



Jaswant Guzder

Advanced Study Institute
Cultural Poetics of Illness and Healing
Embodiment, Enactment and the
Politics of Experience

Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry
Department of Psychiatry, McGill University

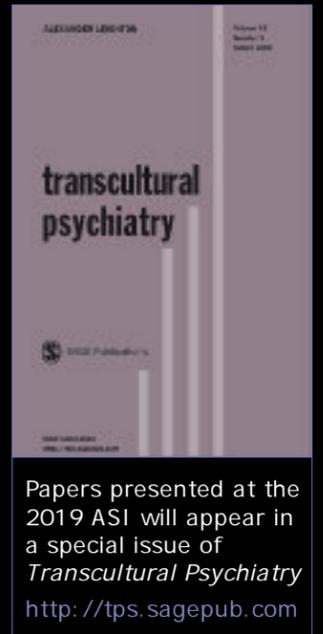
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June 28, 2019
Montréal, Québec

Cultural Poetics of Illness and Healing: Embodiment, Enactment and the Politics of Experience

Language is the most distinctive feature of the human mind, through which we fashion our lifeworlds in the process of *poiesis*, giving voice to suffering, making sense of our predicaments, and finding ways to heal. Each language of suffering and affliction is deeply rooted in a cultural history, geography, and community. Every expression of distress and process of healing draws from these shared languages even as individuals improvise new hybrid forms. Understanding the creative functions of language must be central to a psychiatry for the whole person. This conference brings together researchers in cultural psychiatry, mental practitioners, and scholars engaged in studying how language constructs experience through embodied metaphor, narrative enactment, and situated performance.

Presentations will explore the ways that cultural resources suffuse our linguistic capacity and modes of self-construal in the experience and expression of symptoms and illness and in the processes of identity transformation and healing. Topics will include: 1) the cognitive science of language, metaphor, and *poiesis* from embodied and enactivist perspectives; 2) how cultural affordances, shared background knowledge, discourse and practices enable and constrain *poiesis*; 3) the cognitive and social poetics of symptom and illness experience; and 4) the politics and practice of poetics in healing ritual, psychotherapy, and recovery.



conference program

All sessions will be held in the auditorium of the **Institute of Community & Family Psychiatry**
4333 Côte Ste-Catherine Rd., Montreal, QC

Friday, June 28, 2019 / 08:30-20:00

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:30

Welcome & Introduction

Toward a cultural poetics of illness and healing

Laurence J. Kirmayer, *McGill University*

9:30-10:00

A little taste of heaven: Metaphor in bodily experience

Raymond W. Gibbs, Jr., *University of California, Santa Cruz*

10:00-10:30

Scaffolded cognition and mental disorder

Somogy Varga, *University of Memphis*

10:30-11:00 **Break**

11:00-11:30

Loving and knowing, voice and relationship: Inviting participation in autistic languaging

Hanne De Jaegher, *University of the Basque Country*

11:30-12:00

And the flesh was made word: Romeo and Juliet in the Kingdom of Cratylis

Bradd Shore, *Emory University*

12:00-12:30

Panel: Embodiment, Metaphor, and Poiesis

12:30-14:00 **Lunch & Poster Session**

The ASI Conference will be preceded (June 26-27) by a 2-day workshop for researchers working in this area. Enrolment in the workshop is limited.

Register for the workshop or the conference online at:
www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/advanced

The Advanced Study Institute is part of the 25th Annual Summer Program in Social & Cultural Psychiatry

Division of Social & Transcultural Psychiatry, McGill University

For more info: www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych



14:00-14:30

Chekhov, Mad Studies, and models of mental difference

Bradley Lewis, *New York University*

14:30-15:00

"We thought they were bobbleheads": How engaging inner-city youth in the creation of poetry and song challenges the prevailing narrative

Debbie-Ann Chambers, *University of the West Indies*

15:00-15:30

To Di World: Jamaican soccer, poiesis, and post-colonial transformation

Geoffrey Walcott, *University of the West Indies*

15:30-16:00 **Break**

16:00-16:30

Body and soul: On metaphor, magic and mental illness in Mexican *Curanderismo*

Louis Sass, *Rutgers University*

16:30-17:00

The politics and poetics of code switching

Cécile Rousseau, *McGill University*

17:00-17:30

Panel: Politics and Poetics of Suffering and Healing

17:30-18:30 **Reception**

18:30-20:00 **Film: A Thousand Years of Joy**

A Thousand Years of Joy traces Robert Bly's poetic quest from the silence of mid-Western snowy fields, through the leaping images of surrealism, and the galvanizing theatre of anti-war activism, to the transformative wisdom of Kabir, Rumi and Ghalib. Bly's passionate commitment to language begins with the body, travels down to psyche's depths, out to the reaches of the world and upward to transcendence. Featuring: Coleman Barks, Louise Erdrich, Donald Hall, Edward Hirsch, Jane Hirshfeld, Gary Snyder.

