair of the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP), which aims to secure the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities everywhere around the world.

Aditya Tiwari

Aditya Tiwari is a Consulting Homoeopathic Psychiatrist from the first batch of MD - Psychiatry in Homoeopathy from the Mumbai University - 2004-2007. He is also a Counsellor & Certified Arts Based Therapist since 2010. For the current year he is a guide for the ABT students. Along with like minded colleagues, he has founded a group called Tattva Health Care which runs various initiatives in the area of mental health service. These include - Angels Clinic which is an Integrated Mental Health Clinic for all age groups, located at Juhu, Mumbai; Playnasium play workshops, which are Art & Play Based Life-Skill building workshops in the community, schools, corporates, etc. He is also a Vipassana meditator and play Djembe (African drum) as a hobby.

Dominic Makuvachuma-Walker

Dominic Makuvachuma-Walker is the co-chair of National Survivor User Network, England. He has been contributing to the voice of direct, lived experience of using mental health services for 21 years through a range of platforms. He is an African father of three, and the first African survivor to contribute as a panellist to an Independent Homicide inquiry as well as an internal inquiry into a Serious and Untoward Incident leading to the Death in Custody of an African Caribbean Patient. Dominic was the Development Manager of the national black and minority ethnic mental health service user/survivor network in England, Catch-A-Fiya, from 2006-2008 and currently works as an Engagement Manager for Mind.
Michael Winkelman  http://michaelwinkelman.com

Michael Winkelman, Ph.D. (University of California-Irvine) retired from the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University in 2009. He was President of the Anthropology of Consciousness section of the American Anthropological Association, as was the founding President of its Anthropology of Religion Section. Winkelman has engaged in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary research on shamanism, psychedelics and altered states of consciousness, focusing principally on the universal patterns of shamanism and identifying the associated biological bases. His principal publications on shamanism include Shamans, Priests and Witches (1992) which provides a cross-cultural examination of the nature of shamanism; and Shamanism: A Biopsychosocial Paradigm of Consciousness and Healing (originally 2000, 2nd edition 2010). Shamanism provides a biogenetic model of shamanism that explains the evolutionary origins of spiritual healing in ancient ritual capacities. This biogenetic structuralist approach is expanded in an assessment of the evolutionary origins of religion in his co-authored Supernatural as Natural (with John Baker, 2008). These approaches provide a framework for understanding the necessary role of psychedelics in human evolution and their continued application in healing (also see Psychedelic Medicine [2007], co-edited with Tom Roberts). Winkelman’s work has shown that shamanism and psychedelics have a deep intersection in human evolution; these capacities for altering consciousness continue to be an important part of human experience and well-being today. Winkelman is currently living near Pirenopolis in the central highlands of Brazil where he is engaged in developing permaculture-based intentional communities.

Robert Whitaker  

www.madinamerica.com

Robert Whitaker is the author of five books, three of which tell of the science and history of psychiatry. His first, Mad in America: Bad Science, Bad Medicine and the Enduring Mistreatment of the Mentally Ill was named by Discover magazine as one of the best science books of 2002. His second, Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America, won the Investigative Reporters and Editors book award for best investigative journalism in 2010. His latest, which he co-wrote, is titled: Psychiatry Under the Influence: Institutional Corruption, Social Injury, and Prescriptions for Reform. Prior to writing books, Robert Whitaker worked as the science and medical reporter at the Albany Times Union newspaper in New York for a number of years. His journalism articles won several national awards, including a George Polk award for medical writing, and a National Association of Science Writers’ award for best magazine article. A series he co-wrote for The Boston Globe was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1998. He also was director of publications at Harvard Medical School for a time.