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Photos: Vincenzo Di Nicola

Volume 8, Issue 1

July, 2019

2020 Annual Meeting

**Collaboration:
Partnership,
Translation
and Integration**

- **Providence,
Rhode Island**
- **April 16-18,
2020**
- **Marriott
Providence
Hotel
Downtown**

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President's Message *Kenneth Fung*

Summer greetings! The 40th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture, hosted at my home city of Toronto Canada, April 25th to 27th, 2019, was a smashing success!! It has been my privilege and honor to be able to personally chat with and learn from so many of you.

At the historic meeting our illustrious opening panel, with our first president **Ronald Wintrob**, our longest serving president **Jim Boehnlein**, founding member **Joseph Westermeyer**, and longtime Board Member **Francis Lu** took us on a retrospective journey on the growth and development of the SSPC and the field of cultural psychiatry, identifying historical, persistent, as well as emerging challenges. The conference theme of engagement, empowerment, and equity was interrogated through many outstanding symposia and workshops. We had a non-fuzzy lecture from our Hughes Fellowship awardee, **Katherine Pizarro**, on the application of Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping to engage diverse communities. Many of our participants highly appreciated our joint plenary and breakout sessions in collaboration with the local Diversity and Equity conference on the second day, including the keynote speakers **Martin La Roche** and **Josephine Wong** and the panelists **Vincenzo Di Nicola**, **Bonnie Wong**, and **Franklynn Bartol**, with the programming greatly enriched by including voices from people with lived experience and family members.

While we worked hard during the day, the 40th anniversary dinner banquet was momentous and festive, replete with a sumptuous feast and a vivacious lion dance performance (and yes, the lion actually "devoured" a number of attendees along the way, including Liz!). We paid a special tribute to our award recipients, including **Liz Kramer**, for her long, dedicated service to SSPC; **Clare Pain**, received the Creative Scholarship Award for her pioneering work in Ethiopia; and **Ted Lo**, won the Lifetime Achievement Award as the founder of Hong Fook Mental Health Association and mentor to a whole generation of cultural psychiatrists. The conference concluded on the third day, which included a historic tour at the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health Queens Street Site, led by **Geoffrey Rheume**, a passionate historian with lived experience from York University.

No summary or superlatives in the preceding paragraphs, however, can truly capture the warm and congenial atmosphere of the conference. So many of you generously shared in the closing minutes of the conference how deeply the conference had touched you and how the people with whom you had connected had inspired you. It was deeply moving. This coming together across years of experience, discipline, geographical home-base, and backgrounds, facilitates the continued building of our diverse and vibrant SSPC family, and we have you to thank for making this happen.

I want to express my appreciation to all the members and volunteers of the SSPC program and logistics committees as well as the planning committee of the local Diversity and Equity conference for making the conference a big success; with special thanks to the hard work of Co-Chairs of the Program Committee **Bonnie Kaiser** and **Vincenzo Di Nicola**, our Executive Director **Liz Kramer**, Executive Director of Hong Fook Mental Health Association **Bonnie Wong**, and **Lisa Andermann**, who organized the local events.



*Kenneth playing with the lions at
Dim Sum King Seafood Restaurant*

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Kenneth Fung

The past year has been a very productive year for SSPC, and I want to thank all of the Board Members and Committee Members for their dedication and hard work. I want to express our sincere thanks again to **Liz Kramer**, our Executive Director, who has devoted so many years of service to help SSPC thrive and become the organization it is today. While she will retire as Executive Director at the end of June 2019, she will thankfully remain a special consultant to the Society.

As reported at the business meeting, we had our Board Meeting and mini-retreat just prior to the conference. We identified our core organizational values: *Diversity, Inclusion, Openness, Humility, Dialogue, and Community*. They will guide our activities throughout the year. Our Conference Committee is already busy at work planning next year's conference, **April 16 – 18, 2020**, in **Providence**, with the theme being on *Collaboration*. Please mark it down on your calendars and stay tuned for the call for submissions. Our Education Committee, co-led by **Anna Fiskin** and I, will continue to run topical webinars and the Cultural Psychiatry 101 series, with the most recent one held on June 14, 2019 on *Idioms of Distress*, featuring our own **Roberto Lewis-Fernández** and **Bonnie Kaiser**. We are delighted that so many of you are passionate to join the Advocacy Committee, which will be spearheaded by **Pamela Montano** and **Seran Schug**. We are also excited about the formation of the Family and Culture Interest Group, co-led by **Steven Wolin** and **Vincenzo Di Nicola**. We are looking towards forming a new trainee group with the help of **Jueun Lee**. Our current Board this year includes: Past President **Roberto Lewis-Fernández**, President-Elect **James Griffith**, Secretary **Bonnie Kaiser**, Treasurer **Alan Teo**, and Board Members **Neil Aggarwal**, **Lisa Andermann**, **Constance Cummings**, **Vincenzo Di Nicola**, **Anna Fiskin**, **Laurence Kirmayer** (ex-officio), **Francis Lu**, and **Sylvanna Vargas**. **Jim Boehnlein** will head up the Senior Advisory Group Effort (SAGE) Committee and the Elections and Awards Committee. **Shannon Suo** will continue to be our newsletter editor. I strongly encourage all of you to participate in and help out with our committees and activities. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me or any of the Board Members.

I want to thank all of you for your enthusiasm, participation, and support. Have a terrific summer and looking forward to meeting you again!

Members in the News: Vincenzo de Nicola

Shannon Suo and Vincenzo de Nicola



Vincenzo and Leticia welcome Anita Sofia

Earlier this year, SSPC member and Program Committee co-chair, Vincenzo Di Nicola became the founder and President of the newly re-established Canadian Association of Social Psychiatry/Association Canadienne de Psychiatrie Sociale (CASP/ACPS). CASP/ACPS is firmly re-established with nearly 100 members across Canada and a newly-elected Executive Committee based in Quebec. They plan to participate in the 23rd World Congress of the World Association of Social Psychiatry (WASP) in Bucharest, Romania, October 25-28, 2019, with a CASP/ACPS-sponsored symposium on Canadian contributions to social psychiatry and several others, including co-chairing an international symposium on "Defining Social Psychiatry in the 21st Century." Di Nicola's invited feature article, " 'A Person is a Person through Other Persons': A Social Psychiatry Manifesto for the 21st Century," will appear in the inaugural issue of *World Social Psychiatry* with invited commentaries by Tom Craig, Norman Sartorius, and Eliot Sorel, to be launched at the World Congress.

In other news...

Vincenzo and Leticia Castagna Lovato are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Anita Sofia, on June 2nd, 2019. Anita is named for the Brazilian wife and fellow revolutionary of Giuseppe Garibaldi, unifier of Italy, and for wisdom. A Chinese friend announced that her long fingers augur that she will be a philosopher! Baby, mom, and dad are thriving and well.

From the Executive Director, Ex Officio**Liz Kramer**

This is my last column as Executive Director. I decided about a year ago that it was time for me to shift gears and devote more time to my family and the pursuit of a few personal passions. The original plan was to phase out gradually but I decided about 6 months ago that I wanted to fast track the process and give up the title as well as the responsibility of my position. I made the final decision early in May, and agreed to stay on as a consultant in a much more limited basis and with clear delineation of responsibility for one additional year. My tasks will focus on advising the Program Committee on the annual meeting and managing some of the logistics. In addition I will be helping Shannon with the newsletter and working with Souraya Torbey to see if we can complete and evaluate a regional pilot Cultural Psychiatry Day in the Baltimore-Washington area without breaking the bank and whether the activity helps attract new participants in SSPC and hopefully, new members.

Ten years ago, when SSPC created my position, membership was predominantly physicians, a few of whom were also anthropologists and some pure anthropologists. A few fellows and post docs attended the meetings but most of the participants were major scholars in the field of cultural psychiatry. We were a smaller and more homogenous group in those days.

A lot has happened since then. SSPC reached out to trainees, welcomed them and created a niche for them. Membership grew and diversified. Today nearly 40% of SSPC's members are trainees in psychiatry, social sciences, and/or global health. While there has been some slight growth in the number of non-physician professional members and attendees at the annual meetings, physician membership has declined significantly and continues its downward trend each year. The annual meetings are now 3 full days long, and trainees and new careerists are quite prevalent among presenters. The diversity has created a wonderful dialogue and broadened our horizons.

The explosive growth of technology has enabled the organization to develop new products such as our successful webinar series, which is becoming increasingly more popular and could/should be developed into a curriculum. And our website psychiatryandculture.org has become far more attractive and polished and an ever-expanding venue for doing business and communicating amongst colleagues. There are many new ideas on the table but they will require time and effort, as well as enthusiasm, if they are to come to fruition. As I have watched and listened to these conversations, I have grown closer to becoming the proverbial "frail, elderly female" and begun to really cherish being the quill pen queen.

The time has come to pass the torch to a new generation. I am grateful to several of the founders of SSPC for giving me the opportunity to create and develop a society that encompassed my own academic and professional interests, and to Jim Boehnlein and Steven Wolin, SSPC's first two presidents who helped me shape the organization. Roberto Lewis-Fernandez (and probably his own children who were teaching him) saw the need for some major changes and pushed me in those directions. There will always be some things with which I can't agree, but at least his projected plan had some end goals in sight and he was willing to take some needed risks as part of a strategic plan. Thanks, Roberto. Kenneth represents the new generation and I wish him well. I have enjoyed my collegial relationships with members and hope that I have been of service to you. Only time will tell if self-governance works, but I wish the Board and the membership well in your efforts.

I hope you will keep in touch and feel free to ask if there is anything I can do to help you. If, however, your request relates to the day-to-day operations of SSPC, and you don't immediately see to whom the issue should be addressed, please contact Bonnie Kaiser, secretary of SSPC. I no longer check the SSPC email regularly and will forward your query to someone else for a response.

Very best wishes to all of you,
Liz

Thank you, Liz!!



Franklynn Bartol discusses empowerment at the Annual Meeting

SSPC celebrates history at 40th annual meeting and joins Hong Fook Mental Health Association to explore theme of “Engagement, Empowerment, Equity”

Bonnie Kaiser

The 2019 annual meeting was a special opportunity to celebrate and reflect on 40 years of SSPC history. The first day of the conference included a plenary and several other sessions dedicated to celebrating achievements of SSPC members and remembering those who are no longer with us. We also enjoyed a Chinese banquet, music, and dancing at our 40th anniversary dinner.

This year’s conference was also special in that we shared a joint day of meetings with Hong Fook Mental Health Association, who were wonderful hosts from Toronto. After last year’s conference theme on “What is culture?”, we turned this year to more pragmatic questions on the theme of “Engagement, Empowerment, Equity: From Theory to Practice.” This was the perfect theme to engage alongside Hong Fook, whose biannual meeting focuses on themes of diversity and equity in mental health and addictions. Plenary speakers included voices of psychotherapy experts and experts in lived experience, with a strong closing plenary from Josephine Wong, who received high praise in conference feedback. Josephine told the heartfelt story of her family’s experience navigating care systems in support of her sister.

Congratulations to the Charles Hughes Fellowship winner Katherine Pizarro, who presented on “Engaging indigenous communities in addressing men’s mental wellbeing in Guatemala: Application of Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping.” We encourage medical and social science trainees to [submit papers](#) for the next fellowship contest (see pages 5-6).

Thanks to all those who completed evaluations, which provide very helpful feedback for improving the program each year. Many described that SSPC provides a great space for developing collaborations, so we will continue to look for ways to promote networking at future meetings. Workshops continue to receive the highest ratings in evaluations; we encourage attendees to consider how they might incorporate hands-on and skills-based workshops in their submissions for the 2020 annual meeting in Providence. Next year’s theme of Collaboration will explore how to integrate across disciplines and epistemologies, how to translate findings to policy-makers and the public, and how to effectively partner in academic, educational, and community-based settings. It promises to be an exciting and productive meeting!

We hope to see many of you at the 41st annual meeting when we return to Providence.

Note from the Editor

Shannon Suo

As I put together this newsletter and reflected on the fact that it’s Volume 8, I realized that this means I’ve been involved with SSPC for over 10 years. I was recruited by my mentors, Russell Lim and Francis Lu, to join an international group whose passion and focus seemed in sync with mine—exploring the meaning of culture within psychiatry providing care to minority and underserved populations. Intertwined in that period of initiation as a resident and early career psychiatrist was the introduction to a dynamic, intelligent, and productive woman who would also impact the course of my career: Liz Kramer. Liz was working with Russell and Francis on a DVD: *Shame and Silence, Understanding the Stigma of Mental Illness in Asian Americans*, and we quickly became friends. Her involvement with SSPC as the Executive Director and enthusiasm for the organization are part of what has kept me engaged with SSPC despite increasing demands on my time and energy personally and professionally. I’ve borne witness to Liz’s joy and frustration with the ups and downs of meetings and other activities of SSPC and watch her retirement with trepidation, but with relief for my friend that she is taking time for herself and directing her energies into other projects which will benefit from her dogged determination and passion. SSPC won’t be the same without her, and I greatly appreciate all she has given us over her years of service and dedication. Best of luck in your “retirement,” Liz!

Call for Papers for 41st Annual Meeting

April 16-18, 2020
Marriott Providence Downtown
Providence, Rhode Island

Abstract submission deadline: September 20, 2019

[Click here for Abstract Submission Form](#)

COLLABORATION
Partnership, Translation, Integration

Cultural Psychiatrists and Psychologists and Global Mental Health practitioners are increasingly working in collaborative spaces. Some of these collaborations feel familiar, such as with scholars in other disciplines. Other collaborations might feel new or unfamiliar, such as with lay counselors, peer specialists, religious leaders and healers, as well as with policy-makers and institutional administrators. The 2020 Annual Meeting aims to grapple with the challenges of such complex collaborations and to highlight examples of success.

Collaboration can mean many things. An obvious meaning is partnership: to what extent do our academic, educational, and community-based collaborations reflect true partnerships? What are the challenges that arise in collaborating across levels of expertise, such as expertise in psychiatry, local expertise, or expertise in lived experience? Should partnerships be sought for every aspect and kind of mental health-related research, or are they more applicable to some than others? How are power differentials managed in partnerships between researchers from high-income countries and those from low-and-middle-income countries? What are successful models for navigating such partnerships?

Additionally, we aim to translate our work not only to other experts in the field but to policy-makers, patients, their family members, and the broader public. How do we ensure that our research is applicable, and how do we effectively convince others of this? The translation aspect of this year's meeting will continue conversations begun in our 2018 and 2019 themes, that asked us to move *from Theory to Practice*.

Finally, how can we successfully integrate across disciplines and epistemologies in our scholarship and practice? How can we conceptualize categories such as cultural competence and structural competence as complementary and integrative approaches to achieve healthcare equity? How can we integrate across care providers, including not only psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and peer specialists, but also religious leaders, traditional healers, or other care providers?

Examples of topics and domains related to the conference theme include the following:

1. **Inter-disciplinary collaboration:** This is perhaps the most familiar type of collaboration, but it is vulnerable to the vicissitudes of institutions, funding mechanisms, and individual goals. How can we effectively partner across disciplines, and what are the primary challenges? How do we pursue a common language and value system in our work?
2. **Partnerships among care providers:** How can we integrate across care providers, including not only psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and peer specialists, but also religious leaders, traditional healers, or other care providers? What are the challenges that arise in collaborating across levels of expertise, such as expertise in psychiatry, local expertise, or expertise in lived experience?
3. **Integrating epistemologies:** How can we successfully integrate across disciplines and epistemologies in our scholarship and practice? How can we conceptualize categories such as cultural competence and structural competence as complementary and integrative approaches to achieve healthcare equity?
4. **Translating to policy-makers and the general public:** How do we ensure that our research is applicable and translatable to policy-makers, patients, family members, and the general public? How do we effectively convince others of its value? What can the growing field of dissemination and implementation science contribute to these goals?
5. **Partnerships between Global North and South:** How are power differentials managed in partnerships between researchers from high-income countries and those from low-and-middle-income countries? What are successful models for navigating such partnerships?
6. **Family:** Family has become an increasingly important focus at recent SSPC meetings. How can cultural psychiatrists and psychologists effectively partner with family members as caregivers and decision-makers? How can global mental health increasingly incorporate families into interventions?
7. **Reflexivity:** In the 2020 conference, we want to emphasize the reflective side of presentations: why haven't we been collaborative? What change occurs when we do collaborate? Why do we pick certain people to collaborate with? What are the challenges along the way?

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Call for submissions, continued from page 6

Conference Learning Objectives:

After attending this meeting, participants will be able to:

1. Describe 3 challenges that arise in collaborating across disciplines, settings, or across power differentials.
2. Provide 3 examples of successful integration of multiple epistemologies, forms of care, or types of expertise in designing research and/or care provision.
3. Apply lessons learned to design and implement equitable partnerships in cultural psychiatry and global mental health.

Abstract Submission Categories

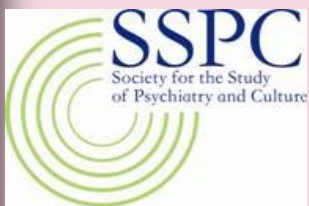
Abstracts can be submitted for Workshops, Symposia, Individual Papers or Posters, Works in Progress, and Trainee Fellowship Papers. Workshops that allow for participants to gain skills in issues related to Collaboration or cultural psychiatry writ large are strongly encouraged and will be given priority. Submissions based on qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods primary data and clinical encounters will be given preference over position pieces. Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts early. SSPC will provide technical assistance for abstract submissions up to 48 hours before the deadline.

Please note: This year, in order to support psychology and social worker attendees to apply for Continuing Education credits, we are requiring each abstract submission to include a CV **for each participant**. These materials will not be circulated other than being provided to those attendees who wish to apply for CE credit through their local CE office.

- 1. Workshop** – Workshops are approximately 1.5 hours long. They should have one organizer and up to four co-facilitators. Workshops are different from symposia in that they are more interactive and are required to have hands-on activities for participants. In addition to an abstract, workshop submissions must include a timeline of activities. Workshop themes should address specific skills, debates, or concepts, either related to the theme of Collaboration or broadly applicable to cultural psychiatry and global mental health. Examples include how to work with youth to develop engagement strategies that encourage diverse youth with first-episode psychosis to participate in care or how to collaborate with LMIC partners in GMH research.
- 2. Symposium** – Symposia are approximately 1.5 hours long. A maximum of three original papers may be included, with a recommended presentation time of 20 minutes each. The organizer or moderator may provide introductory remarks on the topic. A discussant may be included if desired. Be sure to allot a minimum of 25 minutes for open discussion (per CME guidelines).
- 3. Individual Papers or Posters** – Abstracts may be submitted by individuals indicating preference for paper or poster presentations. Individual papers will be grouped into Paper Sessions by the conference organizers.
- 4. Work in Progress** – This category allows individuals or teams the opportunity to receive feedback during the early stages of developing a project, curriculum, therapy approach, clinical service, future SSPC presentation, etc. Abstracts can present preliminary concepts or findings and should include specific topics or questions for discussion. Work in Progress sessions will be 1.5 hours long and include 2 presentations, lasting 15 minutes, with substantial time dedicated to discussion for each presentation.
- 5. Trainee Fellowship Presentations** – Social science (masters or PhD students) or medical (medical student or resident) trainees may submit papers for consideration for a fellowship presentation. Up to two fellowships are given each year. SSPC Fellows have registration costs waived and receive a \$500 honorarium to offset travel costs. We encourage trainees to submit abstracts for the general abstract submission deadline even if they plan to submit a paper for consideration for a fellowship. That way their submissions can be considered for inclusion in the conference if they are not awarded a fellowship.

The deadline for all submission types is **September 20, 2019**, except for Trainee Fellowship submissions, which have a deadline of **November 1, 2019**. [Click here for online submission form](#). All submissions undergo a multiple-reviewer selection and scoring process. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent by early 2020. After notification of acceptance, all presenters (including workshop co-facilitators and discussants) will be required to pay the conference registration fee by February 1st for their submission to be included in the annual meeting program.

For additional information, please visit the Annual Meeting page at www.psychiatryandculture.org.
If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Kaiser, Chair of the Program Committee, at bonnienicolekaiser@gmail.com



psychiatryandculture.org

Be sure to renew your membership for 2019! Click [here](#) to pay your dues online.

Leave a legacy—consider donating to SSPC or recognizing SSPC in your will. While dues are not tax-deductible as charitable, donations are!

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