



**FIRST CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT
AND
CALL FOR WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

**'CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AND BEYOND "CHANGE" IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES'
15 AND 16 NOVEMBER 2017**

**SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, IRELAND
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
CRITICAL VOICES NETWORK IRELAND**

Claims are made that mental health services are changing for the better. Although changes have been made in terms of location, structures and language, has anything inherently changed in the way mental health services respond to human distress? What could be construed as a 'better' mental health service? Is 'better' understood in terms of: more funding, access, choice of 'therapies', empowerment, influence, collaboration, less medication, no coercion, a lesser role for psychiatry, no psychiatry? This conference, now in its 9th year, aims to explore and debate critical perspectives on and beyond:

- What do we understand by 'better' mental health services?
- Do we need mental health services at all?
 - o If so, what should they look like? If not, what other ways are there?
- The politics of changing mental health services

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

<p>Oor Mad History/Mad People's History and Identity We are a group of people based in Edinburgh, Scotland, who are interested in the newly emerging field of "Mad Studies". We have been involved in developing the first Mad People's History course outside of Canada, a partnership between CAPS Independent Advocacy, NHS Lothian and Queen Margaret University. We have also been involved in community history, arts as advocacy and activism. We are made up of people with lived experience/mad identified people, mad identified and mad positive academics and mental health advocacy workers.</p>	<p>Jim van Os is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology at Maastricht University, The Netherlands. He created the first User Research Centre in continental Europe, where users of mental health services create solutions to deal with stigma, tapering psychotropic medications and empower people with lived experiences working in mental health services. In 2015, together with colleagues, he initiated psychiatric reform, resulting in pilots of 'novel mental health services' based on the creation of caring communities.</p>
<p>Diana Rose has been a mental health service user all her adult life and is now Professor of User-Led Research at King's College London. She has spent more than 25 years researching mental health services from the perspective of those with mental distress who use such services. Finding conventional methods inadequate to this task, she has brought thinking from the social sciences and critical theory to push the boundaries of conventional Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in research and demonstrate that health, and particularly mental health, are more than medical matters.</p>	<p>Jolijn Santegoeds is a user/survivor of psychiatry, and founder of a protest group in the Netherlands called "Rage against Isolation!". Her main activities aim to stimulate alternatives to forced treatments and the prevention of torture and ill-treatment in mental health care. Jolijn is 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, and the Co-chair of the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.</p>
<p>Slí Eile is a voluntary organisation in Cork that supports people to develop a strong foundation for mental health recovery by harnessing the power of intentional residential community, collective enterprise and discovery-based life-planning. We provide opportunities for people to engage in the day-to-day challenges of community life, as well as in the demanding work of a fully-certified organic farm and a commercial bakery. We also use the 'C-ME' life-planning approach to help individuals to identify and to pursue their own unique aspirations, both within and beyond the residential community.</p>	<p>Jay Watts is a consultant clinical psychologist, psychotherapist and activist. She identifies as a psychiatric survivor. Jay has written widely about neoliberalism and the politics around mental health. She is Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Queen Mary, University of London. She is on the editorial board of a number of psychotherapy journals, and correspondent for the radical collective 'Mad in America'. Jay campaigns around the effects of structural inequalities and oppressions on mental health, and the misogyny inherent to the diagnostic category 'Borderline Personality Disorder'.</p>

Call for Oral Presentations/Workshops (45 minutes' duration): Please submit an abstract (in Word - 250 words max) related to the conference theme and outlining its aims and intentions by **11 September 2017**. Please also submit a brief bio (in Word - 150 words max). Email abstract and bio to l.sapouna@ucc.ie. Inquiries to h.gijbels@ucc.ie or l.sapouna@ucc.ie. **Registration** details will be circulated in September 2017. **The Conference organisers are Harry Gijbels, Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Lydia Sapouna, School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork, Ireland.**