

MAY 1-2, 2008

# Peace, Conflict & Reconciliation

CONTRIBUTIONS OF CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Social conflict has origins and reflections in individual psychology, social interactions, and larger political, economic, and historical processes that define peoples as 'other' and target them for violence, oppression, exploitation, or annihilation. What role can cultural psychiatry play in illuminating the origins of conflict and the possibilities for resolution and reconciliation?

This conference will bring together an international group of scholars, researchers, and practitioners to address the relevance of cultural psychiatry for understanding conflict resolution, reconciliation, and the rebuilding of communities that have endured prolonged conflict and political violence. Questions to be addressed include: How do variations in cultural concepts of the person and ways of life influence the personal and social dimensions of conflict and its resolution? What are the roles of mental health services and professionals in fostering conflict resolution? How can a culturally informed perspective shape the approach of mental health practitioners working in post-conflict situations or in contexts of persisting instability and unrest?

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

**THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008**

8H30 – 9H REGISTRATION

**CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY AND THE ORIGINS AND END OF CONFLICT**

9H – 9H30  
**Cultural Psychiatry and the Politics of Alterity**  
*Laurence J. Kirmayer, McGill University*

9H30 – 10H30  
**Depression as Conflict Paralysis: Ways Out at the Micro, Meso, Macro and Mega Levels**  
*Johan Galtung, TRANSCEND Peace University*

11H – 11H30  
**The Trauma Paradigm: Pathway or Detour to Conflict Resolution?**  
*Allan Young, McGill University*

11H30 – 12H30 PANEL DISCUSSION

**The Place of Cultural Psychiatry in Peace, Conflict & Reconciliation**  
*Laurence J. Kirmayer (Chair), Kevin Avruch, Johan Galtung, Anthony Marsella*

**CULTURE AND IDENTITY: FROM FEAR AND CONFLICT TO RESPECT AND CO-EXISTENCE**

14H – 14H30  
**When I Know Who “We” Are, I Can Be “Me”: The Primary Role of Cultural Identity Clarity for Psychological Well-being**  
*Donald M. Taylor, McGill University*

14H30 – 15H  
**Sexual Violence and Trauma During Conflicts and in Post-Conflict Situations**  
*Naoko Miyaji, Hitotsubashi University*

15H – 15H30  
**Women Who Jump in Wells: Some Thoughts on Female Suicide in Conflict Areas of the Indian Subcontinent**  
*Jaswant Guzder, McGill University*

16H – 16H30  
**From the Hurtful Mirror to the Complex Other**  
*Cécile Rousseau, McGill University*

16H30 – 17H30 PANEL DISCUSSION

**Trauma and Global Health Program: An Update on Peace Building Efforts, Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation in Four Countries in Asia and Latin America.**  
*Duncan Pedersen (Chair), Victor Lopez (Guatemala), Bhogendra Sharma (Nepal), Marina Piazza (Peru), and Chamindra Weerackody (Sri Lanka)*

17H30 – 19H RECEPTION AND POSTER SESSION  
 FILM PRESENTATION

19H – 21H  
**Forty Years of Silence: An Indonesian Tragedy**  
*Robert Lemelson, The Foundation for Psychocultural Research*

PANEL DISCUSSION  
*Leslie Dwyer, Alex Hinton, Robert Lemelson, and Degung Santikarma.*



**FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008**

**THE PREDICAMENT OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN CANADA**

9H – 9H30  
**Violence and Identity: The Psycho-social Legacy of Indian Residential Schools in Canada**  
*Ronald Niezen, McGill University*

9H30 – 10H  
**Exiled in their Own Land: Suicide in the First Nations Communities of Quebec**  
*Michel Tousignant, Université du Québec à Montréal*

10H – 10H30  
**“The Pogo Moolah Treaty”**  
*Thohaboken Michael Doxtater, McGill University*

11H – 11H30  
**From Truth to Reconciliation**  
*Mike DeGagné, Aboriginal Healing Foundation*

11H30 – 12H30 PANEL DISCUSSION

**The Predicament of Indigenous Peoples**  
*Laurence J. Kirmayer (Chair), Ronald Niezen, Michel Tousignant, Thohaboken Michael Dixtater, and Mike DeGagné*

**RE-BUILDING THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY**

14H – 14H30  
**Truth and Reconciliation Commissions: Problems in Transitional Justice and the Reconstruction of Identity**  
*Kevin Avruch, George Mason University*

14H30 – 15H  
**Reflections on Peace-Building: Sulha as a Path Toward Reconciliation**  
*Abdel Hamid Afana, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims*

15H – 15H30  
**The Application of Coexistence and Disentitlement Theory to Rights Based Practice and Peace Building in the Middle East**  
*Jim Torczymer, McGill University*

**VISIONS OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION**  
 15H30 – 16H  
**A World (Unexpectedly) More Prosperous and Peaceful?**  
*Duncan Pedersen, McGill University*

16H – 17H  
**Cultures of War, Cultures of Peace**  
*Anthony J. Marsella, University of Hawaii & Psychologists for Social Responsibility*

17H  
**Closing**  
*Laurence J. Kirmayer, McGill University*

## Forty years of silence: an Indonesian tragedy

Robert Lemelson  
 The Foundation for Psychocultural Research & UCLA

In 1965, General Suharto began a bloody purge of suspected “communists” (members of the September 30th, or G-30-S, movement) that resulted in approximately 500,000 deaths, one of the largest mass killings of the 20th century. After the rise of Suharto’s New Order regime, any discussion or memorial of this purge and its victims that differed from the state’s official narrative became extremely politically dangerous. *Forty Years of Silence* examines the effects of the purge and its aftermath on four Indonesian families. The film begins with the build up to and events of 1965 and the subsequent mass killings, disappearances, and political imprisonments of family members. Life under the New Order regime is examined, especially the state- and village-level stigmatization and brutalization of individuals and families whose alleged associations with the banned Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) are perceived to be causing an “unclean environment” (*tidak bersih lingkungan*). How these families have coped with the changing Indonesian social and political landscape following the fall of the New Order in 1998, and their issues of revenge, retribution, “rehabilitation,” and possible reconciliation within this troubled historical context, form the conclusion of the film. Footage was shot over the course of 10 years, in both Central Java and Bali (two of the regions where the bulk of the mass killings occurred), as part of ongoing anthropological research on culture, health, and illness.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE 2008 ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTE WILL APPEAR IN A SPECIAL ISSUE OF *Transcultural Psychiatry*. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://TPS.SAGEPUB.COM/](http://TPS.SAGEPUB.COM/)



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SUMMER PROGRAM/ASI 2008  
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