



Advanced Study Institute

***The Politics of Diversity:  
Pluralism, Multiculturalism and Mental Health***

Division of Social & Transcultural Psychiatry  
Department of Psychiatry

[www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych](http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych)

Conference  
June 2, 2014  
Montréal, Québec



# The Politics of Diversity: Pluralism, Multiculturalism and Mental Health

Globalization is bringing new tensions and challenges to efforts to build multicultural and inclusive societies. In the name of secularism, neutrality or security, policies are being enacted that target the cultural, linguistic and religious identities and practices of minorities. Policies of multiculturalism and interculturalism that promised greater engagement with others are being challenged by appeals to the vulnerability of dominant groups and the need to reduce the threats of minorities who are portrayed as radical and divisive. This international conference and workshop will bring together scholars from cultural psychiatry, psychology, anthropology, political science, sociology and philosophy to explore basic questions including:

- How does diversity contribute to mental health and well-being for individuals and communities?
- How is the "other" constructed, and what are the consequences of "othering" for recognition or discrimination and suppression of cultural values and practices?
- What are the implications of recent challenges to multiculturalism and attacks on diversity in the public space for the health and well-being of populations?

- How can mental health research, policy and practice address the challenge of social integration in culturally-diverse societies?

Sessions will consider: (i) the social and political construction of the "other"; (ii) the psychology of "othering" and alterity with particular attention to gender; (iii) the relationship between diversity and mental health well-being; and (iv) strategies in mental health policy and practice to address the impact of social exclusion and respond to health disparities.

The format will be a public **Conference** and artistic event (June 2) directed to mental health practitioners, educators and policy makers, followed by a two-day **Workshop** (June 3 & 4) for researchers working on these issues.



Papers presented at the 2014 ASI will appear in a special issue of *Transcultural Psychiatry* <http://tps.sagepub.com>

## conference program

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

### Monday, June 2, 2014, 9:00-20:30

**8:30-9:00 registration**

**9:00-9:30**

*Welcome & Introduction: The Politics of Alterity*

**Laurence J. Kirmayer**

#### Session 1. Social and Political Constructions of the Other

**9:30-10:00**

*"Vivre ensemble" through Difference: The Construction of Muslims as Other in Quebec*

**Uzma Jamil**

University of South Australia

**10:00-10:30**

*Feminism, the Veil, and the Problem of False Consciousness*

**Daniel Weinstock**

McGill University

**10:30-11:00 break**

**11:00-11:30**

*Black Sheep and Mass Immigration: The Use of Caricature in Rejection of the "Other"*

**Natacha Premand**

Hôpital Universitaire de Genève, Switzerland

**11:30-12:00**

*The Québec Charter of Values and the Future of Living Together in Québec*

**Ghayda Hassan**

UQAM

**12:00-12:45**

**Panel: Multiculturalism and the Politics of Alterity**

**12:45-14:00 lunch**

#### Session 2. Diversity, Mental Health and Well-Being

**14:00-14:30**

*Emotional Distress of Undocumented Sub-Saharan Women in Morocco*

**Abdelwahed Mekki-Berrada**

Université Laval

**14:30-15:00**

*Ethnic Density and Mental Health: Description and Analysis*

**Rob Whitley**

McGill University

**15:00-15:30**

*Caste, Stigma, and Mental Well-Being: From Transition to Conversion*

**Sushrut Jadhav**

University College London

#### Session 3. Implications for Mental Health Services

**15:30-16:00**

*Ethnic Match in Health and Social Services: Pros and Cons*

**Morton Weinfeld**

McGill University

**16:00-16:30**

*Internalization of Race and Difference: Implications for Psychotherapy in a Diverse Society*

**Jaswant Guzder**

McGill University

**16:30-17:00**

*Othering Spaces: Uses of Alterity in Psychotherapy Training and Practice*

**Radhika Santhanam-Martin**

Victorian Transcultural Mental Health, Australia

**17:00-18:00**

**Panel: Pluralism in Mental Health Policy and Practice**

**18:00-19:00 reception and poster session**

**19:00-20:30 film: Liberty, Equality, Accommodation**

**Panel: discussion with the director**

Register for the 2014 ASI online (<http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/advanced/2014>), or complete this form and mail with your cheque for \$100.00 (\$25.00 for full-time students) payable to **McGill University:**

**Summer Program/ASI 2014**  
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Name: .....

Profession: .....

Institutional affiliation: .....

Complete mailing address: .....

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Tel: ..... e-mail: .....

For online registration or to submit a poster see:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/advanced/2014> (Submission deadline: April 30, 2014)



#### Liberty, Equality, Accommodation

**Stefan Nitoslawski** (Director)  
Documentary, 52 min., 2010, French with English subtitles.

*In February 2007, André Drouin, an alderman from Hérouxville, Quebec fired a broadside on the town's web page. Entitled The Hérouxville Code of Conduct, his pamphlet informed newcomers that women were not to be excised, stoned or burned alive. From one end of the province to the other a storm of voices and opinions greeted that announcement and generated a unique expression of direct democracy. The film is about this unprecedented collective experience.*