

Programma zie: <https://ndc2.eu/programme/>

Thursday 4 July 2019

Conference day 1

08:45 Welcome with coffee and tea
09:15 Introduction: dreams and hopes...
09:30 Voices from the margins
10:00 Keynote Jim Duvall

'Innovations in narrative therapy. Connecting practice training and research'

Narrative therapy proposes the idea that our lives are made up of multiple events that can be strung together in many possible stories. These stories can be developed to find richer (or "thicker") narratives, and thus release the hold of negative ("thin") narratives on people's lives. Expanding from Evidence-Based Practices to Practice-Based Evidence this presentation will offer innovative directions that were developed through an advanced narrative therapy training program, which was integrated with a qualitative research project and counselling services for children, youth and families.

Interweaving clinical experiences, training, and rigorous qualitative research, this presentation will show not only how practices were expanded from the pioneering work of White and Epston, but will also include concepts from other critical thinkers. Proposals for taking these ideas into a range of contexts such as community work and working with organizations will be discussed. Ideas will also be presented about viewing your practice as co-research infusing critically reflective practices into the therapeutic experience, therefore contributing to the ongoing adjustment and shaping of practice. This co-research represents a collaborative partnership with people that result in a person-centered, culturally accountable and ethically based therapeutic practice.

10:40 Coffee and tea break
11:00 Workshop sessions 1
12:00 Workshop sessions 2
13:00 Lunch
14:00 Voices from the margins Jasmina Sermijn & Robert van Hennik
'Closer to you. A polyphony of voices around the effects of psychiatric diagnoses'

'In arts the purpose lies not in understanding or interpretation, but rather in affecting the nerves: art is sensation and nothing else, it acts immediately upon the flesh, rather than through the intermediary of the brain which is closer to the bone.' (Gilles Deleuze)

In the video project Closer to you a woman tells to her son how the diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder affected & imprisoned her for years and how she tries to escape that imprisonment. Her story shows how it feels, as a Deleuzian 'dividu', to get stuck into the rigid unity of a centralised story and how difficult it is to create lines of flights to others territories of living.

For the project A Polyphony of Voices we invite outsider witnesses to watch the video Closer to you and to share with us how the story of this woman 'affects their nerves'. This results in a polyphonic interplay of different voices, all of them talking & reflecting about possible effects of being diagnosed. The combination between image, voice and music creates an intense visual and auditory game that carries away the spectator and acts immediately upon the flesh.

14:30 Workshop sessions 3
15:30 Coffee and tea break
15:50 Keynote Sabine Vermeire

'No child is an island: from detachment narratives towards a sense of belonging'

Sometimes children grow up in multistressed families, where they experience violence, abuse or trauma. They can get caught up in difficulties and become overwhelmed by negative emotions, often exhibiting problematic behavior. In such cases a whole range of social services and child protection centers may become involved and often diagnoses such as 'attachment disorder' or 'insecure attachment' pop up.

Despite all the efforts and attempts to solve the problems, to change the situation or even to remove the child from its home, some of these children and youngsters keep getting stuck. As soon as the child, his or her family or important others enter the therapy room, it gets filled with tensions, frustrations and feelings of powerlessness.

In collaboration with the child and its family we explore some playful ways to bring stories of belonging to the foreground and try to create richer meanings about the problems, about each other and about valued relationships. In doing so, we try to promote 'a sense of personal and relational agency' and develop more livable and hopeful narratives adding to the child's and their family's skills and knowledge. I will illustrate this using film, letters and documents.

16:30 Voices from the margins Kris hazenbosch & Tomas Van Reybrouck

'Meeting parents of children who struggle with addiction'

Parents of children in the grip of an alcohol and /or illegal drugs addiction are confronted with discourses that tell them how to respond to these problems. Because they can't meet the high social expectations on parenthood there is a risk of becoming isolated. They experience feelings of guilt and shame because of what happens to them and their child. The dominant power/knowledge dynamics do not provide much room to publicly voice their concerns, to acknowledge their knowledges, and to reach constructive identity conclusions concerning their parenthood.

In our meetings with several parents we hope to break through the isolation and reconnect these parent with themselves and others by identifying these discourses and their responses. By gathering these parents, and giving them an opportunity to engage in conversations with each other, we want to try to find a space where they can not only speak, but can also be heard. These conversations contribute to subordinate story development for every parent of an addicted child. Their voices and stories can be heard as containing inspiring and enriching ideas for every participant of the conference and will hopefully lead to social action.

17:00 Music/theatre
17:30 Reception
18:30 Interview Poh Lin Lee and movie screening
'Island of the hungry ghosts'

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Friday 5 July 2019

Conference day 2

08:45 Welcome with coffee and tea

09:15 Introduction: dreams and hopes...

09:30 Voices from the margins Thomas Fondelli & Luc Van den Berge 'What about autism?'

Over the last few years the number of young people being diagnosed with ASD has increased significantly. One of the many challenges they face is how to make sense of the diagnosis. What does ASD mean? Why have they been given this diagnosis? What does this diagnosis tell about them? And what do they want with it?

During the months to come, young people with the diagnosis of autism will continue to look for ways that invite us (with or without the diagnosis) to listen to the metaphors, images and comparisons by which they believe they can help others and themselves to understand a bit more of what autism means to them. In thus voicing their feelings or thoughts about autism, they challenge us to engage with them in a less alienating and more understanding way.

10:00 Keynote Glenda Fredman 'Journeying through stories of personal and professional identity'

I will invite you to travel with me as I retrace my journey over time and across continents, living and working within different discourses of identity. I will share narratives from the multi-storied contexts of my life (personal, professional and political) to reflect on my relationship with different identity discourses and different models of 'self'. I will invite you to resonate with your own experience as we consider opportunities and constraints these discourses might create for ourselves, our world and the people with whom we work.

10:40 Coffee and tea break

11:00 Workshop sessions 1

12:00 Workshop sessions 2

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Voices from the margins Danny Keuppens & Sabine Vermeire 'A vote of (no) confidence. Voicing the resistance and solidarity of teenage girls who escaped from contexts of organized teenage prostitution'

Teenage girls in the grip of organized prostitution gangs are often framed as naïve victims. Once they escape from this abusive and violent environment their efforts and behavior aren't understood as acts of resistance against the abuse or against power relations and dominant discourses.

One of their responses is to become 'suspicious' and distrusting others, the world, and even themselves. What knowledges and values does this distrust contain? How can they re-connect with what matters to them and with the world they are living in?

A lack of trust is always predominant between those girls too. How can they be together in 'support' and solidarity' instead of isolating themselves from each other? What would happen if we could gather them together, have conversations with them about safe identity territories, their acts of resistance, their knowledge on 'love', 'sex', 'men',... and submit 'a vote of (no) confidence'.

Together with these teenage girls, Danny Keuppens and Sabine Vermeire will explore how narrative biographical interviews and group conversations can lead to new self-understandings and actions.

14:30 Workshop sessions 3

15:30 Coffee and tea break

15:50 Keynote Robert van Hennik

'You don't need the weatherman to know which way the wind blows (B. Dylan)'

In his plenary reading Robert will talk about collaborative inquiry practicing narrative therapy with families and communities. Robert presents stories of narrative family therapy practice. Family and community members inquire how externalized problems, often supported by operations and effects of power and control, influence their identity stories and collaboration as a team. Together they inquire how their worries and pain might be a testimony to what is precious to them and violated. They inquire how they respond or wish to respond as a collaborative community in order to live in harmony to what they give value to and what they intend for in their lives. Therapist, family and community members, co-researching, constitute a collaborative learning community. Participants appreciating local knowledges learn to improve collaboration through feedback, transcript-analysis and reflexive dialogue. Together they inquire how social interactions are maintained because of dominant discourses, pre-existing stories and actions and how social interactions can develop in the process of externalisation, reflexive dialogue and rich story development.

16:30 Hugh Fox 'Hopes and dreams for the narrative ideas, practices and community'

17:00 Music/theatre

17:30 Reception

19:30 Conference dinner