

Reflection and Actions in Community Psychology

EDITORIAL

There is clear evidence that our world is enmeshed in a social, economic and emotional crisis: people no longer trust their governments, financial groups are eroding countries economic and social capital; the exploitation of environmental resources and greedy use of common goods are depleting our Planet. At the same time, different disciplines agree on the need to find new forms of development that respect the principles of equality and social justice.

New knowledge related to health and relational wellbeing, such as nutritional needs, is opening



Caterina Arcidiacono
President ECPA 2011-2013

up the urgent development of different forms of both, the consumption and production of goods. People are not wholly aware of the effect of this state of affairs for our communal life, so that egotistic and individualistic solutions are more chosen and the social actions for structural changes are less and less diffused every passing day.

People feel more dis-

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tressed and powerless in facing the future, acting as the latter did not belong to them. But this passive behaviour is exactly what brings them to lose control of the future itself and in the end this will not longer belong to them for real. As in a vicious circle the future is going to appear as somewhat more and more dark and closed. By way of example, in deserved areas youth are powerless in the face of the lack of job opportunities and as a consequence these feelings of inadequacy make it unable or unwilling to take action in any change project or social involvement. [...]

COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY

Special
points of interest:

>ECPA visions

>Review of recent books in Community psychology

>Community psychology Task force by Jacqui Akhurst

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...Editorial

[..] As a result people do not face social and political problems having no strength to overcome them. In the last decade there was a total involvement in the present life, living in the moment, without any projection (free sexual life and reduced reciprocal obligations; less children and parental responsibilities; reduction in sacrificial attitudes towards children and elderly needs; search for personal pleasure without relational commitment and interdependence, only to name a few). All of which led to an investment in the memory of the past: families used to be shielded from social changes. Social bonds and ties have been "neutralized" and everyone lives helplessly in their self. Had painted this grim picture of the status quo, it is now time to remind that Community Psychology, the discipline at the edge between individuals and social context, has a lot to say about this issue. CP takes into account individual factors (both at a relational and intrapsychic level) in their organizational, cultural and political domains. Its reference model is, in fact, the ecological one (Prilleltensky, Perkins) also in its European focus (Orford).

Community Psychology's goal does not lie in a mere theoretical perspective, but is strongly concerned with social transformations and active participation of citizens in order to foster their individual, relational and social wellbeing. Its vision is as rich as complex: different authors and research centres are focused on a critical approach toward the individual and social problems (Fryer, Degirmencioglu, Kagan and Burton). Some scholars are mainly concerned with the construction and development of research and intervention methodologies, (among others Donata Francescato has a worldwide recognition) or devoted to specific issues (work organization: Stark; mental health: Ornelas and Vargas, and Walker; prevention

and health issues: Carr, Zani, and Saias; participation: Mannarini, De Piccolo, Marta; migration and integration: Garcia, etc.). Participatory Qualitative Research in CP, is grounded in Jarg Bergold and Heiner Legewie's experience; narrative and visual participatory tools are wide developed (Cunningham and Johnson). European perspective is very rich, albeit the language barrier does not facilitate its dissemination. As I am Italian, I hope to write in a reasonable English!!!!

Ecpa issues and interests are in fact deeply concerned with the individual and social challenges of our globalized world. Namely, Community Psychology in its critical perspective is struggling not only with poverty issues, but pursuing equality and social justice as well. We are dealing with gender issues (social asymmetry, violence and gender minority's rights) but women's role in our society and the gender gap should become an issue of greater focus.

In Europe, in the last fifteen years, more than 1600 people attended our events; we are active in at least nine European countries; we actively collaborate in at least three-four specialized journals, we teach in at least fifteen European Universities; we are in contact with at least five-six national organizations active in community psychology at European level. At the same time, it is glaringly obvious that there is very much more to do if we want to share our views and become a social and visible powerful strength.

However, on one hand it is difficult to be recognized within psychology and on the other hand our peculiar competencies are hardly acknowledged as specific to psychology. The boomerang effect is that in some countries universities do not implement CP teaching and psychology remains closed off in its individual determinants. In the social community and services, community psychologists are in fact an 'active minority'



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(I quote here according to Moscovici's definition) within the huge domain of 'mainstream' psychology.

I am therefore pleased to introduce a renovation issue of our newsletter.

At the end of the Conference in September 2011 held in York, I started my ECPA presidential term of office. As president I will do my utmost to maintain and create new tools useful for the debate of our discipline increasing social awareness concerning both the global and local world. I think we need to enlarge our connections in a more structural way and on these account, we need to organize the board activities in stronger connections with national associations.

Thanks to the technical competence and commitment of David Vossebrecher, we created an ECPA listserv; we are doing maintenance to the website and now with this new tool: a renewed newsletter.

I hope that with all your collaboration it will be a powerful exchange and dissemination tool. Thanks to Liz Cunningham of Brighton and the support of PhD students of Federico II University (Agostino Carbone and Francesco Muollo) we have now an editorial team that in a very short time was able to produce this new issue. I am positive that with your support we will improve it more and more.

During the last winter, thanks to Thomas Saias and Wolfgang Stark's previous efforts, along with Nicolas Carr and my personal collaboration, we supported EFPA (European Federation of Psychologists's Association) in setting up of an EFPA task force on community psychology. I worked hard to gather delegates from countries and finally we held the first meeting. Jacqui Akhurst wrote for us a report of the latter describing its goals and project within EFPA for the next two years. Convenor of the taskforce has been nominated, Nicholas Carr, our treasurer, whom I congratulate on behalf of the Executive committee and all ECPA

members. A special recognition and a warm thanks go to Tor Levin Hofgaard, president of the Norwegian psychological association who was strongly committed to the creation of this taskforce.

I'm aware that in order to give voice to our thoughts, over and above implement the psychology in the community psychology perspective, we have to build contacts with movements and associations working with similar purposes. The Council of Europe and EU Institutions should also be a reference for the pursuit of our goals. The EU programme as Horizon 2020 aimed at breaking down barriers to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation could be a form to develop and disseminate our visions. To my mind, we should then strengthen interconnections within the European CP association, but also interact at an international level developing contacts with scholars and activists of the Mediterranean area and other continents. I acknowledge and thank David Fryer, the past president, who, even from Australia, worked for the successful setting and implementation of the last ECPA Conference in York and I'm grateful to Jacqui Akhurst, president of the British CP Section who permitted this fruitful event at St John University of York. It was a great opportunity for more than 200 scholars, students and activists to interact and deepen their knowledge and awareness.

Last but not least, thanks to the hard work of Alipio, Moises and Ruben, the three Barcelona musketeers and their international team for the "technological" organization of the 4th International Conference on Community Psychology that will give all of us the opportunity to widen international exchange.

Our Assembly on Thursday 21st June in Barcelona at 6.30 pm in the Theater is then our next appointment.

*From President
Caterina Arcidiacono*

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Reflection and Actions

The European Community Psychology
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Community Psychology in ECPA visions

Aims and Mission

The European Community Psychology Association (ECPA) brings together researchers, activists, experts and national and international associations and networks involved in community psychology. The ECPA is deeply concerned with individual and social change in the globalized world and proposes a multi-level approach to social and psychological knowledge and intervention which focuses on interactions between the person and context.

The ECPA Vision

Community Psychology's (CP's) focus is not only based on the individual or on the community but on their interconnectedness. CP concerns the intrapsychic, organizational, cultural and political relationships between individuals, communities and societies. By integrating research with action, Community Psychologists seek to understand and enhance quality of life for individuals, communities and societies.

ECPA members are aware that the complexity of social change and the phenomena of marginalization and exclusion require new and different research and intervention approaches which place citizens at the centre of the project.

The ECPA operates from a *critical psychology* standpoint on power-knowledge which seeks to prevent or reduce negative consequences of our societal arrangements by working collaboratively at both objective and subjective levels with persons in their everyday community contexts, to increase

their control over their lives through bringing about societal change.

The ultimate aim of most community psychologists is not only, or even mostly, to research, understand and document distress but to prevent, reduce or eliminate it by changing the societal arrangements upon which it is consequent. This requires engaging with the person-in-context, where 'person' signifies subjectivity, where 'context' signifies multi-level societal factors in reciprocal interaction over time and where 'person-in-context' signifies an irreducible unity with emergent properties. A key task for ECPA members is to understand the psycho-social processes through which inequality and social injustice at the societal level impact on the individual's psycho-physiology to result in bodily processes which result in unhappiness, illness and ultimately risk of premature death.

The ECPA emphasises that structural and economic interventions, which are generally implemented when countries face economic crisis are sometimes part of the problem. ECPA members emphasise the need to work collaboratively with community members and believe that policies and interventions based on values of empowerment, participation and social justice produce greater collective and individual wellbeing than those deriving from dominant neo-liberal, competition-oriented consumerist values.

ECPA Mission

- To promote awareness of the practical applications of community psychology in the general body of psychology
- To stimulate critical debate on key issues in community psychology and related matters
- To facilitate the progressive influence of community psychology on practice and policy

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- To promote personal health, human development and social justice
- To dismantle disabling societal barriers and psychologically damaging contexts and practices
- To maximize solidarity, collaboration and mutual respect between community psychologists and marginalized, disempowered or oppressed people
- To contribute to social change to nurture and sustain psychological, collective and physical wellbeing.

European Community Psychologists have made significant contributions to the development of community psychologies with strong theoretical underpinning; they have also developed innovative theory-driven multi-level intervention strategies to promote empowerment and achieved a high level of international networking. The ECPA, is part of EFPA, European Federation of Psychologists' Associations which had its origins in the European Network of Community Psychology founded in 1996. Community psychologists (CPs) (together with other professionals) can contribute effectively to the solution of many of today's complex problems.

ECPA Goals and Strategies

ECPA goals are strongly concerned with social transformation and active participation of citizen in their individual, relational and social wellbeing:

1. CPs work collaboratively to strengthen systems, to provide cost-effective services, to increase access to resources and optimize quality of life for individuals, private and governmental organizations, corporations and community groups.
2. CPs build on the existing strengths of people, organisations and

- communities to create sustainable change, promoting self- help groups and empowering existing NGOs and non-profit organizations.
3. CPs develop and disseminate strategies such as empowerment training and effective education for individuals and groups and multidimensional organisational analysis to promote empowering organisational contexts.
4. CPs use the dynamics of empowerment in order to enhance wellbeing and growth in individuals and contexts, linking individuals with groups and organizations.
5. CPs are doing and teaching PAR (Participatory-Action-Research) to identify strengths and problematic areas of a local community using an intercultural and ecological perspective; they have specific skills needed to do need analysis, community profiling, ethnographical and participative observation, focalized and narrative interviews, and visual methods.
6. CPs promote civic participation and broadly networked community and are skilled in team and network building, collective problem solving, future labs, mediation strategies for handling conflicts among family members and social groups.
7. CPs promote and support both conventional and new forms of civic and political participation, as well as self-help groups using reflexivity, participative methods, as well qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

ECPA BOARD

ECPA is led by an Executive Committee (EC), which is elected every two years and consists of:

- The president
- The treasurer
- The president-elect (president in the following election period)
- Several members-at-large
- The past president (with advisory function)



Men with hat: (from left) Thomas Saias, Nicholas Carr, David Vossebrecher

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From left: Bruna Zani, Caterina Arcidiacono, David Fryer, Donata Francescato, Jim Oford, Wolfgang Stark



ECPA Assembly at York conference, 2011.

When moving from individuals to groups, organisations and communities, CP integrates clinical and community psychology. Self destructive behaviour presents itself in various settings and with various intentions and degrees of seriousness and Community Psychology (CP) can also provide Suicide Prevention Programmes learning from the prevention of violence and accidents; by combining strategic efforts with psychological interventions, community psychologists can assist local services in preventing suicides and dealing with violence and child abuse. Unemployment and job insecurity have been demonstrated to have

destructive and socially unjust consequences for individuals, families, organisations, communities and countries and community psychologists can contribute to less pathogenic, more salutogenic, economic and social policy development. In our globalized world ECPA will be a knowledge instrument for the de-ideologization, deconstruction and decolonization of psychology, contributing to a critical approach in human sciences. In this sense its specific perspective is to move on from individualistic and psychologistic levels of analysis and intervention and uncritical collusion with oppressive ways of thinking and acting in psychology.

ECPA final aims are to bond CP more with associations, social, educational, clinical, intercultural psychologists, social workers and with family psychotherapists working with migrant families, interested in overcoming increasing gender, age and cultural divides, and also with work and organisational psychologists who are involved in retraining unemployed persons and dealing with continuous organisational changes.

ECPA Board



Donata Francescato, one of Ecpa founders

Community and Politics in a World in Crisis

By David Fryer

What are the most important challenges that current economic and social crises pose to community psychologists and what can be done to meet those challenges?

I would like to start by acknowledging that I wrote this short position paper whilst living and working in the traditional lands of people of the Turrbal, Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul Peoples, the traditional owners of the wider Brisbane area. I pay my respects to the elders, both past and present, of these peoples.

I also acknowledge that as a British man I am inescapably implicated in the colonisation of Australia by the British Empire carried out by my ancestors. I also acknowledge - as we will be meeting in Spain - that as a European I am inescapably implicated in imperial colonisation of huge parts of the world by Europeans, including - apart from the British - Belgian, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Ottoman, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish people. I also acknowledge that the colonisation of Australia, as of huge areas of the rest of the world, is not yet in the past. Despite the essential cautions of subaltern studies, there are important senses in which there few if any 'post-colonial' situations and many situations in which colonisation is not only continuing but intensifying. I also acknowledge that colonisation is not just military, commercial, territorial, economic or cultural but also accomplished through reconstitution of subjectivity; that psychology, along with other social sciences, has been *and continues to be* an instrument of colonisation, both past and continuing; that the 'psy complex' is both a means and a consequence of colonisation and that the discipline of psychology has been in many parts of the world not only colonising but intellectually colonised (primarily by United

Statesian 'psy'). I do *not* exempt community psychology from this.

I also acknowledge that the most exciting and important contemporary critiques of methodology - which apply to psychology, including community psychology - have been developed by decolonising scholars who are members of indigenous people of colonised nations. The work of Maori Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith is one well known example of this. Professor Smith describes part of the project of her book (*Decolonising Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*) as promoting "researching back' in the same tradition of 'writing back' or 'talking back' that characterises much of the anti-colonial literature"

In my own work, I emphasise the notion of oppressed groups resisting the oppressive knowledges constructed about them by psychologists, community psychologists and other social scientists and '*answering back*' in terms of alternative, progressive, counter-knowledges, constructed and legitimated through counter research. Answering back is not unique to indigenous people: popular movements of people whose embodied expression of diversity is turned into disability by material, architectural, organisational, social and discursive arrangements who have deployed emancipatory disability research have answered back loudly, clearly and effectively. Community activists have also answered back effectively. My colleague and friend, Mrs Cathy McCormack, who lives in a public housing scheme just outside Glasgow, which has been made notorious by politicians, media pundits and social scientists, who have characterised the community as riven by self-inflicted (gang) violence, has-with her allies-constructed progressive counter knowledges and answered back from them, drawing attention to the socio-structural, political, ideological and psychological violence being directed towards the people of her

community, violence which Cathy has named ‘the war without bullets’, a war being waged using policies which manufacture unemployment, inequality, material poverty, socio-economic apartheid, oppressed ghetto townships, etc. and victim-blaming psy knowledges which position what goes wrong as the fault of those on whom the war is being waged.

What are the most important challenges that current economic and social crises pose to community psychologists and what can be done to meet those challenges? The above issues turn the critical spotlight directly onto the problematic nature of the relationship between psychology, including community psychology, politics and a world deep in crisis which must be addressed in Barcelona at 4iccp. Communities around the world are in crisis as a result of past and ongoing colonisation and its variants, imperialism and neo-liberal capitalist expansionism. Psychology, including community psychology, as manifestations of the psy complex, which are both means and consequences of colonisation, are politically and ideologically complicit in these crises. Resistance is however not only possible but actual and ongoing with people around the world answering back to psy in all its forms. A priority at 4iccp Barcelona is for community psychology to be subjected to reflexive critique to move towards a future in which ‘Community and Politics in a World in Crisis’ ceases to be read by many as “a world of communities in crisis with which (community) psychology, with its implicit reactionary politics and oppressively functioning ideology, is complicit”.



David Vossebrecher, Wolfgang Stark and Caterina Arcidiacono at York conference 2011.

Community and politics in a world in crisis.

Social justice, reciprocity, economical and relational wellbeing

by Caterina Arcidiacono

Economics debates about relational commons, whereas psychological disciplines seem remotely interested in them. Both, *homo oeconomicus* who pursues income and *homo psychologicus* who pursues emotional wellbeing are in crisis but the different disciplines dialogue only within their narrow field of studies with a lack of share of tools and results in consequence.

Chinese language expresses the word crisis and opportunity through the same ideogram. In the same manner, these hard times represent a chance for all disciplines to redefine their relational and economical models.

机

In Chinese crisis and opportunities are express with the same ideogram.

Psychology, as science of subjective wellbeing, measures reality in relation to human being's perception by means of indicators, to wit: self-esteem, auto efficacy, life satisfaction; all of them closely bounded to resources, potentiality, and perspective. On this account we could say that *homo psychologicus* is stand-alone and fends for himself. To him relationships, contexts, opportunity do not matter at all. This psychological definition of human being will then not be the reference point for scientists and scholars pursuing a critical and ecological approach to psychology.

At the same time, it is spread the belief among economists that the increasing in income is not parameter of wellbeing. Easterlin coined the happiness paradox to show how, at a national level, happiness does not increase when the bare necessities are satisfied. It appears, in fact, that the increasing in economical wellbeing does not dovetail with the increasing in happiness: "*Easterlin paradox*". The relationship between goods and interpersonal relationships is the right union to study. It is not very studied yet, but it is a highly topical issue at the moment.

Richard Layard, following the line of the humanistic economists, proposes the basis of a "happiness science" grounded on psychology, sociology, economics and politics.

Amartya Sen's vision, is also in contrast with a theory of wellbeing centred on the subjective mental fulfilment, rather than addressed to "state or being or doing", that are

the objective dimensions of an individual, to wit: health, life expectancy, nutrition and instruction and the like. As such, psychology opens up to the socio-relational dimensions which define subjective wellbeing.

Ecological model, which goes across various disciplines, considers the individual in a relational, organizational, value-related, and economic-environmental perspective.

From debate among different disciplines on the happiness and the wellbeing topic it seems that some principles are emerged:

Social justice and equality are leading principles in responding to the people's needs. At the same time, once the bare necessities are satisfied, it appears that the increasing in wealthy does not entail an increasing in happiness as well. On the happiness theme, it seems instead that the overcoming of inequality and reciprocity are a matter of greatest importance.

The importance of reciprocity quietly begins to assert itself in relation to the problem which the lonely individual is forced to address. The scholars who embraced the donation policy, considered as an unselfish act, are a reference for all interested in the topic of reciprocity. Within the catholic field, Stefano Zamagni proposes reciprocity, in relation to brotherhood, as a central aspect and an end of the productive activity of the human being, fostering in this way a harmonious forward-looking co-living.

Equality seems to be the key concept of wellbeing. Sen (2000) talks about the individuals' capability and the freedom they have to lead their lives, to wit: eating, being cured, studying, and working, only to name a few.

The social implications of what discussed so far brought economists to reconsider the dimensions of social wellbeing. On this account, (in Italy) many proposed to redefine the GDP (gross domestic product) as measure of a welfare introducing the concept of BES

“Benessere Equo e Sostenibile” (in English: fair sustainable wellbeing).

This is the breeding ground for the flourishing of happiness. In 14th September 2009, In France the commission set up by Sarkozy “on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress” presided over by the Nobel Prize winning economists Stiglitz and Sen, along with the participation of other eminent as Kahneman (psychologist) and Putnam produced a document which includes subjective wellbeing among the indicators of the welfare of a Country.

On the ground of this work European Union wrote a technical document in December 2011(<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SEC:2011:1623:FIN:IT:PDF>) in order to provide a revision of the statistical indicators currently in use. Quality of life of people, together with their expectative and priorities in terms of pleasure and desires, could be introduced in the economic measures, as new challenges for reorganizing our shared world (Arcidiacono, 2012).

What are the answers that CP can give to these challenges?

Community psychology is the psychological discipline that offers theoretical tools to understand the ongoing world crisis. The ecological model is our theoretical hallmark. The ecological model assumes that community integration is the adaptive result of direct influences of the community context, the social networks and personal and group characteristics. Peculiar of the ecological approach is the fact of emphasizing the importance of material, cultural and social resources availability (Nelson & Prilleltensky, 2005). Community psychology studies the interactions between individual and contexts taking into consideration relational, organizational, cultural, economical and political issues, in their single domains as well as their actions and reciprocal

interactions on each single event of the psychic and relational life of the individuals and groups.

Furthermore, the emerging of continuous social transformations that interest the citizen contexts invites scholars and administrators to tackle new problems.

The complexity of social changes and the phenomena of marginalization and exclusion, together with the interdisciplinary interest of various experts working in the field of psychology, town-planning and economics for territorial planning and for sustainable development, open up new study and intervention perspectives by placing the individuals and more specifically the citizens at the centre thereof.

On this basis:

- CP can explain how social facts affect individuals; how organizational and relational issues related with laws and cultural demands and safe environment influence people's lives.
- CP has a special concern in enlightening the effects of oppression, liberation and wellbeing on people. Unemployment and job insecurity have been demonstrated to have destructive and socially unjust consequences for individuals, families, organisations, communities and countries. So its focus is not only on prevention, but rather on social change. Its main goals are then both epistemic and transformative. Justice, equality and democracy are its values.
- CP analyzes the role of power, justice, and equality in relation to wellbeing. Therefore it assumes social justice and equality as values.
- CP analyzes the effects of the dominant culture in relation to social development: it analyzes the effects of colonization and financial domain on minorities and overwhelmed groups.
- CP analyzes the power in the microphysics of relationships distinguishing between dependence, and interdependence.

CP, therefore, gives value to the bonds and ties and put in relation the respect for the individual's rights along with the interdependence awareness.

- CP does not agree about the adoption of individualistic solutions and in its perspective interdependence is a main value. CP, therefore, promotes the respect for individual's rights, justice and fairness.

- CP operates towards the fair distribution of power and social opportunities within our societies and seeks to prevent or reduce the negative consequences of unjust societal arrangements by working collaboratively at both objective and subjective levels with people, in their everyday community contexts, to increase their control over their lives through bringing about societal change.

CP activity concerns the awareness about the influence of global economics on individual wellbeing.

CP performs an activity of advocacy for the respect of minorities.

CP provides training as negotiator and mediator of individual and local conflicts.

In our globalized world, CP will be an awareness instrument for the de-ideologization, deconstruction and decolonization of psychology, contributing to a more critical approach to human sciences.

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*A Rose is a Rose is a Rose ...*¹

Why Community Psychology needs to stand up for its Endorsement on an Interdisciplinary and Societal Ground.

Wolfgang Stark²

Australian colleagues (Cohen, Dean, Gridley, Hoge, Robinson, Sampson, Sibell & Turner 2012), based on the struggle for endorsement of Community Psychology (CP) in Australia, have initiated an important debate which goes beyond the issue of professionalisation of CP. The Australian case raises issues on the professional and political identity of Community Psychology. Based on the German experience, in this paper the process of traditional professionalization is challenged.

The debate, which is going to be published in the next issue of the *Global Journal of*

¹Gertrude Stein's metaphor helps us to view things twice, at least...

²Wolfgang Stark, Dr. phil. is Professor of Organizational and Community Psychology at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. He has been one of the founding members of the German Association for Community Research and Action (www.ggfp.de) in the 1980s and has been on the board of the European Community Psychology Association (www.ecpa-online.eu) since its start in 2005. He served as president of ECPA 2007-2009 and is now member of the Task Force on Community Psychology of the European Federation of Psychology Associations (EFPA).

Community Psychology³, is summarized this abstract provided by Cohen, Dean, Gridley, Hoge, Robinson, Sampson, Sibell & Turner (2012):

“In November 2010, the areas of practice known as community psychology and health psychology were endorsed by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. (AHWMC). This was a major reversal of the Council’s earlier decision in April that year to limit the endorsed areas of practice to those represented by the other seven Colleges of the Australian Psychological Society. This paper describes the intense lobbying effort coordinated by the National Committee of the Australian Psychological Society College of Community Psychologists and their supporters, which was sustained over many months and led ultimately to a changed decision by the Australian Health Ministers. The story is important for community psychology as it demonstrates the power of collective, integrated and focussed political lobbying, in this case to promote and to inform others of the key contributions of community psychology to health policy, illness prevention and primary care. Without endorsement there would be little incentive for universities to offer postgraduate programs in Community Psychology, which would then choke the only pathway to future membership of the College, rendering it unviable. With no further training offered, and eventually no representative body within the APS, there would be direct implications for the sustainability of the whole discipline and practice of community psychology in Australia.” (GJCCP 2012, forthcoming)

The Australian Case provides a very good lesson for both the status and possible futures of community psychology as an academic discipline and a area of practice. Although it

is beyond my intellectual capacity to fully understand the differentiated and advanced situation of community psychology in Australia, I would like to applaud the power and energy of my fellow community psychologists in Australia! Community Psychology in Australia, like in the US, is an important role model for other countries on the status we can reach with an idea of psychology which goes beyond the individual. This example also can give us insights about the potentials and pitfalls for community psychology as an idea and as a discipline.

Community Psychology – the German Experience

Since the rise of Community Psychology (CP) in Germany in the late 70s, CP and Community Psychologists managed to be accepted as a field of psychology, but never reached formal endorsement⁴. In the late 70s and early 80s, a growing number of anthologies on CP have been published, in gradually launched a young and critical field within psychology at German universities. Most of the scholars and practitioners have been connected to Clinical Psychology, some to Social Psychology. Students have been drawn to CP because it provided a more holistic and critical approach to the problems and challenges of individuals, family and groups. There have been close links to other disciplines (Sociology, Political Science, Philosophy as well as Social Work, Public Health, Community Psychiatry) as well as to societal movements (feminist movement, psychiatric survivors) and to international movements (Psichiatria Democratica in Italy). CP gradually developed some special

³I am grateful to the editors of GJCCP for the permission to pre-print this paper in the ECPA Newsletter 2012.

⁴ There have been parallel developments in other European countries like Italy, Portugal and Britain which lead to more recognition in their professional communities.

programs on CP in universities (universities in Munich, Berlin, Oldenburg, Marburg). But when the debate about psychological licensing started in Germany in the 90s, German CP stayed back. Although there has been considerable debate, for many German colleagues, CP always has been closer to other disciplines and movements (see above), than to traditional psychological field like Clinical, Social and the like. As a consequence, although German Community Psychologists formed their own association and institutionalized their efforts, the university programs were closed as soon as the faculty members originally launching the movement retired. What seems to be a strategic setback on the one hand, turns out to have some benefits on the second sight: Today, despite the fact that all official community psychology programs in universities are closed, community psychology topics are more powerful than ever: community psychology in higher education is part of the curriculum in psychology in a growing number of institutions. Concepts of community psychology like empowerment or social support have been adopted by classical disciplines like clinical psychology, social work, educational science and many others.

Patterns of Professionalisation

Hence, analyzing the Australian case from the background of our German CP history (and, of course, my individual professional and political point of view), it may be helpful (1) to identify some of the basic patterns of the Australian CP experience, and (2) consequently, discuss some issues on the identity and development of the field called community psychology.

At first sight, the Australian case seems to illustrate the typical struggle for professional endorsement, which always means the struggle for public resources. As soon as

public institutions are endorsing a disciplinary field or professional practice, public democratic reasoning leads to an obligation to offer public resources for professionalization to some extent – either to support schools and education, to reimburse services or even to include community psychologists into pension plans at the end of their career. Therefore, one can see some basic patterns linked to each other in the case provided:

(1) There are limited slices in the “public cake” and there should not be too many who want to eat from that cake, because it is rather shrinking than growing. This is a very basic pattern commonly used by politicians and public administrators all over the planet. It delivers the double-message: we have to stand together, because situation is getting worse: something is shrinking, and we don’t have the power to do something against.

2) In this case, as a consequence, the “*divide and impera*”-pattern is applied: if endorsement of professional disciplines is limited, actors will fight each other to be part of the game and thereby forget to see the larger picture (what is really needed for individuals and society). This allows government/public institutions to avoid to start a debate or public discourse about societal problems being the real cause for individual/family/community problems needed to be addressed (you also could call this pattern the “governmental pattern” or “power pattern”);

(3) Community psychologists, although always struggling for the good and wellbeing of their clients/families in need/communities (and of course this is true respectively for all other psychological disciplines) have to realize that they are – in this case – part of the game. They are fighting for resources for their own discipline which they need in order to be helpful for families and communities in need and which is honourable and will be valuable

for communities in need. At the same time CPs tend to be part of the “individualization pattern”: as a discipline, although standing together as individual professionals, they tend to be individualized; as a consequence, societal problems tend to be treated as individual problems: that is why we need special disciplines and services. Individualization both in professional and conceptual terms also bears the danger to somewhat loose contact to the original ideas of community psychology.

(4) Finally, it is always helpful to ask the “systemic question”: What is missing? In this case I could find a strong lobby of official representatives of the discipline, and even a strong alliance between students and faculty members of the colleges. But I missed a particular role for community members or maybe even community activists in the struggle. They seem not to play an active role in the struggle, although they should be one of the major actors in a political game which, at the end, is all about communities in need. So the question remains: what would community members and community activists say?

Based on these patterns identified (of course there may be more) one could state that the Australian case on community psychology is a case on professionalization of a field, which could be any field in modern societies (like clinical psychology, social work, but also architecture, financial accountancy, or cattle raising). In this view, this is not a case on community psychology at all, because similar processes on professionalization could happen elsewhere.

Community Psychology beyond Professionalisation

As soon as we realize the implications of the process of (and struggle for) professionalization of CP, issues on the

identity of community psychology both as a science and a practical field can be raised:

If we share the vision of community psychology being one of the major psychological disciplines, CP looks like an island of science and practice being not very influential within the discipline of psychology. There may be ways to strengthen the process of professionalization, but both the Australian case and the history of US-community psychology show that professionalization within the traditional structure of psychology bears the danger of losing major parts of CP’s identity:

CP always has oriented itself towards a systemic view of social dynamics in the world by integrating individual and group levels, community, organizational and societal levels of analysis. This is why CP identity bears a wide variety of regional and individual scholarly stories, and is trying to integrate personal value systems and scientifically based interdisciplinary research and practice within its boundaries. This is in the core of CPs belief system and has been developed since 30 years. Especially today the transdisciplinary concept of CP has the potential to be one of the most powerful applied sciences in civil society, if not tamed by professional dynamics. By linking the strengths of different traditional disciplines (psychology, sociology, organizational science, anthropology, educational science, social work and social medicine), spheres of academic science and everyday community challenges of our time, and the analytical view on the past and creative ideas for the future, CP is going beyond traditional applied sciences: CP is not only applying scientific results for praxis, but can add crucial questions and ideas on individual, social and societal issues. By using systematically a transdisciplinary approach as a new challenge in science, strengthening its political power

beyond academic and professional institutionalization, and integrating the “tacit” knowledge of the community and thereby consolidating its identity as a “real” participative science and practice, CP can go steps beyond professionalization.

In order to unfold its potentials, CP as a linking science and practice (Stark, 2011) needs to unleash itself from the limits of traditional academic disciplines and professional taxonomies: the social network and social support research in the 70s already brought close collaboration between psychology, sociology and anthropology, and developed attempt links to virtual networks in computer science which are on stake today. The discourse on empowerment processes has been influential for many practical areas in community mental health and social work, psychiatry, community development and organizational science. In social policy the concept of empowerment has been adopted in various legislations and developed as a synonym for innovative approaches to social challenges and the growth of a consumer- and prosumer-oriented civil society.

CPs traditional values (like social change and transformation) and current challenges today require more than working in a local community and/or improving the social situation of specific groups. While this work will remain an important core part of Community Psychology, the field should empower itself use its competencies to develop social innovations and look at emerging futures by developing shared goals (and take shared risks) by collaborating with other disciplines, companies or other actors in society.

References:

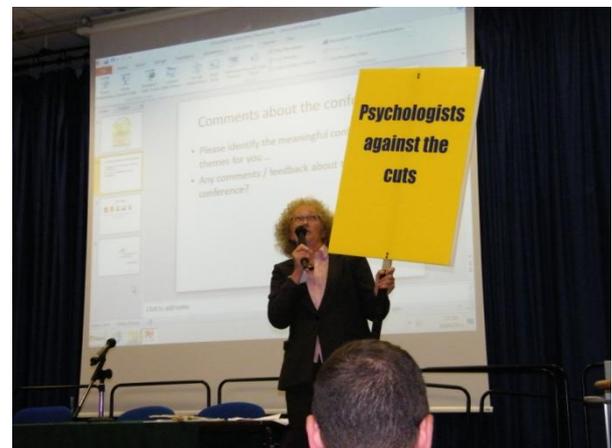
Lynne Cohen, Julie Dean, Heather Gridley, Rebecca Hoge, Ken Robinson, Emma Sampson, Anne Sibbel & Colleen Turner (2012): Lobbying for Endorsement of Community Psychology in Australia.

Australian Psychological Society College of Community Psychologists. *Global Journal of Community Psychology Practice*, 4, 2012

Wolfgang Stark (2011): *Community Psychology as a Linking Science. Potentials and Challenges for Transdisciplinary Competencies*. In: Almeida, E. et al: *International Community Psychology: Community Approaches to Contemporary Social Problems*. University of Puebla Press, Puebla, MX.

EU-FOCUS

European Federation of Psychologists' Associations- EFPA



*Jacqui Akhurst,
York Conference 2011, Organizer*

The European Federation of Psychologists Associations represents and promotes psychology in Europe as academic discipline, science and profession, in all its forms.

The mission of EFPA is to promote the development, dissemination and application of psychology in all its forms, and to contribute to shaping a humane society, in

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Europe and beyond, on the basis of psychology's expertise.

Psychology is the science of human thoughts, feelings, and behaviours and its application, through education and professional activity, to human challenges and problems. It is a unitary but multifaceted scientific discipline with a diversified profession.

EFPA fulfills three major functions at the European level and through its member associations at the national level, i.e. contributing to society, developing psychology, and serving psychologists. These functions are reflected in the following strategic aims:

- Develop psychology (as education, science, profession), including the quality of the profession (cf. EuroPsy standards of competence and ethics) and its legal status.
- Represent psychology at the European and global stage.
- Give input to European policy development and take a share in the implementing of European policies.
- Support the development of its Member Associations and their activities at the national level.
- Help individual psychologists exercising their profession and building a European identity based on common values and goals, diversity and multilingualism, mutual respect and collaboration, mobility, and service to society.
- Promote the dissemination of psychological knowledge in Europe.

EFPA contribute to the quality of life of people living in Europe and to a democratic and prosperous

- Important field of psychology which needs to be part of what we promote as a European organization
- A concept of psychological work which signals a alternative to the

individual focus which is represented by "classical" psychology

- EFPA needs a clearer understanding of the field in Europe, and how it can be integrated into the overall strategies of the organization
- EFPA needs a workable definition of the field which can serve as a basis for developing strategies for educational, professional and political development
- EFPA needs a organizational ownership to this to secure that we can promote this within the interest of Europe, the population and psychologists

Why community psychology in EFPA?

CP is an important field of psychology which needs to be part of what we promote as a European organization; CP is a concept of psychological work which signals a alternative to the individual focus which is represented by "classical" psychology. EFPA needs then a clearer understanding of the field in Europe, and how it can be integrated into the overall strategies of the organization

The General Assembly of EFPA expects the Task force on community psychology to:

1. Provide a description of the professional competencies needed for psychologists working in communities and social systems.
2. Develop a Competence Model for Community Psychology as a basis for training and evaluation of psychologists working in community setting and social systems
3. Analyze the need for postgraduate training and professional development within the area of psychologists working in the educational system, including the option of developing an Advanced Diploma
4. Analyze and develop guidelines for professional training and supervision

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(defining competencies and required content).

5. Develop guidelines for Training in Community Psychology and initiate a European Master in Community Building

The delivered outputs of task forces may consist of:

1. Advice on issues within the task forces scope
2. Proposals for guidelines and position statements
3. Papers (including position papers), Articles, Books
4. Symposia and other meetings at conferences
5. News items.

(From: Tor Levin Hofgaard “Introduction to the first meeting of Efpa taskforce on community psychology”).



Nicholas Carr and a friend, York Conference 2011.

Community psychology taskforce

Report: 1st meeting of EFPA Taskforce for Community psychology
Held: 2 May 2012, European Federation of

Psychological Associations (EFPA) offices, Brussels.

Delegates: Tor Levin Hofgaard, Norway, proposer and EFPA board member; Caterina Arcidiacono, (INPA) Italy, (chair ECPA); Haris Pischos, Greece; Nicholas Carr, (NFP) Norway; Jacqui Akhurst, (BPS) UK; Wolfgang Stark, (ECPA rep.); Bernd Rohrle, Germany. Apologies from representatives from Cyprus and France; a Spanish correspondent is to be elected soon and possible representation from Portugal in also in process. Some other national organisations are still to elect / nominate members.

Background: An introduction to EFPA was provided (founded in 1981, now represents over 300 000 psychologists of Member Associations in 35 countries, of which 26 EU countries; recognized as NGO by Council of Europe). The composition and role of EFPA was described, illustrating the diversity and applications of psychology across Europe; as well as the breadth and challenges of working across different structures / countries. An organisational diagram showed six Boards, including one of Prevention and Intervention (P&I, expanded from psychotherapy-focus); five Scientific / standing committees (Health, Education, Traffic, Gerontology, and Disaster-crisis). Five task forces are currently working: in sport, community, diversity, structure, resources. Potential for this community psychology task force to evolve into Sc or integrated into a Board. This new Taskforce (TF) will need to find ways of communicating with other relevant EFPA structures (through liaison).

The cultural, economic and social developments in Europe contribute to its diversity; however, there has been increasing European collaboration and potentials e.g. the noteworthy development of the Europsy (European Certificate in Psychology). Examples of EU initiatives were discussed,

such as 'Working Together', the European Neighbourhood Policy. The focus and challenges of the EU are very different today, evolving, necessitating joint actions such as Bologna process. There are EU concerns about enabling the movement of healthcare professionals across borders, and the impact of this on psychology; illustrating the need to work together and build the efficacy of EFPA. Looking ahead, EFPA is concerned with developing psychology and serving psychologists but also to promote the contribution of psychology to society, which is particularly emphasised by its mission statement: "...to promote the development, dissemination and application of psychology in all its forms, and to contribute to shaping a humane society, in Europe and beyond, on the basis of psychology's expertise". EFPA's strategic aims are important as a background to this task force; developed by presidential council and ratified by the General Assembly. The question is how community psychology in particular might contribute to each of these strategic aims. Given the re-focussing of EFPA, and the commitment politically to positive influences and across Europe, the view is that community psychology is an important field of psychology which needs to be part of what is promoted as a European organization:

- A concept of psychological work which signals an alternative to the individual focus which is represented by "classical" psychology;
- EFPA wants a clearer understanding of the field in Europe, and how it can be integrated into the overall strategies of the organization;
- EFPA needs a workable definition of the field, which can serve as a basis for developing strategies for educational, professional and political development;
- EFPA would like to offer organizational ownership of this to

promote it within the interests of Europe, the people and psychologists.

1. Early discussions at this first meeting of the TF: to consider tasks to be undertaken, and to develop a work plan for delivery to the Executive Committee of EFPA. The TF was proposed as an important development by the General Assembly of EFPA, with the following goals:

1. To provide a description of the professional competencies needed for psychologists working in communities and social systems.
2. To develop a Competence Model for Community Psychology as a basis for training and evaluation of psychologists working in community setting and social systems
3. To analyze the need for postgraduate training and professional development for psychologists working within the educational system, including the option of developing an Advanced Diploma
4. To analyze and develop guidelines for professional training and supervision (defining competencies and required content).
5. To develop guidelines for Training in Community Psychology and possibly initiate a European Masters programme.

2. Formal Decisions were taken in a straightforward way, to organize the TF:

- 2.1. Convenor of the TF: Nicholas Carr
- 2.2. Technical and practical communication to EFPA: Nicholas Carr
- 2.3. Report to GA 2013: Responsible member tba
- 2.4. In charge for the forum: Harry Pischos

In addition, an ECPA page on task force will be opened.

3. More in depth discussions then covered the scope and definitions of community psychology:

- What are the definitions in the literature?
- How might the TF explore the diversity across national organisations?
- Which competences underpin community psychology in practice?
- The means of drawing from an evidence-base were discussed (collaborating to broaden this from positivistic concepts). Additionally, discussion ranged over diverse perspectives such as an Activity Theory 'take' on community psychology; or a narrative approach covering the nature of the 'story' and how do we get to the results / outcomes of the story?
- A further key issue to debate is whether there is a specialism in community psychology, or whether the model should be an underpinning, or embedding in all professional training? Community psychology is conceptualised as both a specific discipline and a generalised field of principles / competences. One of the challenges is so much that is implicit in practice based on community psychology principles, e.g. cultural and respectful competences; skills of facilitation of groups.
- The need to investigate the impact of Europsy curriculum on training in community psychology was also raised.

The TF members wish to inform other psychologists about community psychology principles; to inform

stakeholders about the positive contributions that community psychology can make; and to find ways to contribute to actions to counter socio-economic problems in different countries. A challenge is the interdisciplinary nature of community psychology, and strategies to cope with 'guild' issues of what belongs to whom? The TF considers as more important the ways of working towards the solutions to broader societal issues, rather than monopolising territory. There is also the need to discuss the potential overlaps with the EFPA Board of prevention and intervention (and to perhaps consider the example of the APA committee on Action Research).

4. Timeframe: It was thus decided that in relation to the goals of the TF outlined at the top of p.2, and the means of achieving these goals:

2012 the TF should define and analyse what exists in European community psychology, to cover goals 1, 3 and 4 (partially – 1st part).

2013 to develop these ideas further and in collaboration with national structures, to cover goals 2, 4 (2nd part) and 5.

In addition goal 5 needs further discussion: will it be training for community building or community psychology (in relation to provision of services or promoting the profession; do we need to integrate this work with other disciplines)?

Next Meetings:

The Work Plan is to be decided at the **next TF meeting in Barcelona (at the 4thICCP), June 22, 2012**, from 6 pm. Preliminary tasks decided (to be completed for Barcelona)

- Each task force member to contribute their favourite definition of community psychology, giving a rationale for their preference;



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- Bernd will summarize and wrap up the definitions;
- Jacqui will be reporting on this meeting for the BPS and will submit it to ECPA too;
- Nicholas as convenor will send a letter to TF members missing the first meeting;
- Nicholas will translate and circulate a Norwegian paper on community psychology competencies
- Wolfgang will distribute the pattern approach (aim: June 1)

To be undertaken over the summer: survey of practical definitions of Community psychology (via ECPA national associations), including the extent of practice, numbers of members, and capacity to provide education (formal training) and in-practice training for community psychologists.

- what are working definitions of community psychology in your country?
- what kind of competencies you think would ask from someone doing competencies?
- could you please send module documents for community psychology education you use in your country?

The following meeting is to be convened in Naples, November 16 2012; with plans to arrive on November 15, in the evening, to enable a full day's work to occur.

Jacqui Akhurst

Join the ECPA listserve:

ECPA-L@LISTSERV.DFN.DE

The List will afford direct communication among psychologists, activists, teachers of courses, graduate or undergraduate in community psychology, community research and action, and related areas. This can include questions, discussion, exchange of resources, and other ways of sharing our ideas with each other.

Our wish is to set an horizontal and democratic tool of communication within ECPA and not only.

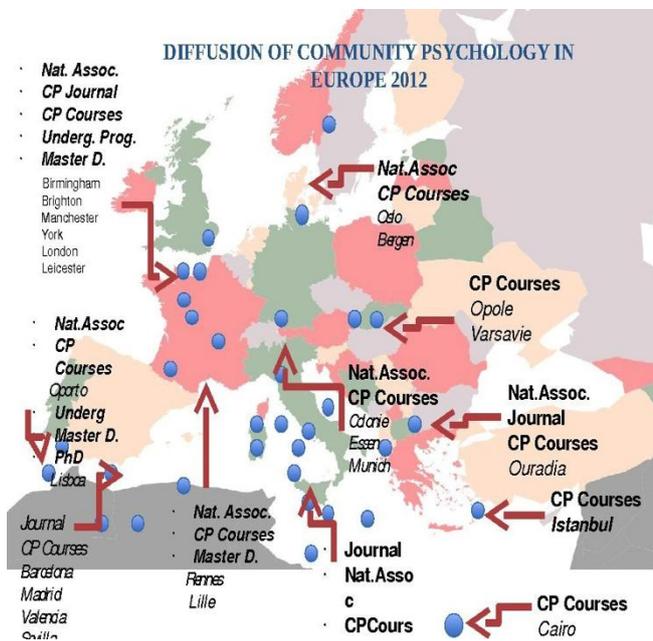
We hope it will be of great benefit to us all in developing communities of practice in the field of Community Psychology, individually and collectively.

Every one of us can use the list for sending information, sharing of communication, proposal, schedule and start dates of seminars, workshops, courses and more to all ECPA members and people involved in its goals that further subscribe the LIST.

For help with problems with your subscription, contact the listserv administrator at david.vossebrecher@web.de and caterina.arcidiacono@unina.it

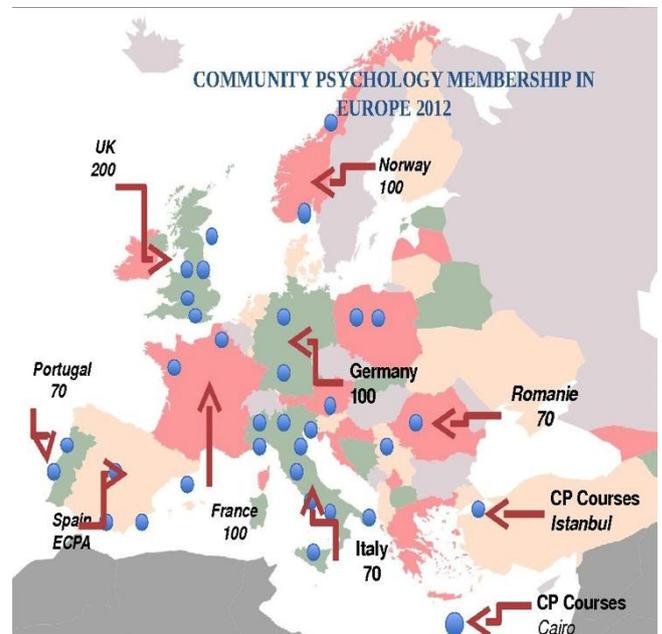
COUNTRIES REPORT

Diffusion of Community psychology in Europe and membership



Map I. give a summary overview of community psychology activities around Europe: National Association (Nat.assoc.), Community Psychology Journals and newsletters, Community psychology courses, Undergraduate, Master Program and PHD

Map II. give a rough estimate of professionals, students, activists involved in Community psychology associations and groups all around Europe.



Agostino Carbone for the Presidential address of C. Arcidiacono at York conference

**From Italy: SIPCO- Società
Italiana di Psicologia di
Comunità
By Bruna Zani**



The Italian Society of Community Psychology (S.I.P.CO) is a cultural and scientific organization, founded in 1994, that promotes research and practices that apply community psychology principles in diverse settings and across disciplines.



S.I.P.CO Workshop (2011)

Goals of the Society are the following:

- to promote theory development and research in community psychology;
- to promote the development and the use of community psychology
- methods, supporting training and encouraging community action research;

- to advance knowledge and to promote exchange and collaboration with other National and International organizations that have common scientific interests;
- to promote mutual exchange of knowledge among academics and professionals, also from different disciplines; to bring community psychology to institutions and civil society

S.I.P.CO brings together academic community psychologists, practitioners and community stakeholders. The Society organizes biennial conferences that are a great opportunity to discuss about community research and action and to take advantages of the strengths of the different perspectives of its members. Each conference has a “core theme”, that sets the priorities to be discussed during the conference. In September (27th - 29th) 2012 the 9th Conference will be organised in Milan. The core theme is “*Promoting social links, activating participation and supporting social change*”. Invited speakers are: Maritza Montero (Venezuela) and William Doherty (USA). Previous conferences have taken place in Torino (2010), Firenze (2008), Lecce (2006), Palermo (2004) and Torino (2002). About 200 people usually attend our Conferences. Regular members are actually about 75, 25 of which are “Junior members”. A significant portion of S.I.P.CO members are engaged in promoting and applying community psychology principles outside academia: they propose projects to local authorities, municipalities, health services, schools and volunteers organizations.

S.I.P.CO, besides the biennial conference, supports the organization of thematic workshops and trainings carried out in collaboration with other associations. In 2012 S.I.P.CO has sponsored two important workshops on Qualitative Methods in

Community Psychology Research. The first one on “*Qualitative Community Research*” was organised by Caterina Arcidiacono in Naples with Anne Brodsky (Maryland University, US) and combined didactic and practical presentations on individual and group applications. It started with a brief overview of the ontology, epistemology and methodology underlying qualitative research before exploring the criteria that are considered of crucial importance to research “soundness” (credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability). Another focus of interest was the researcher’s qualities and role in achieving soundness at all stages of the research process.

The second one took place in May 2012 at the University of Bologna, organised by Elvira Cicognani and led by: Christopher Sonn (Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia). He discussed on “*Engaging Qualitative Research for Social Change*” using the narrative materials collected thanks to The Apartheid Archive Project (AAP). After overviewing the epistemological, methodological and political considerations informing and emerging from the AA project, the storytelling method has been discussed highlighting some of its benefits and disadvantages. Participants were encouraged to consider how the theories and methods used in the project might be utilised in their own research projects on topics such as internal and external migration, inclusion and exclusion, participation and community making, racialization and resistance.

The great attention devoted to qualitative methods represents the effort that S.I.P.CO has made in order to answer to the training needs expressed by its junior members and to overcome some of the limits of many Italian PhD programs in psychology that still privilege a quantitative approach to research. Previous events sponsored by S.I.P.CO dealt with migrations, intercultural issues, action-

research: they provided young researchers and more experienced scholars an opportunity to discuss intensively each specific theme, comparing methodologies, results, perspectives and procedures.



Bruna Zani and Gioacchino Lavanco delivering SIPCO awards for the best PhD thesis

Other initiatives have been proposed to strengthen the visibility of local community psychology experiences promoted by S.I.P.CO members. They usually took the form of open workshops, that allowed community members and local organizations to meet and discuss in small groups, to “observe” the concrete products of community projects, or to have an idea on how community psychologists deal with particular issues. In the last two years workshops were organized on the following topics: *Media coverage of news on Camorra* (with Gioacchino Lavanco, in Cesena); *Promoting civic engagement through a mentoring program for school age children* (with Raffaello Martini, in Cesena); “*Meet people in the main square*”, an event promoting community and proximal relationships at the local levels (with Raffaello Martini, in Lucca); “*Promoting awareness of architectural barriers*” for disabled people (with Pietro Berti, in Cesena); *Fair and sustainable well being in Umbria* (with Caterina Arcidiacono and Carlo Volpi); *Communities that take care*: a two day meeting, with workshops and a playback

theatre performance (with Gaetano Martorano, Raffaello Martini and many others, in Pistoia. In Rome since 1990 there are Labs of intervention research on community profiling, Multidimensional organization analysis and empowering training led by Donata Francescato and her team.



C. Sonn Workshop “Engaging Qualitative Research for Social Change”.

The Italian Society of Community Psychology has adopted recently special policies to foster young psychologists’ career development: economic contributions have been granted to the junior members to attend International Conferences and Summer Schools; and this year a prize will be awarded for the best master degree thesis in Community Psychology.

Sipco publishes a scientific peer reviewed journal and a periodical Newsletter.

The journal (“**Psicologia di Comunità**”) has two main goals: to document the empirical work of community psychologists and the evolution of the discipline in Italy and to stimulate discussion and debate on theory, research, and intervention in the field. On the following website

<http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario.asp?anno=2011&idRivista=139> tables of contents and abstracts (in Italian and in English) of the published articles are available for free.

The **Newsletter** provides regular information on community psychology events that take place in Italy and in Europe, and on recent publications. Through the Newsletter young scholars have the opportunity to present their research proposals and to report their impressions on conferences and meetings they attended. The last numbers of the Newsletter are available and downloadable from Sipco web site.

Up to date information, resources and useful links can be found at the web site of the society <http://www.sipco.it>. On the web site it is possible to apply to become a member, to find information about the steering committee of the society. Links to Facebook, Linked-In, Twitter are also available on the web site.



International Summer School on Qualitative Methods.

To get more information on the history of community psychology in Italy and its developments see:

Francescato, D., Arcidiacono, C., Albanesi, C., & Mannarini, A. T. (2007). *Community psychology in Italy: Past developments and future perspectives*. In S. M. Reich, M. Riemer, I. Prilleltensky & M. Montero (Eds.), *International community psychology: History and theories* (263-281). New York: Springer.

The special issue on Italian Community Psychology, in *The Journal of Prevention and*

Intervention in the Community (Volume 38, Issue 1, January 2010)

Graduate and undergraduate courses in Community Psychology are available in most Italian Universities; the teams that contribute mostly to S.I.P.CO. activities are located at the University of Turin, Genoa, Milan, Padua, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, Salento and Palermo. In many Universities there are also Laboratories on Community Psychology Research and Intervention: their websites provide some useful information about research priorities and intervention projects of each group:

Laboratorio di psicologia sociale e di comunità (University of Turin)
<http://www.psych.unito.it/main/gruppi/sociale.html>

Link- Laboratorio per la ricerca ed il sostegno alla comunità (University of Padua),
<http://dpss.psy.unipd.it/link/index.php>

LabPsac- Laboratorio di Psicologia Sociale, Applicata e di Comunità (University of Modena & Reggio Emilia)
<http://www.labsoc.unimore.it/site/home/pubblizzazioni.html>

LabPsiCom – Laboratorio di Psicologia di Comunità (University of Bologna)
http://laboratori.psice.unibo.it/acronym_title_1aboratorio_di_psicologia_di_comunita_lab_936_com_acronym

INCOPARDE (University of Naples, Federico II)
http://www.incoparde.unina.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=67

The level of interest in the discipline in Italy is easily understandable also considering the amount of articles published by Italian scholars in the international community psychology journals; moreover many Community Psychology textbooks have been recently published or edited by Italian scholars. The following list is not exhaustive,

it includes only those books that provide an overview of the discipline .

AMERIO P. (2000), *Psicologia di comunità*, il Mulino, Bologna.

PREZZA M., SANTINELLO M. (a cura di) (2002) *Conoscere la comunità. L'analisi degli ambienti di vita quotidiana*, Il Mulino (Bologna).

FRANCESCATO D., TOMAI M., GHIRELLI G. (2002), *Fondamenti di psicologia di comunità. Principi, strumenti, ambiti di applicazione*, Carocci, Roma.

MARTINI E. R., TORTI A. (2003), *Fare lavoro di comunità. Riferimenti teorici e strumenti operativi*, Carocci, Roma.

SANTINELLO M., DALLAGO L., VIENO A. (2009) *Fondamenti di psicologia di comunità*, Il Mulino, Bologna.

LAVANCO G., NOVARA C. (2012) *Elementi di psicologia di comunità*, McGraw Hill, Milano

ZANI B. (a cura di) (2012), *Psicologia di comunità. Prospettive, idee, metodi*, Carocci, Roma.

The actual **Board Committee** members (2009-2012):

Bruna Zani (University of Bologna) President

Donata Francescato (University of Rome)

Patrizia Meringolo (University of Florence)

Elena Marta (Catholic University of Milan)

Bianca Gelli (Lecce)

Raffaello Martini (Martini Associati, Milan-

Lucca), Angela Fedi (University of Turin),

Alessio Vieno (University of Padua),

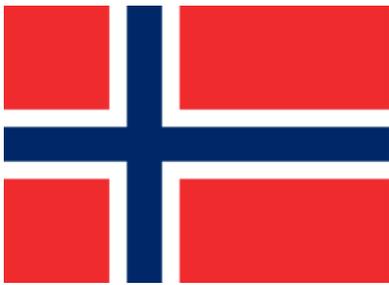
Carola Messina (Empowerment Sociale,

Palermo).



Elvira Cicognani

From Norway By Nicholas Carr



Back in 2009, the Norwegian Psychological Association (NPA) decided that the post graduate training in Community Psychology was to be integrated with the Clinical Psychology Postgraduate program. This was after a long and intense debate over the pros and cons of integrating the two specialist programs. As a consequence the CP section within NPA was asked to describe the goals and competencies of CP as the foundation for planning and organizing the post graduate integrated training. The following is a summary of the CP learning goals and specific training goals as they are described in today's postgraduate training in Clinical Community Psychology.

The program aims at developing a set of attitudes that are in congruence with CP values;

- Respect and sensitivity towards colleagues and clients' needs.
- An open mind to work as a resource for the local community.
- A willingness to participate in professional and volunteer networks.
- An awareness of the resources within communities and their citizens.
- A strong belief in peoples own ability and power to solve their own problems.
- A positive attitude for cooperating and sharing knowledge with others.

- A positive engagement to evaluate one's own role and activities and participate in ethical reflection.

The program includes specific competencies to be achieved as a result of the training. The Community Psychologist is able to describe, analyze and make choice of relevant method through his interest for and knowledge about;

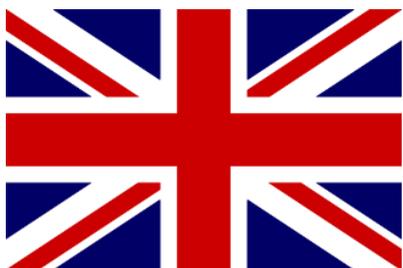
- The interaction between individual and context in constituting mental health and life quality.
- The implications of social inclusion, marginalization and living conditions.
- Culture sensitivity and user participation in practical work.
- The significance of empowerment, resilience and rehabilitation.
- Consultation and multi professional cooperation within public services. Formal and informal structures in local settings, including public administration and legislation.
- The different professional roles as they are revealed in various settings.
- The rationale behind methods used in health promotion, prevention, projects and evaluation.
- Ethical principles as they are applied and challenged in the everyday work of the community psychologist.

These competencies are developed into practical skills in the following areas;

- Combining strategic, systemic approaches with clinical interventions.
- Providing psychological knowledge to other professions by means of consultation and teaching.
- Accumulating experience in testing the qualities of services to various user groups.
- Managing multi professional projects, system- and evaluation projects.

- Provide psychological knowledge to partners, political decision makers, administrative and legislative personnel.
 - Develop and implement health promotion- and preventive programs.
 - Perform administrative tasks, planning and assessment of needs on a community level.
 - The use of evidence based and relevant methods of assessing the need of individuals, risk groups and families.
 - Cooperate with other professions and institutions within the primary health care in planning services for less privileged groups.
- What is in the future for Norwegian Community Psychologists? In spite of economic growth on a national scale, we are witnessing cuts in public spending for prevention programs. The main challenge from the viewpoint of the psychologist, is the question of job possibilities. The post graduate training is tailored to fit with the needs of municipalities of all sizes and locations, whether these are small villages with no mental health services, or large cities with University Hospitals. More than 150 psychologists have graduated from the Clinical Community Psychology program, but few are so far working in the primary services of municipalities. Are Community psychologists more needed, more wanted, but less available in the job market?

Country Report from UK: The British Psychological Society Community Psychology Section by Jim Orford



We were slow in Britain to establish a Community Psychology Section of our national psychological association (The British Psychological Society, the BPS) but since the Section was formed in 2010 membership has been growing and numbers now stand at over 200.

The Section committee has been concentrating on raising awareness, amongst BPS members and particularly among student members, about the existence of community psychology as a thriving branch of psychology. Committee members have spoken at the BPS 2012 annual conference and at special Society events for students.

Other activities have included carrying out a survey of Community Psychology Section members to explore their reasons for joining the Section and their ideas for future activities; and starting to try to have influence on BPS policy by offering to provide a community psychology perspective when the Society is asked, as it regularly is, for a contribution to a government consultation.

On the more theoretical side the committee has been polishing a statement of the Section's Aims and Objectives document which can be seen as a link on the Section's web pages at <http://cps.bps.org.uk>

Jacqui Akhurst, currently Chair of the Section, has attended a number of national meetings on our behalf and recently attended the first European Federation of Psychologists Associations Community Psychology Task Force. Finally ECPA members will be well aware that the 8th European Congress of Community Psychology, held at York St John University, 15th to 16th September 2011, was a very special occasion for British community psychology: it was the first time the Congress had been held in Britain and it coincided with the end of the first year of operation of the BPS Community Psychology Section and the Section contributed to a workshop and held its first AGM at the Congress.

NEWS FROM COUNTRIES

From Italy



Italian Society of Community Psychology (S.I.P.CO.)

27th-29th of September 2012 Catholic University of Milan, Italy

Boosting social bonds, promoting participation and social change

The IX National S.I.P.CO. Congress "Boosting social bonds, promoting participation and social change" aims to encourage exchange of ideas and experiences between community psychology professionals and practitioners.

The Congress will be held on 27th -29th September 2012 at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Milan, Italy).

The Congress will be a unique opportunity for sharing new ideas about interventions in Community Psychology. In a society where uneasiness, instead of wellbeing, seems to be promoted, there is a tremendous need to a) boost social bonds, b) recreate places where people can establish relationships, c) promote participation and individual and social responsibility. In the Community psychology approach, these actions seem to be the best

way to promote changes more consistent with people, families and communities' needs and desires.

Community psychologists, and those who share the values of the discipline, should be active in promoting an appropriate communities need approach.

These professionals are supposed to support people, families and communities in promoting wellbeing through social change.

What methods and what interventions do we need to achieve?

S.I.P.CO. Congress welcomes anyone's contribution in giving an answer to these questions.

Key note speakers will be Maritza Montero and William Doherty. Moreover, the congress will be organized in round tables, parallel sessions and poster presentations. The four best posters will receive an award.

For further information and details about the congress events visit

<http://milanosipco2012.com> or contact info@sipcomilano2012.com.

From Portugal



Using Participatory Inquiry to Identify Enhanced Individual Capabilities towards Recovery in Mental Health Community-Based Programs.⁵

⁵ This project is supported by a grant from the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia

During the 80's the mental health system in Portugal was still structured around large-scale psychiatric hospitals and AEIPS was the first non-governmental non-profit organization (created in 1987) aiming to support the inclusion and participation in the community of people with mental illness. This organization outlined a community intervention program whose mission relied in the promotion of the integration and on the changing of perspective of mental health services towards recovery.

Seeking to realize its vision for social inclusion and citizenship, the programme has been giving daily support to people who experience mental illness, assisting them to accomplish their goals and choices to live independently, searching autonomy through employment.

Aiming to study the efficacy of AEIPS mental health community services it developed a collaborative research project and a comparative and mix-method design using participatory and naturalistic inquiry are considered the best way to explore, to identify and to describe a process or a phenomenon in a context (Kennedy, Humphreys & Borkman, 1994).

Series of 7 discussion groups with a total of fifty volunteer user participations in 2 different community mental health organizations (AEIPS and in an another but similar organization) have been implemented to explore user experience of community integration and their gains stemming from the support of these organizations in order to capture the variability derived from both services. The domains discussed were about employment, training and education and

housing but also about family, leisure activities, health and food.

Following Suarez-Balcazar, Y. et al. (2004) definition about community-university partnerships as a collaboration process between a variety of settings and programs, community leaders, agency staff and members of grassroots groups, in this first preliminary phase, it was created a research steering committee composed by 3 members from Psychology & Health Research Unit at ISPA, 1 researcher scholarship, 1 researcher contract who had mental illness experience, co-researchers from the MH-CBO (users and professionals staff who volunteer themselves) and 2 external consultants. During a long process of 20 research small meetings, the committee members had analyzed the discussion groups' data that provided a basis for a questionnaire to use in a quantitative following step.

This collaborative research fosters mental health user's involvement in the framing and development of the whole process, and is also a way to promote empowerment (Kelly, 1986; Rappaport, 1990; Perkins, Zimmerman, 1995. Also, according to Trickett, Espino, (2004) there are 3 key relevant concepts a) validity or trustworthiness of information generated through collaborative work b) usefulness of knowledge for the community involved c) sustainability of interventions. It protects the right of expression and promotes critical reflection through the discussion groups to collect data and through collaboration in the construction of the research instruments and in the later stages of data analysis (Balcazar et al., 2004; Foster-Fishman, et al., 2001).

The Capability Gains Questionnaire (CGQ) also required 12 workgroup meetings in order

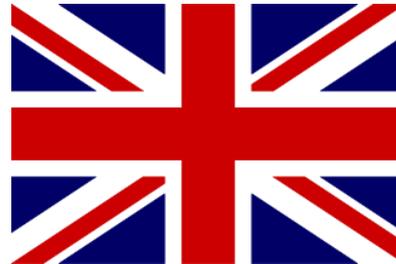
to be adjusted to the theoretical capabilities framework domains proposed by Nussbaum (2000), in order to give to the instrument a framework consistent with degrees of freedoms and diversity of choices. The Nussbaum capabilities framework consists of list of main 10 capabilities or freedoms, like a) life; b) bodily health; c) bodily integrity; d) senses, imagination and thought; e) emotions; f) practical reason; g) affiliation – social and personal domains; h) other species; i) play; j) control over one's environment – political and material domains. Only through full community integration can users access the process of recovery. Community integration, empowerment and recovery demand new abilities and practices from professionals of community support organizations. Therefore, it is relevant to build on programs features that connect service users with the natural community settings in order to enhance capabilities and opportunities for community participation and inclusion.

Maria F. Jorge - Monteiro, Beatrice Sacchetto, Maria Vargas-Moniz, José H. Ornelas, ISPA-IU, Lisboa, Portugal

Maria João Neves, Maria Adelaide, Fátima Freitas, José A. Coimbra, AEIPS, Lisboa, Portugal

Supported by FCT Grant PTDC/PSI-PCL/113301/2009

From U.K.



Cathy McCormack from Glasgow

The World War Against the Poor

Cathy McCormack long term anti-poverty campaigner from Easterhouse Glasgow and author of 'The Wee Yellow Butterfly' exposes the war against the poor during a series of conversations with other activist and academic experts that are fighting back in the front line of this war and trying to save our planet and its people.

First Conversation:

<http://www.mixcloud.com/CathyMcCormack/>

Cathy's first guest is Dan Glass a young anti-climate change activist who was nominated as one of Britain's most effective green activist and notoriously famous for gluing himself to Gordon Brown. Dan was involved in setting up the organisations 'Plain Stupid' and So We Stand. Dan talks about the direct action which he and his buddies took to stop CO₂ emissions at their source which resulted in them being arrested twice and put on trial. He also reveals of how the under-cover police cop Mark Kennedy who infiltrated their organisation resulted in their second

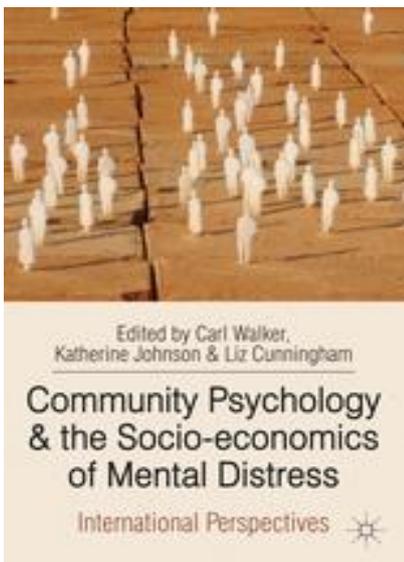
conviction being rendered un- safe.

Second Conversation:

<http://www.mixcloud.com/CathyMcCormack/>

Cathy's second guest is Professor David Fryer a Community Critical Psychologist and world expert on unemployment. David is currently Head of Research at the Australian Institute of Psychology, Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa, Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Queensland and Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Stirling, Scotland. David gives a fascinating insight into how unemployment is created by our governments to keep down inflation and the price of labour. Even more shocking is that all the propaganda aimed at the poor and unemployed is meant to be both painful and hurtful and to brainwash the wider public into thinking that the unemployed are lazy scroungers.

A new publication from Brighton



Authors:

CARL WALKER, KATHERINE JOHNSON LIZ CUNNINGHAM

Community psychology is a fast-developing discipline and is one of the most exciting areas of psychology. But how do different countries around the world respond to their own unique socio-economic challenges and can community psychology provide the much-needed solutions? Taking a uniquely global perspective to mental distress, this textbook provides a refreshing account of this dynamic field. Written by an international team of experts with the needs of students in mind, it is an essential guide to both mental distress and the global political context in which psychologists operate around the world, in this time of profound global socio-economic upheaval. Complete with up to date case studies from around the globe, students of community psychology, mental health, sociology and social policy will find this a fascinating guide to the growing area of community psychology.

Contents

Introduction: Community Psychology and the Socio-economics of Mental Distress: International Perspectives; *C.Walker, K.Johnson, & L.Cunningham*

PART I: SOCIO-ECONOMICS AND MENTAL DISTRESS Introduction; *C.Walker* Seroxat: the Corruption of Pharmaceutical Corporations, Health Care Professionals, Politicians and Academics; *P.Duckett* Gambling: Government and Industry Promotion of a Dangerous Form of Consumption; *J.Orford* Neoliberal Ideology and Personal Debt in the UK; *C.Walker* The Operation of a Suicidal Cohort and its Socio-economic Origins; *C.Curtis & B.Curtis* Mental Health and Community Psychology in India; *S.Bhatia* **PART II: PSYCHOLOGY, IDEOLOGY AND MODES OF INTERVENTIONS**

Introduction; *K.Johnson* Social Integration, Violence and Mental Health in Columbia;

C.Quenza Supporting Global Mental Health: Critical Community Psychology as a Potential Panacea?; *R.Burgess* Developing a Cambodian Psychology; *L.Cunningham, N.Hema, S.Sovandara, K.Sareth, P.Peou, K.Hourn & S.Hour* Communities and Professional Identities: South African Women Students' Accounts of Applied Psychology Training; *J.Callaghan* Community Psychology as a Globalised Commodity? A South African Perspective; *R.Carolissen*

PART III: INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL CHANGE PROJECTS

Introduction; *L.Cunningham* Charting a Path From Data to Action: A Culturally Sensitive Intervention for Adolescent Self-Harm in Sri Lanka; *J.Marecek* Housing for People with Lived Experience of Mental Health Issues: Housing First as a Strategy to Improve Quality of Life; *G.Nelson, P.Goering & S.Tsemberis* Developing a Tenant Organisation as a Resource in Supported Housing; *B.Kloos, K.Scrimenti, N.Masson, S.Zimmerman, B.Davis, & D.Snow* The Clubhouse Model and Community Psychology; *S. Phillips* Liberation of the Social Consciousness through Alternative Learning and Action Research: Work in Progress with the Aytas of the Philippines; *E. Estacio & D. Marks* Art, Social Action and Social Change; *M. Murray* Conclusion Global Mental Health, Cultural Specificity and the Risk of Neo-colonialism: Challenges for Critical Community Psychology; *K.Johnson*.

First review

'This is a must read for anyone concerned with the state of the world and quality of life. It is a call for action for mental health advocates worldwide. Read it and improve your ability to challenge the status quo. Pass it along and contribute to much needed action for mental health.' – *Isaac Prilleltensky, Dean, School of Education, and Erwin and Barbara Mautner Chair in Community*

Wellbeing, University of Miami, USA.

This book should be essential reading for all who are interested in the root causes of mental distress whether from personal, service or societal perspectives. The editors are to be congratulated for assembling chapters written from different parts of the world tackling issues that other analyses don't reach, particularly relating to socio-economic trends and globalisation – authentic community psychology at its best.' – *Carolyn Kagan, Professor of Community Social Psychology and Director of the research Institute for Health and Social Change, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK*

Manchester

Manpowered – a men's group challenging the label of 'learning difficulties' and improving health.

In collaboration with the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester Mencap, a learning disability charity and Manchester Metropolitan University, a men's group was created to improve the health of men and to challenge the label of 'learning difficulties'.

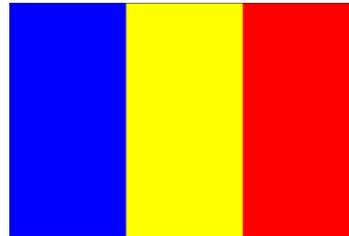
Using community psychology theory and ideas, every Thursday afternoon we met at the museum, where we had a large room to display our work and take part in activities. This was free of charge and we were able to access a budget the museum provided for resources. The group consisted of men aged 32 – 64 years. Some live with carer's, alone or residential care homes. We had approximately 8 – 10 members each week, in which a core group was developed over time.

Our time ended at the museum with the launch of a community exhibition, which displayed all the work we did including sculpture, poetry, films, photography, art and debate.

By using a community psychology approach, the men were able to contribute towards their own health and wellbeing, in their own way,

and be able to challenge the negativity that surrounds the labels of ‘learning difficulties’. For more details please contact: Michael Richards – 05005309@stu.mmu.ac.uk

From Romania



Oradea. September, 8 – 11 2011. The second international conference in the field of community psychology organised in Romania. Promoting wellbeing, health and social justice.

Organizer: Romanian Community Psychology Association (RCPA)

Partners: University Of Oradea, Agora University, Emanuel University, Partium Christian University, The Greek-Catholic Theological Institute, Administration Of The City Of Oradea, Bihor County Council, The Institution Of The Prefect Bihor County, “Emanuil Gojdu” High School Oradea, Teaching-Staff Resource Center Of Bihor County, School Inspectorate Of Bihor County

Scientific Committee:

Chairperson: Professor *David Fryer* (Australia), President of European Community Psychology Association, Honorary President of the Conference;

Chairperson: Professor *Caterina Arcidiacono* (Italy) President Elect of European Community Psychology Association

Members: David Fryer Ph. D., (Australia); Caterina Arcidiacono, Ph. D., (Italy); Thomas Saias, Ph. D., (France); James McMahon Psy. D., Ph.D., Th. D., Sc. D., (USA), Zsuzsana Szabo, Ph. D., (USA), Peter Wilhelm Kempf, Ph. D., (Germany), Jurcău Nicolae, Ph. D., (Romania), Alina Slapac, Ed. D., (USA), Anitei Mihai, Ph. D., (Romania), Preda Vasile, Ph. D., (Romania), Delia Podea, Ph. D., (Romania), Harry Leon Grossmann, Ph. D., (Germany), Cristian Tileagă, Ph. D., (UK), Letitia Filimon, Ph. D., (Romania), Mihai Marian, Ph. D., (Romania).



Manchester, Mancap.

Aim: Our aim is to provide a global and comprehensive update of the newest developments in Community Psychology in a way which should be both focused and enriched. Through the wide range of activities of the conference we aim to stimulate the interest toward the Community Psychology, this new

branch of psychology, who's theoretical and applied potential is still little known and explored in Romanian and European psychology. We wish to offer an active frame for a professional debate oriented toward the research and toward the development of intervention practices at the level of the communities.

Address of David Freyr : President of the European Community Psychology Association (2009-2011), Head of Research and Academic Program Development, The Australian Institute of Psychology from November; Professor Extraordinarius: Institute for Social and Health Sciences, University of South Africa; Honorary Senior Research Fellow, University of Stirling Scotl.

It is my great honour and pleasure to serve as Honorary President of the Romanian Community Psychology Association Conference: "Promoting wellbeing, health and social justice". I very much regret that I am unable to attend in person but I am delighted to send a message of good will and support to esteemed colleagues in Romania, on behalf of the European Community Psychology Association of which I am currently President, and to take this opportunity to say a few words.



1.Unemployment



2.Wheelchair

In this brief address I want to encourage you, at this important conference, to engage in vigorous debate from a critical theory standpoint, of the many diverse community psychologies which constitute our field.

This address is written from a 'community critical psychology' standpoint, from which I seek to understand and contest both how societal constructions (such as unemployment, psychologically toxic labour market entrapment, poverty, inequality, disabling practices, psycho-pharmacology, gendered, heterosexist and racist oppression, etc.) immiserate, destroy and obliterate and also simultaneously to understand and challenge oppressive forms of psychology, including community psychology.

I call for a de-construction, de-legitimation and de-ideologisation of the socio-political processes through which oppressive claims, including oppressive community psychology claims, are given the status of 'knowledge' or 'truth'; for a rendering transparent and accountable of the subjective, material, institutional, societal, political and ideological interests served by what is, and what is not, thought, said and done by community psychologists; for an engagement in praxis (progressive social action interconnected to and simultaneous with emancipatory power-knowledge construction and legitimation and profound radical reflexivity) and for a facilitation of emancipatory process and

outcome through progressive redistribution of social power.



3. Knowledge.

I call for a critical engagement with ‘research’ as a set of social practices, a grappling with power issues in process and outcome of research, a contesting of the collusion of psychologists, including community psychologists, in the construction and maintenance of oppressive knowledges and a going-beyond the documentation of the consequences of oppression to prevention or reduction of it.



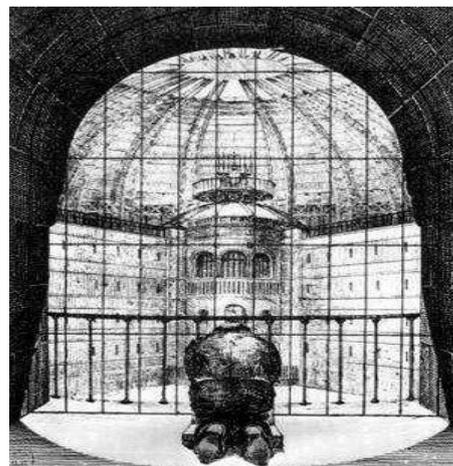
4. I want change.

I call for a re-thinking, perhaps an ‘unthinking’, from a community critical psychology standpoint, of the problematic nature of some community psychological ‘knowledges’, of the processes of their construction and legitimisation, of the interests served and of how reactionary knowledges can be resisted, or at least

subverted, and progressive knowledges deployed instead.

I call for a problematising of the role of community psychologists in the legitimisation of dominant oppressive ‘knowledges’, which are not in the interests of those they are ‘about’, but rather in the interests of those who deploy them with the effect of preventing progressive social change.

I call for community psychologists to engage in constant unremitting critique of community psychology itself because community psychology is another manifestation of ‘psy’ (“the heterogenous knowledges, forms of authority and practical techniques that constitute psychological expertise”. . . “largely invented since the mid-nineteenth century”, as Nicholas Rose succinctly put it on p vii in 1999 in *Governing the Soul*). If, as Foucault claimed, psychology is a set of disciplinary practices central to governmentality in 21st century neo-liberal societies, is community psychology exempt from critique? I think not.



5. Panopticon.

Activities:

- Symposiums:
1. Community psychology – national and European experience
 2. Identifying early signs of the BURNOUT syndrome

3. Psycho-medical interventions in crisis situations for individual, family and community

Oral presentations/posters:

Workshops (examples):

- Couple and family problems in the contemporary society – psychotherapeutic evaluation and intervention
- Psychological game – the failure of a healthy relationship
- Body language communication – opportunity or blockage in the communication process
- Analytic –existential techniques for personal optimization
- Procedures for determining the reliability of the psychological instruments
- Psychological intervention resistance: determining factors and control modalities
- Optimizing the educational act by functional fluency model
- Behavioural intervention models in depressive disorders
- Techniques and procedures of evaluation for gun licence
- Stress management in crisis situations
- Work security and health – work psychology vs. work medicine, inferences and interferences
- Perception of the urban space: your place in the community

The organization of the conference on different activity types and all along a generous period of time offers the participants the possibility to attend lectures presented in several sections, to analyze and discuss posters, to perform practical activities during workshops, to present their opinions during sessions, to interact both critically and tolerantly in the sense of accepting diversity, tolerance and mutual respect.

Participants:

In the spirit of the message in the conference invitation, which suggested a multidisciplinary approach to the theme, many psychologists answered the invitation, psychologists working in the research field, in public or private institutions and organisations, in clinical or therapeutic area, in education, in defence or security areas, as well as physicians of many different specialities, experts in the judicial system, teachers, sociologists, economists, architects and engineers, students and postgraduates.

There is a significant number of participants who come because they want to have a direct understanding of what community psychology means, of its objectives and values, of its specific in comparison with other fields of psychology, or in order to find out what exactly the community psychologist does.

We are waiting for you in our next Conference organised by The Romanian Community Psychology Association in September 2013.

Professor Letitia Filimon - University of Oradea - "Vasile Goldis" Western University of Arad- President of Romanian Community Psychology Association. email:

fililetitia@yahoo.co

The interview

Carolyn Kagan and Critical Psychology

by Agostino Carbone



Carolyn Kagan is Director of Social Change Research Centre at the Manchester Metropolitan University, co-author with Mark Burton, Paul Duckett, Rebecca Lawthom and Asiya Siddiquee of Community Critical Psychology (Blackwell 2011).

In the occasion of the book presentation organized during the Ecpa conference held in York in September 2011, I had the chance to interview her about their volume.

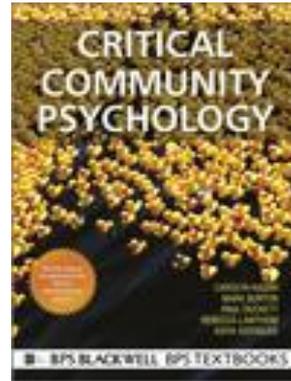
AC. Which were the reasons for writing this book?

The idea came to us in Manchester as a result of the story of five people working together in the area of community psychology; five friends, often at odds with each other.

The idea to write a critical book is because we think the people should be questioning all the time what we are reading, doing, hearing from the other people. Questioning is in relation to establish framework on critic, but not be a critic. To have a critical stance, means for us

that we have a vision and we needed a tool to expand, disseminate it.

This book is a wonderful thing that we tried together.



www.compsy.org.uk

<http://www.rhsc.mmu.ac.uk/>

<http://www.hpsc.mmu.ac.uk/psychology/>

We divided the book in three sections: theoretical resources, strategies for actions and reflections. These are the cornerstone of our approach. Within each chapter the readers are invited to think, act or reflect and we hope that these invitations will help extend their learning and critical overview.

AC. What do you mean by 'critical'?

What is meant by the term "critical" is an approach that tries to understand a social reality through the introduction of another, more penetrating frame of reference that has to do with a general theory of human society (or at least late capitalistic society). Critical means the possibility to understand the social contradictions; to understand the construction of power relationship between dominant groups and the oppressed marginalized minorities.

Community Psychology needs, now more than ever a critical perspective introducing in the discipline's point of view able to connect social, economical and political issue in the reflection and action process.

AC. What are communalities and differences between your theory perspective and the others present in this area?

One of the feature of European framework is that our is a society of colonizers and not colonized, plagued by many conflicts, with different kinds of welfare (Mediterranean, North European, Soviet), connected with social policies.

In US there is a different distribution of resources and the tendency to construct unrealistic social projects.

AC. What about your theoretical references?

It does not exist a wide literature on critical theories in community psychology, and for my research interest I refer manly to authors using an ecological perspective, and feminist theories. My roots are in Latin American authors and Liberation Movement as well as in the Frankfurt School.

AC. This book is directed not only to scholars and students but also to activists and volunteers involved in social and politic work, a powerful opportunity to increase their awareness and enlarge their knowledge and competencies on social facts, explaining... do you agree?

Yes, The book could be an useful tool for different kind of readers: it could be a manual for undergraduate students, tanks to the case-case studies and reflection guideline; it could also be a useful text for graduated students and social sciences researcher who are interested to develop action and research using a critical framework.

*A.C.Thanks a lot
Thanks to you.*

Education Training and Workshops

A Global University for Community Development?

We invite ECPA members and colleagues to join us at the Barcelona conference for a roundtable discussion on creating an online global university in community development and action.

Why this discussion? Because most problems in our world also exist on a community level. And many could be addressed on a community level – especially if community members had more skills in community development.

How can they get those skills? There are seven billion of us here on Earth. We can't reach everyone in person; but we can reach great numbers online. For as we know, online instruction is expanding all over the world, allowing us to teach community skills as never before.

The good news is that we already have the technology to do this, and to reach millions more. One successful online teaching model is the Community Tool Box (<http://ctb.ku.edu>); perhaps you may know of others. At this discussion, we want to talk about them and expand our work together.

We can expand our work by collaborating. Just for example, suppose we envision an online global university in community development, with online training and courses available to everyone. Certainly that would take effort; but we believe we can make it happen, by bringing together community psychologists from all over the world to cooperate as part of a multinational initiative.



THE BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION

At this roundtable, which will take place on **Thursday, June 21, from 12:30-14:00 in Room 1202**, we will discuss some ways to expand online learning, share some of our own ideas, make time to hear your own, and talk about next steps we might take together. We are hopeful there will be interest in carrying this initiative forward after the conference ends. And we invite you to consider becoming part of it, perhaps by joining a planning group.

So here is an opportunity to work together across borders as community psychologists, both to share our skills with others, to strengthen our profession, and to help address many of the world challenges of our time. Please join us at the conference; and whether or not you can be there, your thoughts, comments, and suggestions are very welcome; please send them to any of us. With all best wishes

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Community Psychology via Campus-Community- Partnerships

**Service Learning and Community-Based
Research
Experience-Based Teaching and Research
as a Tool for Enhancing Participation and
Social Innovation in Society
Wolfgang Stark (University of Duisburg-
Essen, Germany)**

Background

Based on a seven-year experience of service learning and transdisciplinary campus-community-partnership processes for social innovation the author discusses a model of campus-community-partnership as a university-wide transdisciplinary approach, which goes beyond community psychology internships and disciplinary approaches in higher education teaching. The transdisciplinary nature of campus-community partnerships based on service learning opens up the potential to disseminate community psychology concepts and values to disciplines like engineering, computer science and natural science.

A research concept designed to develop competence models for experiential learning is underway. The aim is to develop competence models as a “pattern language“ for experiential learning and research based upon competencies developed for students, teachers and community actors. Design, theory, and principles of data analysis of the research concept will be discussed.

Community Psychology and the “Third Mission“ of Higher Education.

Based on the notion that universities today have a „third mission“ beyond teaching and research, the model of campus-community-partnership wants to enhance participation in society both as a learning outcome for university students and a new format for experiential learning both in academia and civil society. Participating students will experience hands-on participatory research in practice and social responsibility and develop useful social competencies for their future career.

The concept of “Service Learning“ (Furco 1996) aims at using existing knowledge and competencies developed by students in various academic disciplines in order to serve communities, organizations or populations in need and to establish collaboration among university students and community members

to enhance community participation. In order to develop radical social innovations and to use the potential of transdisciplinary approaches to participatory challenges in society, we use the “Design Thinking” methodology developed by IDEO (Brown 2009). Design Thinking can be described as a systematic user-centered approach to design innovation processes in product and service development both in business and social fields. Based on a three-step approach using (1) an elaborated user-centered research process, (2) an “ideating”-process to foster new solutions to problems identified and (3) a rapid prototyping to provide quick response DT is an iterative process generating and evaluating social innovations. “Community-based research” (CBR) enhances this approach by integrating sound research as part of the campus-community-partnership process. Yet, CBR exceeds the idea of doing research in or with the community, co-creating research questions together with community-members or giving back research outcomes to the community. Integrating service learning challenges both the roles of students/teachers and community actors to develop a new identity as user-centered researcher. In this respect, developing campus-community-partnerships and using the concepts of service-learning, community-based-research and human-centered design offers new potentials: on the one hand it helps to integrate community psychology concepts in transdisciplinary academic teaching; in addition, it expands the idea of science and research toward a community-based concept.

Research Challenges

In our research approach, we especially are interested to identify the specific competence patterns used and needed in campus-community-partnerships for community-based research and experiential learning. Based on the idea of design patterns and the pattern language developed by Christopher Alexander (1977) our research concept wants

to identify, describe, measure and validate patterns and pattern families developed in experiential learning based on campus-community-partnership processes. In addition we will use well-evaluated instruments to measure service-learning effects and outcomes (Bringle et al. 2003).

Valid competence patterns developed in a series of pattern workshops will be integrated into a pattern language which will be theoretical and methodological basis for a competence model for experiential learning and can be used to empower both students and civil society (Schuler 2008).

To enhance a culture of campus-community-partnership and to develop a new identity of science and research based on societal responsibility, scientific community needs to develop expanded forms of competence models for experiential learning which take into account different learning patterns and interface patterns needed for campus-community partnership.

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SCRA Policy Committee: ideas for the future



Patrizia Meringolo

SCRA Policy Committee has been presented, with a new organization and many purposes, during biennial Conference in Chicago 2011. Membership includes persons known also in Europe, as Judah Viola (who is the Chair), Ken Maton, Tom Wolff, Jordan Braciszewski, Melissa Strompolis, Michael Brubacher, Doug Perkins, Brad Olson, just to mention some of them.

In Chicago Policy Committee held a workshop with participation of European members too: the meeting, focused on relevant issues for the future committee, was very interesting also to compare different way to promote wellbeing, health prevention and inclusion policies in different countries. European attendees have been able to know what a difference may be among various welfare organizations, political instruments to realize citizens' participation and empowering strategies to make known communities' needs and collective purposes.

In Europe we are used to refer to historical organizations (as political parties, or trade unions or even NGO associations, and, more recently, social movements) to organize bottom up participation in collective actions. Despite the crisis of such social actors, and despite the criticism towards a way to enclose

public opinions, we are often inclined to think about a similar kind of collecting social needs. USA situation is quite different, and social action seems follow ways that have different methods to communicate with political agencies.

These are the reason of the great attention paid by European persons but also of the difficulty to intervene and to cooperate.

In recent months PC has developed a Yahoo group to facilitate information sharing and work together, has promoted Policy Grants and awarded, and has developed two procedures for SCRA to take Policy Stances. The first of them is aimed to provide a mechanism for SCRA, as an organization, to evaluate and potentially adopt public stances or action plans on public policy issues. The second one concerns statements to communicate SCRA perspective on pressing social issues and matters of public health and wellbeing. The goal of such statements is to provide clear and brief summaries of scientific research and accumulated knowledge from practice accompanied by recommendations to policy makers. A policy issue may be requested also by members coming from another country or may concern it. About communication: on members' requests, the committee chair edited two columns in *The Community Psychologist* (*Community Psychology and Policy Work: RAISE THE AGE*, by Melissa Strompolis et al., and *Expanding Public Policy Efforts at SCRA: Implications and Opportunities* by Chris Corbett).

PC has plans for this year: as said in the documents, to solicit more policy and use more frequently its portion of the website (for statements, policy documents for professional development, space for dialogue and policy topics of interest).

Special aim is related to capacity building, which means a better knowledge about community psychologists and other committed persons' thought and actions by

means of a survey, and looking for incorporate policy oriented material into Community Psychology literature, by special issues and policy sections of articles.

Pay attention to political side of our psychological action may be a relevant stimulus for European researchers: our countries had an important tradition of civic engagement, lately perhaps dimmed, but past synergies may spring up again.

Patrizia Meringolo

Oradea Workshop: “Perception of the urban space (your place) in the community” of Malina Filimon and Gheorghe Hanga-Fărcaș

Workshop supported by the Expose Architecture association (Malina Filimon, Hanga-Fărcaș Gheorghe, et al.) in collaboration with the Romanian Association of Community Psychology (ARPC). within the international conference “Promoting wellness, social health and justice” organized by the ARPC in Oradea, Romania.



Arch. Malina Filimon

Objectives: Promoting wellness, social justice; Identification of the elements that generate wellbeing within the city by analyzing the characteristic features of urban space. Make people aware of the elements that induce wellness in their urban space, help

them find a sense of identity and the feeling of belonging to their community.

Project activities: Conferences, debates & workshop:

1. Participants have to go on site in order to chose from a list of patterns the ones that are representative for a given area;
2. Define the relations between them (patterns)
3. Identify the generated sensations (positive/negative) and their causes
4. And create a language in order to generate a coherent picture of the entire region/area.



Feeling the own space

Organizing urban space does not reflect from long time only a intervention in the physical structure being more an approach of the three components of space: the lived (vécu), perceived (perçu) and imagined (imaginé). Perception of urban space is simplified in terms of attractive, repulsive and unknown zones which allows for focusing on the last two, leading to establishment of a more pleasant environment. The workshop will, in fact, take people from the urban site, with different professions: architects, space planners, geographers, psychologists, sociologists, community police officers etc.



Oradea river in town

They will have to identify different sensations and patterns in different spaces given, and analyze them in terms of wellness, feeling of security, fear, etc. People walk through their city without noticing what is around them, although the environment plays an important role in their wellbeing.

5. The basis of the workshop is that the more people are aware of the spatial elements that surround them, the more involved they become in their community.

The WORKSHOP, as a special interdisciplinary section is open for any interested person and it aims to facilitate the collaboration between architects, psychologists, physicians, planners, geographers, sociologists, etc. in order to improve wellness in the community.

Expected results:

- define place identity
- increase social involvement
- induce awareness of belonging to a culture-your place in the community

The value of this project is that the activities are based on the interactive networking of the actors involved; this means direct access to information and the opportunity for open interdisciplinary consultation.

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Arch. Gheorghe Hanga-Fărcaș and arch. Malina Filimon

Notes from a participant

Oradea, as foreigners visiting Romania for the first time, shows a mixed history. The impressive well conserved Castro in the shape of the five-point-star fortress, bears witness to the Roman heritage and the Italian military building style of the 1500. Austrian secession palaces and the Black Aigle-windows of the glass-roofed art nouveau shopping arcade, are memories of recent history. The former Union building, actually a culture house, give honour to the realistic socialist art emphasizing human beings achievements.

The centre of the town and its pedestrian area seems, however, to struggle with all problems of a postmodern town: the need for meeting, sharing conversations, safe walking separate from car-traffic.

The venue of the conference in the Continental hotel, previously named the Dacia hotel, has in the name all its history: grounded in its communist past, in its renewing of the 90 is opening to the 3rd millennium in a moderate west wing. From there is the starting point of the workshop-walk led by Malina and Gheorghe, the two architects involved in community psychology that gave the participants the map of the area (Fig.1) and a grid to mark impressions and feelings in some specific points of the chosen area according to the following guide : 1) number of the place on the map; 2) patterns identifying the place ; 3) feelings (visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory); 4) wellbeing evaluation on a scale from 1-to 5; 5) general

patterns of the area: “magic” area, walking lane, rich or poor residential area, water access, commercial street, night life, green space, urban gates, cycling path, public square, public room in open space, teenagers group meeting place, trading area, café or pub area, small stores area, etc.. Each participant made his/her own notes. The group developed a fruitful discussion on politics, war and social oppression. The architects indicate the signs of one of the oldest and most important Jewish communities, with the majority of the members deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Poor migrant houses, traffic jams and a relaxing pedestrian path along the river introduced us to current debates on life difficulties, poverty and oppression. The walking workshop and the following debate allowed us to discover the life of Oradea pointing out its strengths and pitiful areas. The request to reflect on feelings and emotion given by the places allowed us to discover how individuals are connected with their environment. Furthermore, it emphasized the need to discuss how citizens can improve the quality of their life improving specific aspects of their living context in interaction with other inhabitants and local authorities.

C.A.



Fig.1 The map and the observation places



Crossing needs

Student Issues

A Journey to the 8th European Congress of Community Psychology.

By Francesca Esposito, Community Psychology PhD candidate (ISPA-IU)

“We are more honest as scholars when we acknowledge the myriad ways in which our personal lives and emotions are intertwined with who, what and how we study.”
(Blee, 2003, p.22)

13th September 2011,

8:00 o' clock of a hot Italian ending summer morning.

Despite the early hour, Pisa's airport is already full of life and movement.

We are waiting for the flight, destination Leeds. From there we will try to get to York where from the 14th to the 16th, the 8th European Congress of Community Psychology - “Community Psychology, Critical Issues” - is taking place ...

I'm a young community psychologist and it is the first time I will attend an European Congress with my professional community; my colleague already had previous experiences.

Already at the airport we recognize familiar faces... Italian groups of community psychologists met during the 8th Italian National Congress of Community Psychology, “The Prevention in the School and in the Community; Quality in action”, happened from the 23rd to the 25th of June 2011 in Padua. Like us, they are trying to get to the European Congress.

Suddenly, we experienced an unexpected sense of community: it is amazing how the feeling of being a part of a larger professional community is powerful in connecting people, and making them feel confident.

This is just the beginning of a new enriching professional and human experience.

Due to its complexity and density, it is not easy for me to recount my experience of York's Congress. As a young community psychologist, recently involved in this professional community, it was my first opportunity to meet the rest of my European colleagues, to get to know their work, to share their ideas, to create social bridges, to reinforce the existing ones...

The importance of our life's experiences and the links between these and our professionals interests, is a central topic for community psychologist professionals. James Kelly, in his book *“Becoming Ecological: An Expedition into Community Psychology”* (2006), talks exactly about this, identifying seven topics that, in his point of view, link biographies to personal interests. I will try to make use of some of these topics to reflect about the role of the Conference of York in my professional development.

The Power of Ideas from Other Places

I chose to put this as the first topic, because what I think York gave me mostly was the possibility to get in touch with ideas and psychological perspectives I did not know about, but I was looking for. Reflecting on and exchanging ideas on how to promote trans-disciplinarity, sustainable development,

progressive challenges to the status quo, emancipatory social change, solidarity, praxis and critique, has permitted me to develop alternative anchors for my growing interests. Using Kelly's words, in York I found stimulating “kins” that have helped me to gain new insights as well as reducing that feeling of alienation often experienced within the classical psychological scientific enterprise.

The attention on social justice has always been central to me, in my personal and professional life, and in York I have finally found professionals that are able to make these issues central elements of their epistemological reflections and practices. In this regard, an example of this was the Keynote Speaker of the Congress, Professor Richard Wilkinson, co-director of The Equality Trust, co-author of *The Spirit Level* and internationally esteemed researcher on the



Agostino Carbone, Fortuna Procentese, Silvia Scotto di Luzio and Salvatore Di Martino. Italian Participants, York CP Conference 2011.

social determinants of health and consequences of income inequality.

Concluding, in York I have probably experienced, and truly understood, the intrinsic interdisciplinary character of ecological thinking: it is in fact only by connecting different ideas that the scope and implication of one's work will not be limited.

The Power of Places

As Kelly notes, places as well as experiences, have a strong impact on people's behavior and identity.

According to this, I think that the magic union we were able to create during York's Congress, the social bridges, the exchanges and the mutual empowerment we developed, would not have been possible, at least in this form, without that particular surrounding. The intricate and picturesque cobbled streets full of shops and restaurants, the old Cathedral, the National Railway Museum, the large amount of small typical pubs that at the night become alive, make York a city of contrasts and exciting discoveries, a place where the old meets the new, and the ordinary joins the unexpected.

I cannot forget the after-congress moments, the conversations exchanged drinking a tea or a beer, the curiosity of the local inhabitants, as well as the usual pub goers, to see people of many different countries together in large noisy tables, the sporadic but interesting exchange that also happened with them.

This magical scenery, where the Roman mingles with the Viking and the Medieval, has given that touch of magic in addition to our Congress.

Diversity of Experiences and Roles

"It is common knowledge that being in places and situations requires performing roles and expressing a range of behaviors" (Kelly, 2006, p.9). In this regard, what I think has also been a new and amazing experience for me in York is that I was able to get a different perspective of community psychology professionals that have previously been my Professors or whose work I had simply studied on books. In that familiar and friendly environment, I have felt the greatest ease in meeting and interacting with persons I intellectually admire and that I have always wanted to meet in person. Those "kins" Kelly speaks about, that we often meet in our

readings and without knowing them personally, we feel they are our anchors and source of inspiration. I think that the opportunity to have most of them gathered there, to meet them in person, to converse, to share moments of more or less formal exchange with them, it was one of the most enriching experiences that York offered me.

The Power of Coincidence

Often the coincidences that occur, change our lives significantly. Surely, this is what has happened to me in York. Apart from having the opportunity to learn better ideas and perspectives (for example the critical community psychology or the liberation psychology) that have definitely marked my professional development as community psychologist; York has also allowed me to know persons that became significant for my professional life. The fact that I joined a PhD program in Community Psychology (actually I am a first year student of the PhD program of Community Psychology at ISPA-University Institute of Lisbon) I think has its roots, at least in part, in York's meeting. And it was surely there, where I had the opportunity to get to know better my Current PhD supervisor Professor José H. Ornelas, and co-supervisor Professor Caterina Arcidiacono.

The Power of Social Support

Personal and organizational resources are essential for people's development, especially when they lack many key resources and want to move beyond their past. In the end, York's Congress represented a great opportunity for me to create a precious amount of cumulative learning and to get access to a large amount of social resources that can provide guidance and validation for my future professional life. Concluding, in a perfect ecological way, York has represented for me, as a young community psychologist, a setting that granted me individual and organizational

resources to support my personal and professional development.

Book Review

Psicologia di Comunità n.2/2011 Special issue on responsible togetherness (Italian), pp. 116, edited, by Fortuna Procentese



The 2/2011 issue of *Psicologia di Comunità* edited by Fortuna Procentese (Federico II University Naples) proposed a reflection on the strategies and the need to promote *responsible togetherness*. The living conditions of contemporary communities tend to emphasize otherness and distance; our communities are characterized by an increasing super-diversity, those conditions posit the basis for the fragmentation of the community and for the prevalence of separatism.

Despite this premise, this thematic issue is not intended to deal exclusively with ethnic differences, being more focused on different forms of marginalization. A notable exception is represented by the paper of Arcidiacono and Tucillo who describe the experiences of migrant women, who came to Italy to be employed as “badanti”, taking care of elderly

people who need assistance and care. They collected and analysed the life histories of 118 migrant women coming from different countries across the world. Globally considered, the experience of those women is characterized by otherness (they are migrant) and by a “forced togetherness” with the people they care for but also with their relatives. Their situation is described in terms of asymmetric recognition, that lead migrant women to adopt the “invisibility” strategy as a way to protect themselves from the psychological consequences of exclusion, a paradoxical condition that they experience in a context that requires them, but keeps them apart. Invisibility seems at a time cause and consequence of the lack of *responsible togetherness*, common to migrant women and the host community. If people decide to be visible, responsible togetherness becomes a must. Each person, group or community that want to find a place in the public sphere, at a certain point, must be involved in negotiating meanings and in sharing knowledge: those actions, according to Mannarini, are required in order to build *togetherness* and require contexts capable of building opportunities and spaces for people to come, think and act together.

Procentese, Scotto di Luzio and Natale in their paper asked directly to their participants (university students) what *responsible togetherness* meant to them, thinking at their neighbourhood. The picture that emerged through the semantic analysis performed using T-Lab, revealed all the tensions and the contradictions of contemporary societies, in particular, the lack of trust toward the neighbours (who are portrayed as distant others) and toward the local institutions: in this situation it seems that the research participants are not able to leave any psychological room for constructive interdependence; the paper suggests that *responsible togetherness* is the result of a psychological negotiation that take place

between the different others and their residential living context; such a negotiation needs to be based on real-life experiences and concrete opportunities for sharing and negotiating. Also Terri Mannarini in her paper discusses the condition for building *togetherness*, focusing in particular on the role played by participatory decision-making practices, emphasising the capabilities of dialogic processes of participatory governance to engendering shared knowledge, and redefining identities, but also the need to adopt specific methodological attentions to avoid that participatory process are reduced to merely rhetorical disposables.

Responsibility in this thematic issues represents an organizing principle, that can support a new way for promoting dialogue and co-operation between and among diversities, allowing diverse people to recognize themselves in the common good.

La Barbera clarifies that *togetherness* requires to think in terms of interdependence: people are forced to live together, but they can decide which kind of relationships and social community they want: responsibility refers exactly to the explicit choice of giving priority to the “common good”. Also in this case the paper presents the results of an empirical research that involved 82 university students, who were confronted with a moral dilemma concerning E.U. The focus of the research was on the effects of perceived interdependence on willingness to cooperate. This effect was found to be significant and fully mediate by trust.

The other articles that are included in the thematic issue propose different experiences that were aimed at building *responsible togetherness* through the mean of participative process and assumption of responsibility. The paper of Cunningham, presents a participatory process, that was promoted in a group of squatter communities in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Community development was realized through a

microcredit project supported by a group of NGO active in the community, after a PAR that was fundamental in order to redefine the representation of the squatter communities, who where usually depicted as criminals. Two experiences took place in Italy: one is described in the paper of Scafuto, Erra and Procentese, that present a co-operative inquiry realized in a province of Naples with a local political organization of citizens; the other Italian experience discussed in the thematic issue was proposed by Daniela Caso, who used the photovoice method, as a tool to promote active participation of adolescents and to create opportunities to build their future idea of togetherness with the adult members of their local community. Both the papers describe the shadows and the lights of the participatory processes promoted, and strengthen the importance of providing meaningful opportunities for participation: meaningful, in this case, means able to emphasise interdependence, to share power at some extent and to reconnect people to their local context and the common good.

Cinzia Albanesi

**The Spirit Level: Why Equality
Is Better For Everyone
Richard Wilkinson, Kate
Pickett, Penguin, 4 Feb 2010,
368 pages.**

Today it appears that modern society has fallen short of hopes and expectations. Both neo-liberal thinking and capitalism promised us a better life relieved of the pestering weight of poverty, simply gambling on the equation: the more wealth = the more happiness for everybody. Instead, as demonstrated in recent years, high levels of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) very often did not turn out to guarantee wellbeing. On the contrary, the rich developed countries set at

the top of the monetary distribution sometimes bear problems even worse than the lack of means. An increasing rate of violence, erosion of trust, mental and physical illnesses and a widespread discontent seem, in fact, to be the prize paid to gain so much opulence. How can we explain a condition, apparently so paradoxical? Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett have given a surprising answer, to say the least, through this volume which has become a literary success. Through over 30 years of research and statistical comparisons among the rich developed countries and among the fifty states of the United States as well as outcomes provided by the most accredited data banks of the world, the authors demonstrated that most of the bitterest of society's ills boil down to a common denominator: the bad distribution of money, or to be more precise, the so-called inequality. In fact, it is not wealth in itself that guarantees the wellbeing of a Nation, rather the way in which money is distributed among the whole population. Therefore, if the gap that divided the rich and the poor widens more and more everybody will turn out to be losers in the end. The reduced life expectation and the increased rate of mental illnesses which affect indiscriminately both categories, constitute only some examples of it. Enhancing inequality strengthens a series of social problems which the authors, like two astronomers, described on a par with planets brought into this dense gravitational mass' orbit. The closer they are in the vicinity of the nucleus, the stronger results the influence of plagues like: obesity, violence, mental illnesses, teenage birth rate, imprisonment, and the like, all problems which no one has never linked with the same matrix until today. The first pages of the volume raise a question: do real solutions exist or are we compelled to accept the inequality, as well as its inconveniences, as the inevitable price for living in advanced societies? Fortunately, Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett's

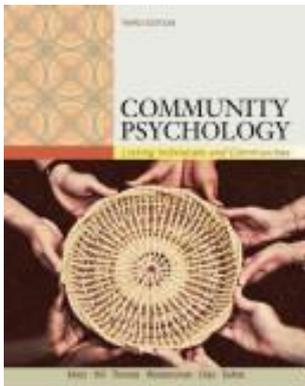
contribution does not come down to the mere analysis of a static and immutable system. If the first section of the book constitutes mainly a description of the status quo, engendering a stunning post-modern snapshot of society, the second part instead is entirely dedicated to the possible solutions. There are, indeed, strategies for reducing inequality, able to boost a process of transformation that makes societies healthier and happier.

Detaching themselves from more extremist stances, the authors do not propose to turn the capitalist system on its head nor create a new utopia based on a new experimental socialistic society. More simply they sustain the possibility to improve our lives even without overthrowing the world where we live in. Small but effective solutions exist already and they are not impractical.

We might take our cue, for instance, from countries as Japan and Scandinavia, striking examples of economic and social equality. First and foremost, we ought to narrow income differences insofar as it is possible and where not, at least try to lessen the effects of inequality. The authors, therefore, propose concrete examples, strategies successfully tested already in many countries across the world. A more equal redistribution of wealth, for example, giving the surplus of the rich to the poor or a democratic employee share-ownership which would avoid staggeringly large incomes for company chiefs executive or outside investors. They argue by and large is always useful to achieve greater equality through redistributive taxes and benefits and through a large Welfare state. In conclusion, Wilkinson and Pickett's book constitutes a valuable guide for all those that really want to improve our world. The authors demonstrate how the reduction of inequality represents a privileged tool to help international policies in the construction of healthier, more united, safer, and consequently happier societies.

Salvatore Di Martino

**Community Psychology,
Linking Individuals and
Communities, Bret Kloos, Jean
Hill, Elizabeth Thomas,
Abraham Wandersman,
Maurice J. Elias and James H.
Dalton. Wadsworth Publishing;
third edition (April 25, 2011)
568 pages.**



Community Psychology

What is Community Psychology? What is the history and the development of this discipline? What is the contribution that it offers to modern psychology? Also, what are the goals, skills, and areas of intervention and which specific methods, tools and theories characterize this approach?

What do key concepts such as empowerment, sense of community, social justice mean, and what importance they assume for this field of study?

The authors have given, through this book, an answer to these and many other questions, introducing and summarizing the broad field of Community psychology, but above this, offering an opportunity to explore this discipline in depth.

The fruit of their collaboration is represented by this manual, a useful guide both for students approaching this particular field of

study for the very first time and established community psychologists who wish to review the foundations on which their discipline is based.

The volume, now in its third edition, contains contributions by established members of this area of research, who chose to adopt a pedagogical approach in writing it, in order to provide a useful means of stimulating reader's reflection, insight, application and action. The text is in fact rich in experimental exercises, websites and accounts of real people's lives. The numerous examples of research, led in the "real world", also contribute to show the specific way in which Community psychologists work.

In effect, one of the most distinctive aspects which always characterized Community psychology has been its combination of theory and practice. To this day, in fact, this has always been widely recognised as one of the major values and strengths of this discipline, for Community psychology has never neglected the importance of the contextual features. To the contrary, these have always been treated as a resource, to the point that even the single individual has never been considered alone, separated from the surrounding environment, but as a fundamental part of it. Psychology has always taken the context into account, this latter has too often been overwhelmed by an individual perspective, like in the theatre where the spotlights are always pointed on the actors rather than on the backdrop behind them. Community psychology, instead, considers the context in an ecological perspective, in a multilevel framework in which each part is closely intertwined with the others. It follows that the context is not the sum of the single parts but the end result of their interaction. Indeed, Community psychology is not focused neither only to the actors nor only to the backdrop, but to the overall representation.

A glance at the title: “Community psychology, linking individuals and communities”, will confirm that the single and the wider context go hand in hand. Therefore, people are not considered simply as a background feature or as passive subjects of intervention, but as the driving force to boost change, inasmuch as they represent the be-all and the end-all to Community psychology. Human resources, indeed, constitute fundamental part of a Community psychologist’s tools of the trade, which is why the authors pointed out throughout their book how Community psychologists work for and with people.

However, Community psychology spans further than this. Other telling features of this discipline include a host of psychological tools to improve people’s lives, that is: increasing power, promotion and prevention, social change and community participation, and the like.

All these viewpoints are discussed at length within the text. Each chapter, in fact, addresses an important aspect of Community psychology, explained clearly to aid understanding of challenging concepts.

The book consists of five sections with a total of fourteen chapters.

Part one introduces Community psychology, with particular attention to its history and development. Part two discusses the specific aims and methods that characterize this discipline. Part three is entirely dedicated to the meaning of “community”, the backbone of this field of research, mainly by exploring the relationship between individual and environment. Other central concepts such as human diversity and the importance both of prevention and promotion are also covered within this section.

Part five, the final one, focuses entirely on the key concepts of Community psychology, that is: empowerment, citizen participation, community and social change, and the importance of evaluation, only to name a few.

To conclude, there is no better way to summarize Community psychology’s aim than quoting the authors of this book in full: “Community psychologists work collaboratively to help strengthen system, provide cost-effective service, increase access to resources and optimize quality for individuals, private and governmental organizations, corporations and community groups.” Therefore, Community psychologists build on existing strengths of people, organisations and communities to psychologists build on existing strengths of people, organisations and communities to create sustainable change, and construct a better society. *Salvatore Di Martino*

Bruna Zani (Ed) (2012):

Psicologia di comunità.

Prospettive, idee,

metodi.(Community Psychology.

Perspectives, ideas, and

methods), Roma, Carocci.

The book is published in a historical period characterized by several socioeconomic and cultural changes, which become of and are reflected at psychological, individual and collective domains. These changes generate questions about the meanings and role of Community Psychology (CP) in tackling the different needs of local communities. The need for a clear positioning of the discipline is among the questions that guided this effort aimed at reconstructing the historical development of the different “community psychologies” across the different continents (Europe, Americas, Asia, Africa).

The perspectives that emerge from the different strands of community psychology gives an insight into the diverse epistemological bases which is a source of richness. But this diverse bases also point to a need to express a clear definition CP – but

more than a definition, distinguishing features. The need to be distinguished and to be recognised as CP, seems to me important also for professional role and identity of the community psychologist, who often tends to be confused with community workers, and educators. This means that the role is often unclear and the approach that emphasises the value of *giving psychology away* is not recognised. The attention toward the reconstruction of the development of the discipline together with the recognition of the role of community psychology interventions – often dependent on the funding from local administrations – stimulates the need of a common reflection on these aspects.

The editor, Bruna Zani, offers a critical review of the processes of social change and of methodological approaches aimed at enhancing competent communities in an international perspective. Zani highlights the dimensions of community, power and social justice and the implications for understanding social change.

Through the different international contributions (e.g., Denise Jodelet, David Fryer, Wolfgang Stark, Maritza Montero, Carolyn Kagan) the central elements of CP and the contextual differences are challenged as well as the techniques and methods needed to face current social problems and emergent needs.

A merit of the book is to stimulate a reflection on the common elements of community psychology across the international landscape; on the need to develop competences in order to apply interventions in the different life contexts with the citizens involved in the current socioeconomic, political and cultural crisis. In fact, the impact of the crisis on the community structures requires a reflection on the new ways of living together, on the complexity of the elements that contribute to and generate the actual social phenomena, on the tasks of community psychology, and on the

interventions that professionals, institutions and citizens can develop together.

From this perspective the different authors analyse more specifically some themes of the current debate that are central for the development of the discipline: the *role of the social* stimulates a reflection on the aspects to observe in the community maintaining a multilevel perspective; the discourse of *power* is examined as a need to stimulate the emergence of the dynamics of oppression and ill-being, moving also from the way knowledge is constructed and research is conducted. The recognition and the redefinition of power relationships in the communities is central for the process of negotiation of shared norms constituting the social contract among individuals living in the communities. These social norms are aimed at preserving and developing community well being (Elvira Cicognani).

The perspectives of the different authors contribute to enlarge the focus of the debate on the positioning of the discipline, which has become more crucial in the research and in the development of contextual practices. It is clear that the development of community practices can not be separated from the analysis of cultural contexts and the ways of constructing the meaning of living together.

These new challenges for the community psychology require the transdisciplinarity and a multi-method approach, as point of reflexivity open to a critical vision of the existing models and practices with the aim to enhance the epistemic and cognitive dimension of the research and the practices of transformation and promotion of participatory processes and awareness.

The volume contributes by reflecting on the tools for fieldwork, often not clearly defined for what community psychologists do in their practice. These tools are flexible and situated in specific contexts (Cinzia Albanesi).

Emphasis is given to the constructs of *community* and *empowerment*, which are

investigated in their theoretical development and concrete use in different situations, allowing the community psychologist to give attention to their diversity, which is a value of our discipline. And this explains the importance of *participatory action research* and the *work with the groups* who are living and acting in the relational communities. The interesting observations and reflections offered by the authors in this volume represent an invitation to the on-going dialogue among the communities of community psychologists, in order to be in the “other” communities to think to the possible pathways that the discipline can take.

*Fortuna Procentese
(University of Naples, Italy)*

Notes from ECPA

Minute-ECPA

1st General Assembly 2011

York, on Friday, Sept 16th 2011, 8:15 to 9:15 am

The General Assembly (GA) was chaired by Caterina Arcidiacono, due to the outgoing president David Fryer’s absence. Before turning to the agenda, Caterina, on behalf of the ECPA board, gives thanks to Jacqui Akhurst and David Fryer for the organization of the York 8th ECCP conference.

1. Approval of the new members

The new members, most of which entered ECPA when registering for the York conference, are all approved by the GA. The GA speaks out a welcome to all new members.

2. Approval of the notes from the Paris 2009 General Assembly

The notes from the last GA in Paris were approved concordantly.

3. President's Report & Board Report

The president and members of the Board (Executive Committee) reported on activities of the past period:

Community Psychology Task Force of EFPA

Nicholas Carr, together with Thomas Saias, reports the constitution of a Community Psychology task force within the ›European Federation of Psychologists’ Associations‹ (EFPA; www.efpa.eu). That task force was installed at the Istanbul 2011 EFPA meeting to work for a two year period. The Members of the task force were not all fixed yet.

Task force members can only be nominated by national psychology associations which are members of EFPA, and the nominees must be members of the national association at the same time. Thomas Saias is nominated for the task force by the French psychology association (?), from Germany Prof. Bernd Röhrle is nominated; from Norway Tor Levin Hofgaard. Other nominations need to be pursued urgently, as the deadline for nominations is Oct. 1st.

As the French CP Association has been the one to formally propose the CP Task Force to EFPA, the GA expresses its gratefulness to the French psychology association.

Recent, past and upcoming publications

There have been recent and upcoming publications on CP:

- Italian Community Psychology book
- French Community Psychology book
- Proceedings of the Paris conference are now to be published online & open access, presumably on the ECPA website

- A special issue on Critical Community Psychology in the Journal of Applied Social and Community Psychology is under preparation
- Critical Community Psychology book of the Manchester group



Mark Burton, Jim Orford, Caterina Arcidiacono and Wolfgang Stark discussing Wilkinson Keynote, York Conference 2011.

4. Financial & membership report

David Vossebrecher gave the report to the GA, which was accomplished. The membership report is attached to this document.

Most notably, ECPA enjoyed a rapid increase in membership from 25 to 129 members.

The issue of online payment was discussed and the desire to have this was again formulated.

David Vossebrecher reported the difficulties that came up when he tried to establish a PayPal online payment opportunity on the website, which were not technical but operational difficulties related to the fact that ECPA is a Belgian association with both German and Belgian addresses and a German-based bank account. This issue will be brought forward in the future, with David Vossebrecher taking the task and responsibility on behalf of the Board and the to-be-elected new treasurer.

In general, the outgoing treasurer is ready to support the successor in all questions over the next months.

5. Elections

Jim Orford and Maria Vargas-Moniz had in late spring 2011 been nominated and agreed to act as the Electoral Committee.

In the GA Jim Orford remarks on some difficulties of this time's election process, due to the Lack of nominations of candidates in time. He suggests to the Board for the future to develop a clear time schedule for the election process in general. A note of the Electoral Committee on the experiences from this year's process will be prepared and handed to the Board.

The candidates for President-elect, Serdar M. Degirmencioglu from Turkey, and for Treasurer, Nicholas Carr from Norway, give a self-presentation to the GA.

In the following election, the GA in a first step decided to have an election by acclaim (= vote by show of hand); this was decided unanimously. Then in the election itself, both candidates were elected with each one abstention.

The agenda points for the next of the assemblies are

- 1) Country reports,
- 2) Activities for the future.

Notes on the first ECPA General Assembly 2011: David Vossebrecher.

Minute-ECPA

2nd General Assembly 2011

York, on Friday, Sept 16th 2011, 5:45 to 6:30 pm

1. Presentations

Nicholas Carr (new treasurer) and Serdar Degirmencioglu (president-elect) present themselves, as they have been elected in the 1st GA in the morning.

2. *IV International Conference of CP, Barcelona 2012*

Moisés Carmona Monferrer and Ruben David Fernández Carrasco from the steering committee of the Barcelona 4ICCP in 2012 give a Presentation. The Barcelona steering committee asks for people in each country to transfer all information to their colleagues. The website is www.4cipc2012.org. The 4ICCP call for proposals will be edited by the 30th of September. The fees will have three levels (low, middle, high) and each delegate will have to decide which to pay. The accounts will be public at the end of the conference.

Caterina Arcidiacono insists on the necessity of collaboration between ECPA and the steering committee. Thomas Saias already has given them documents from the Paris conference and the e-mailing lists.

3. *Country reports*

a. Poland (Malgorzata Szarzynska)

Several courses have been developed but there is no legal association so far.

b. Germany (Wolfgang Stark)

CP in Germany is in a paradox situation: there used to be five different university chairs in CP, which are now closed as people are retired. At several 'universities of applied studies' there is still teaching in CP.

The long-distance university of 6000 students in the city of Hagen has opened a chair in CP, which is promising.

The national association is editing a regular open access journal, but is willing to diffuse contents from other newsletters (content to be submitted in English). Mike Seckinger is the current editor of this journal.

c. France (Thomas Saias)

120 members in the national association which is getting recognized both in political and professional fields.

Proceedings from the 2009 conferences are now published and will be sent to all delegates. A French book will also be edited in November.

The French Association has developed formal links with the Romanian CP association and is closely linked with colleagues from Quebec.

d. Italy (Bruna Zani)

SIPCO is at this day constituted by academics only. The objective will be to open its access to field practitioners. Numerous young academics have brought a new impulse within the association. A newsletter has been edited twice a year. An Italian journal is also edited twice a year and the website is living (www.sipco.it). A national congress is held every other year.

e. UK (Jacqui Akhurst)

The BPS has now a section on CP. A congress has been held annually since the 1990's and progressively enlarged the network of the community psychologists. More than 200 members have registered by now.

Norway and Turkey, whereas represented, haven't been able to express themselves due to time limitation. National reports will be attached to these minutes.

4. *Incoming activities*

Nicholas Carr has edited a document on the interest groups (IG), in order to motivate participants to join those IG.

Nicholas Carr also proposed the board's proposition of joining the European Federation of Psychologists Associations (EFPA).

Notes on the second ECPA General Assembly 2011: Thomas Saias.

Proceeding of the ECPA York conference September 2011

Jacqui Akhurst (Chair of the Organising Committee of the 2011 York ECPA Congress) and David Fryer (Chair of the Scientific Committee of the 2011 York ECPA Congress), with the invaluable assistance of David Vossebrecher (ECPA Board Member) and Charlotte Elwell (York St John University colleague), are moving forward with the creation of e-Proceedings of the York Conference.

On behalf of Jacqui and David F, Charlotte kindly sent out a brief survey intended to reach all participants at ECPA York who had submitted short summary papers of their presentations to be located in a nonpublic section of the Conference web site accessible only to Conference delegates asking them if they wanted their summary papers relocating to a publicly accessible e-Proceedings section. So far just under 20 people have said 'yes'.

The York e-proceedings will follow the style of the Paris Conference on the ECPA web site with regard to appearance and structuring.

If you submitted a short summary paper but have not received the survey from Charlotte asking about its relocation, please contact one of the David Vossebrecher (david.vossebrecher@orglab.org) or David Fryer (drdavidfryer@yahoo.co.uk).

ECPA in BARCELONA at the 4th ICCP



Dear colleagues and organizers of 4iccp 2012,

I would like to congratulate you to the terrific work you and your colleagues did organizing this important conference for community psychology. ..

Given the title of the conference "community and politics in a world in crisis" I think the conference is a very unique and important opportunity to discuss the political and future role of community psychology on a global scale. Especially in a global situation which calls for action of everybody concerned about the transformation of a capitalist system gone wild, the political and societal role of community psychology on the local and global scale has to be identified. Therefore I think there is an urgent need to to discuss and formulate the political ground of community psychology, not only within psychology as a discipline, but being part of a multiple global force to improve our society for the benevolence of all people instead of a small group of growing wealth. Given recent developments in Europe (financial disaster in Greece, rising unemployment in Spain and other countries) I think that time has come to stand up as community psychologist - and that time is running out if we don't.



THE BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION

I am sure my concern will be shared by many fellow community psychologists - and there perhaps even will be more members of attac (www.attac.org) among conference participants.

Thanks for your considerations!

from Wolfgang Stark Letter

Community and politics in a world in crisis

SCRA- Society for Community research and Action have a new president-elect and treasurer and member at large of SCRA (starting in August). ECPA is giving a warm and hearty congratulations to:
President-elect: Fabricio Balcazar (fabricio@uic.edu)
Treasurer: Jim Emshoff (jemshoff@gsu.edu)
Member at Large: Nellie Tran (Nellie_Tran@uml.edu)

Thursday ore 15.30-18.30 Round table part I and II (Theater 1)

The goal of this round table is to present the specifics goals, threats and strengths of the European vision(s) of community psychology by ECPA inviting the European and extra - European colleagues to discuss and compare our perspectives, stemming from the actual socio - economic situation of crisis that is affecting in particular the European states, from European focus to a world focus.

The participants are invited to answer to the following questions:

- What are the most important challenges that current economic and social crisis poses to comm. psychologist?**
- What are the answers that we can give to those challenges**

Round table part I M9 h. 15.30-17.00

Coordinator Caterina Arcidiacono

Participants:

David Fryer (past president) Australian Institute of Psychology; University of Queensland; University of South Africa; drdavidfryer@yahoo.co.uk

Caterina Arcidiacono, (President ECPA) Federico II, University of Naples (Italy) Caterina.arcidiacono@unina.it

Wolfgang Stark (past president) Duisburg-Essen University (Germany). Wolfgang.Stark@uni-due.de

Round table part II M8 h. 17.00-18.30

Coordinator: Wolfgang Stark, University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)

Participants:

Bruna Zani, (board) University of Bologna (Italy) bruna.zani@unibo.it

Maria João Vargas-Moniz (board) and **José Ornelas**, (past president) ISPA (Portugal) mariavargasmoniz@gmail.com

Nicholas Carr (Treasurer) Clinical Community Psychologist, Haukeland University Hospital, 5021 Norway nicholas.carr@helse-bergen.no

ECPA Bulletin

Reflection and Actions in Community Psychology Winter 2, 2012

Upcoming deadline

30 November 2012

To submit see rules in ecpa-website (www.ecpa-online.eu).

Thursday H 18.30 ECPA Assembly (1-2)

ASSEMBLY part I H 18.30 Thursday 21 (Theater)

Welcome Participants

Register Members – Apologies

Minutes of the last GA (York 2011)

Annual Work Report of EC on 2011/2012 (president)

Financial Report and Membership Report on 2011 (treasurer)

Regional/Country Reports

Other Issues

Discussion

ASSEMBLY Part II: H 19.15 Thursday 21 (Theater)

Institutional Membership - Regulations

Nomination Additional Member for ECPA Executive Committee

ECPA Plans for 2012/13

The Ecpa bulletin and the website

Next Congress 2013

Other Issues/Announcements

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION



WELCOME TO BARCELONA



ECPA Board Members

*European Community Psychology
Association*

Nicholas Carr, Thomas Saias, Bruna Zani, David Vossebrecher, Karin Jeschke, David Fryer, Wolfgang Stark, Caterina Arcidiacono (President).