

SCHOOL OF DISABILITY STUDIES, RYERSON UNIVERSITY

Mad-Positive in the Academy: An International Dialogue on Practice

May 18 – 20, 2012

Meeting agenda, summaries of the four key projects and biographic information
on the invited participants

Prepared by Dr. Kathryn Church and Danielle Landry

5/14/2012

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Introducing *Mad-Positive in the Academy*

Mad Positive in the Academy is a meeting of scholars and community-based advocates from Scotland, England, the United States and Canada who work at the intersection of mental health, formal education and social movements. Hosted by the School of Disability Studies at Ryerson University, participants will come into face to face discussion for the first time from May 17-20, 2012. Purposively selected, most are connected to four 'cutting edge' projects:

- In Toronto: Mad People's History/History of Madness, two popular courses developed by Disability Studies at Ryerson with radiating impact on community organizations;
- In Edinburgh: Oor Mad History is a community history project run by volunteers who are or who have been involved in collective mental health advocacy in the Lothians. Its purpose is to record and celebrate the history and achievements of the mental health service user movement in this area.
- In Preston, UK: Comensus involves service users, carers and the wider community in the training and development of students who will work in the health and social care sectors. It embeds the voices and stories of these groups within the work of the School of Health at the University of Central Lancashire.
- In New York: Through Columbia University, under the auspices of the Centre to Study Recovery in Social Contexts, the Field School in Social Research Methods is developing and testing a curriculum that will build research skills among people whose education and career development were disrupted by the diagnosis of a "mental illness".

The planning committee for this event includes members of the Recovering Our Stories Collective. Other participants have been invited from strategic locations within Ryerson and from key organizations in and around Toronto. Drawing from this hands-on, real-world practice, the group of roughly 30 participants will foster a working team of activists/scholars to create an agenda for collaborative action and future projects.

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EVENT SPONSORS

Faculty of Community Services, Ryerson University

Working for Change

Wellesley Institute

CAW Social Justice Fund

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

School of Health, University of Central Lancashire

School of Social Work, University of Central Lancashire

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, University of Stirling

Center to Study Recovery in Social Contexts

Dr. Margaret A. Mackay

Atkinson Foundation

Ontario Human Rights Commission

School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Thank you!

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 18	<p><u>Morning</u></p> <p>Starting from Practice</p> <p>Learning in/from Actual Sites and Projects</p>	<p><u>Afternoon</u></p> <p>Considering Context I</p> <p>Practicing in Tough Economic Times: Universities, Service Systems and Communities</p>
Saturday, May 19	<p><u>Morning</u></p> <p>Starting from Students</p> <p>Mad Students Take the Floor</p>	<p><u>Afternoon</u></p> <p>Considering Context II</p> <p>Practicing in the neo-liberal university: Classrooms, Curriculum & Teaching</p>
Sunday, May 20	<p>Implications and Next Steps</p>	

Thursday, May 17th

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm - **Welcome Event:** Meet & Greet & Eat. At the party room in the Merchandise Building, 155 Dalhousie Street (North of Dundas St. E.)

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Friday, May 18th

9:00 am – Welcome from Usha George, Dean, Faculty of Community Services

9:10 am – Welcome from Disability Studies and overview of the event – Kathryn Church

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SESSION ONE:

Starting from Practice - Actual sites and projects

- 9:30 am – Comensus: Mick McKeown, Helen Spandler, Lou Rawcliffe and Keith Holt
- 9:55 am - The Field School in Social Research Methods: Kim Hopper, Kathleen O’Hara and Michael Rowe
- 10:20 am - Mad People’s History/History of Madness: Kathryn Church, Jijian Voronka, Danielle Landry
- 10:45 am – *Break. Refreshments will be available in the Disability Studies main office, SHE576*
- 11:00 am - Oor Mad History: Kirsten Maclean, Anne O’Donnell, Steve Tilley
- 11:25 am – Response from Linda Morrison, leading into open discussion
- 12:30 pm – Lunch hosted by the Ontario Human Rights Commission

SESSION TWO:

Practicing in Tough Times: Universities, Service Systems, Communities

- 2:00 pm – Leading Remarks: Kim Hopper, Mick McKeown, Kathryn Church and Tessa Parkes (approx. 15 mins each)
- 3:15 pm - *Break. Refreshments will be available in SHE576*
- 3:30 pm - Group Discussion
- 4:30 pm – Collective Reflection on the day
- 5:00 PM - Wrap-up. Break for end of day

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Saturday, May 19th

SESSION THREE:

Starting from Students

- 9:00 am - Presentation by the Mad Students Society
- 9:45 am - Respondents: Su-Ting Teo and Helen Spandler
- 10:15 am - *Break. Refreshments will be available in SHE576*
- 10:30 am - Group Discussion

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11:30 am – Lunch [will be brought in]

**SESSION FOUR:
Classrooms, Curriculum & Teaching**

1:00 pm - Canada

1:25 pm - Scotland

1:50 pm - England

2:15 pm - U.S.A.

2:40 pm - *Break. Refreshments will be available in SHE576*

3:00 pm - Responses from Jenn Poole and Ivan Silver, leading into open discussion

4:00 pm – Collective Reflection on the day

4:30 pm – Wrap-Up. Break for end of day.

Sunday, May 20th

Next Steps: Concrete Outcomes

11:00 am – **Sunday brunch meeting at NOW Lounge**, 189 Church St. at Shuter St. (reservation under Mad International).

11:30 am - Summary statement from Brenda Roche – What have we covered?

12:00 pm - Forward planning (next steps) and final comments

3:00 pm - **Film screening: *The Mars Project***. In room LIB072, 355 Victoria Street, lower level. Film maker Jonathan Balazs will be present. Approx. 75 minutes in length

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FILMED INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

	Friday, May 18th	Saturday, May 19th
9:00 AM		
9:20 AM		
9:40 AM		
10:00 AM		
10:20 AM		
10:40 AM		Steve Tilley
11:00 AM		Kirsten Maclean
11:20 AM	Brenda Roche	Anne O'Donnell
11:40 AM	Jenn Poole	
12:00 PM	Luke Jones	
12:20 PM	Jenna Reid	
12:40 PM		
1:00 PM		Jijian Voronka
1:20 PM	Kathryn Church	Ivan Silver
1:40 PM	Linda Morrison	Diana Capponi
2:00 PM		
2:20 PM	Danielle Landry	Becky MacFarlane
2:40 PM	Tania Jivraj	
3:00 PM	Anya Kater	Tessa Parkes
3:20 PM		Su-Ting Teo
3:40 PM		Mick McKeown
4:00 PM	Winnie Ng	Helen Spandler
4:20 PM	Michael Rowe	Keith Holt
4:40 PM	Kim Hopper	Lou Rawcliffe
5:00 PM	Kathleen O'Hara	

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DRAWING FROM PRACTICE Four Key Projects

Oor Mad History and other projects in Edinburgh

From: <http://oormadhistory.blogspot.com/p/what-is-oor-mad-history.html>

We are

- A community history project
- In Edinburgh and the Lothians, Scotland
- Run by volunteers who are or have been involved in collective advocacy in the Lothians
- Supported by our Community History Worker, Kirsten Maclean
- Hosted by CAPS Independent Advocacy
- Funded by NHS Lothian

What do we do?

- Celebrate the achievements of the mental health service user movement in the Lothians
- Preserve our history

How do we do it?

- Recording oral history interviews with activists and allies – the interviewers are volunteers who use or who have used mental health services
- Creating and organizing an archive of written material such as reports and posters and other objects

Why?

- It is important for us to look back and acknowledge our achievements, learn from mistakes, and better understand our ability to make a difference
- Knowing our history strengthens us as groups of mental health service users and helps us fight better for more improvements and progress

Who else benefits?

- People who work with people in mental health programs
- People who do mental health training and education
- People who research topics to do with mental health problems, disability, involvement, health and care, services, stigma and discrimination, social inclusion...
- People who are interested in anything to do with mental health

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What have we done so far?

- Produced a book and a CD of voices (available from CAPS)
- An exhibition which ran from 2 to 14 October, 2010
- A living archive which can be added to over the years

Comensus, hosted by the University of Central Lancashire

From: http://www.uclan.ac.uk/schools/school_of_health/what_is_comensus.php

What is Comensus?

Comensus is a new way of involving service users, carers and the wider community in the training and development of health and social care students. It is service user and carer led and has been developed to embed the voices of those using health and social care services and their carers in the work of the School. It will provide academics with information and resources.

- Helps match up service users and carers to academic and community requests for involvement via the Community Involvement Team (CIT).
- Provides a database of School-wide service user and carer involvement
- Supports innovation and best practice
- Includes the community in our work

What we do

We co-ordinate user and carer involvement here in the School of Health.

Service users and carers:

- Review teaching and learning materials
- Interview staff and students
- Carry out and plan research
- Help the School of Health make important decisions
- Get involved in teaching
- Help design courses from a service user and carer perspective

What can we do for academics?

We can:

- provide information and resources
- help match up service users and carers to your requests for involvement
- provide a database of School-wide service user and carer involvement
- support innovation and best practice
- support and guide individual academics who wish to develop service user/carers involvement
- raise the profile of the university by contributing to grant applications
- publicise and celebrate your user/carers involvement within the University

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What is the Community Involvement Team (CIT)?

The CIT is a group of volunteer service users and carers who have come together to get their voices heard by the staff and students of the Faculty of Health within the University of Central Lancashire.

The Advisory Group

The Advisory Group helps give advice and expertise to the Community Involvement Team.

The group is made up of members from the community, health and social services, academics, and other interested parties.

Although the Advisory Group gives advice, the CIT is at liberty to accept or refuse their recommendations.

Comensus – Our Work

- We have a wealth of information and experience which provides a unique insight into health and social care.
- We support the work of the School of Health by providing information and resources from a service user and carer perspective.
- We plan and arrange community events, conferences and social events. We also provide disability awareness training.
- We provide the opportunity for the University to hear a community voice.
- We are available for advice, information and presentations. We can help if you are planning a local event.

The Field School in Social Research Methods, New York

From: <http://recovery.rfmh.org/index.php?id=296>

In partnership with the Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP), and sponsored by the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH), the Center to Study Recovery in Social Contexts is developing and testing a curriculum to enhance research capacity and opportunities for Center partners to advance research on recovery.

The Field School curriculum will provide a basis to increase the diversity of the NIMH workforce by building skills for people whose education and career development were disrupted by mental illness, in accord with the NIMH Strategic Plan and the National Advisory Mental Health Council's report on research training.

A fully participatory research approach-- Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) -- is central to the Center's mission and research agenda. Accordingly, peers, providers and policy makers, as well as investigators, participate in the development and implementation of research on the meaning and determinants of social recovery for persons diagnosed with severe mental illness.

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Building on recent work in social sciences, the voices of consumers and families, and the commitment of mental health systems to the goal of person-centered care, the Center to Study Recovery in Social Contexts supports an extensive portfolio of research that targets well-being, social participation and self-determination as core capabilities of lives worth living. The 2009 ARRA award, a supplement to the NIMH Center Grant, provides a more focused capacity for the Center, in partnership with MHEP, to offer:

- Intensive training in research design, practice and analysis to our peer partners.
- Classroom work coupled with field-based exercises, extensive writing, and mentored apprenticeships in Center-funded projects.
- A curriculum to enhance research skills among partners that strengthens the informed participation of key stakeholder networks.
- Stipends for authentic community participation in research to strengthen the public health impact of mental health services research.
- Research and technology training to expand the diversity of the NIMH workforce.

Mad People's History/History of Madness, School of Disability Studies, Ryerson University

Ryerson University's School of Disability Studies distinctively offers two undergraduate courses in the history of madness from the point of view of those deemed "mad": A History of Madness (DST500) and Mad People's History (CDST504).

Course Descriptions:

DST 500 - A History of Madness: Where do diverse concepts of "madness" come from? How have these ideas changed over time? How have "mad people" interpreted their own experiences? This course will be in the tradition of social history from "below". It will survey the social medical, political, economic, cultural and religious factors that have influenced interpretations of what it means to be "mad" from ancient time to the present.

CDST504 – Mad People's History: This course will provide an overview of the history of madness from the point of view of people who were, and are, deemed "mad". The purpose of this course is to place the diverse perspectives of people diagnosed as mad, insane or mentally ill as being of central importance in the history of psychiatry, and to address the question: how madness has been viewed by mad people over the centuries.

These two courses have spun-off a range of other activities, to be listed in more detail in a future document.

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PARTICIPANT LIST

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh

Steve Tilley, Honorary Fellow, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Following undergraduate studies in North American literature and history, qualified as a psychiatric nurse in Scotland and as a nurse behavioural therapist at the Maudsley Hospital, London. Worked as a nurse therapist in the community. Assistant editor of the Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing. Recent publications relate to nurse-patient interaction in psychiatric admission wards, accountability in mental health nursing, community psychiatric nurses' empowerment of people with enduring mental disorders, narrative analysis, and practice and education of mental health nurses.

Aims to contribute through research and supervision of postgraduate students to development of mental health nursing, and appraisal of the good, and the specific value, of the work mental health nurses do with people experiencing mental health problems. This entails attending to issues of:

- reflexivity in considering the field of practice in relation to the methods of studying it,
- critical awareness of power in production of knowledge in this field, and
- concern with interpreting mental health nursing as a form of principled human practice shaped by (and shaping) its cultural context.

Has explored the potential of different (e.g. accounts analysis, and narrative and discourse analysis) in studies including: a review of literature analysing construction of the Community Psychiatric Nurse in academic and professional literature; a Chief Scientist Office-funded study of CPNs empowerment ('prudent empowerment') of 'people with enduring mental disorders'. Values participating in co-operative and interdisciplinary research (e.g. edited *The Mental Health Nurse: views of practice and education*), Current projects include a book on sociology of the field of knowledge in mental health nursing.

Is currently developing an international, comparative study on mental health nursing in the context of mental health care provision.

Kirsten Maclean, Community History Worker, Oor Mad History, CAPS Independent Advocacy

Kirsten trained in Community Education (1999) and Secondary Education (2007) at Edinburgh University. Currently she is the Community History Worker with Oor Mad History, a service user led project recording, promoting and celebrating the history of collective advocacy by mental health service users. The project aims to involve service users in community history and arts based activities as a tool for collective advocacy, strengthening the service user voice and movement today and in the future. Oor Mad History has recently been involved in a community development pilot project where service users in Lothian have been studying the "Mad People's

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History” course offered by Ryerson University. Through her role at Oor Mad History, Kirsten is also involved in Disability History Month Scotland.

Anne O'Donnell, Chair, Oor Mad History; Convenor, CAPS Independent Advocacy

In 1994, within a month of being diagnosed with a mental health problem, I stumbled across the door of CAPS and have been involved in the user movement ever since. I am now the convener of the management committee (or chair of the board) of CAPS Independent Advocacy and I am chair of the Oor Mad History steering group. I've witnessed many changes in mental health services, policy and legislation in Scotland since then. I am ambivalent about doing more academic study after my MSc in Community Education but I want to do some research into the management of user led organizations and their situation in the current political and economic situation. I'm also interested in how mad people develop ideas about madness/mental illness/mental health problems.

Stirling

Tessa Parkes, Director of Health Studies, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, University of Stirling

My main research and knowledge exchange activities involve substance use and addictions; social inequalities; domestic abuse; the role of social activism and social movements in health and social care; user/survivor peer leadership in mental health and substance use services and spirituality and integrative approaches in health/health care.

My main methodological interests are participatory, action and qualitative research methods, evaluation of service and professional interventions, and undertaking collaborative research with marginalised groups. I have taught under- and post-graduate courses on qualitative and participatory research methodologies since 1997.

ENGLAND

Preston, UK

Mick McKeown, Principal Lecturer, School of Health, University of Central Lancashire

Mick McKeown is Principal Lecturer in mental health nursing research at the University of Central Lancashire, and co-founder of the Comensus project with Soo Downe. He is a trade union activist for Unison and contributes to union debates relating to service user involvement.

- Service user and carer involvement
- Mental health advocacy
- Psychosocial interventions for people with serious mental health problems
- Secure mental health services
- The social construction of difference
- Social movements

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- Q methodology

Projects

- Comensus Project
- Mental Health Anti-Stigma Project
- Bradton Project
- Sandbox Project: peer communication and support
- Knowledge Review of mental health advocacy with African and Caribbean men

Helen Spandler, Senior Research Fellow, Social Work, University of Central Lancashire

Helen is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Social Work and also an associate of the Psychosocial Research Unit (PRU). Her main research area is mental health and critical social theory. She has completed a number of national research projects, primarily in the field of mental health. She is interested in applying qualitative, reflexive and critical research methods to historical and contemporary health and social care practices and policies. She is particularly keen to use research to both critique dominant understandings and interventions as well as to develop a greater understanding of the possibilities (as well as limitations) of innovative health and social care practices.

She is/has been research active in the following areas:

- Football, gender and mental health;
- Self-directed support and personalization in social care;
- Existentialism and mental health;
- Self-harm;
- Therapeutic communities and non-musicalized crisis alternatives;
- Arts and mental health
- Social Movements, political activism and social change

Keith Holt, Comensus Community Involvement Team; Giving Experience Meaning

I am a 61 year old gay man. I have given myself the title of service user/survivor of the mental health system. I have experienced psychiatry, psychotherapy, psychology (CBT) and ECT. I am a member of Comensus at the University of Central Lancashire, UK and pre-comensus with GEM (Giving Experience Meaning). I have also been a member of Lancaster University's Public Involvement in Psychology (LUPIN), since its inception. I am a member of MIND, the national mental health charity. I like railways, art, history, the countryside, peace and quiet; and travel.

Lou Rawcliffe, Comensus Community Involvement Team; Lancaster Hearing Voices Group

My name is Lou and I have lived in Lancaster in the North West of England for twenty years. I grew up in Accrington which is an old mill town in the East of Lancashire. I live with my partner, Fiona and our 15 year old Jack Russell terrier Zami. I grew up in an environment where both my

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parents had long-standing mental health issues and I myself have heard voices and had other experiences which for some would define as psychosis for the last twenty years. I have been involved with the COMENSUS team at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston for the last two and a half years. One of the most empowering experiences I have had has been to share experiences with nursing and social work students about issues affecting us as service users and carers such as discrimination and labelling, leading onto other issues such as recovery and holistic care. On a more grass-roots level I have been involved in setting up a Hearing Voices Group in Lancaster of which there are about ten core members and others who drop in now and again. Currently we are not yet affiliated to the Hearing Voices Network but it is a plan in progress. I am also involved with a group of service users who volunteer at the local psychiatric unit in Lancaster providing a 'bridge' for people who are in-patients and carers to create a space for people to discuss any fears and to maintain a link with the world outside in terms of recovery. I really enjoy learning and have degree in social policy and administration and an MA in Women's Studies (completed in the late nineties). My dissertation considered women's published accounts of mental health and experiences they had had and considered: 'Do Survival Stories have to have a happy ending? And what does this mean?'

U.S.A.

New York City, NY

Kim Hopper, Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University; and Adjunct Professor, School of Law, Columbia University; Co-Director of Center to Study Recovery in Social Contexts and heads up the Center's Field School in Research Methods.

Dr. Kim Hopper is a medical anthropologist who also works as a research scientist at the Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, where he co-directs the Center for the Study of Issues in Public Mental Health. He is author of *Reckoning with Homelessness* (Cornell University Press, 2003), a stocktaking of two decades of research, advocacy, and theoretical work in that field, and co-editor of the forthcoming *Recovery from Schizophrenia: An International Perspective* (Psychosocial Press), a report from the WHO collaborative study on the long-term course and outcome of schizophrenia. He is also author of a critical review of practical quandaries in applied anthropological work. Since 1979, Dr. Hopper has done ethnographic and historical research on psychiatric care and on homelessness, chiefly in New York City. Active in homeless advocacy efforts since 1980, he served as president of the National Coalition for the Homeless from 1991-1993. His current research interests include the reconfiguration of public mental health, cross-cultural studies of psychotic disorder, community-based modalities of coercion, and dimensions of recovery and support in severe mental illness. Dr. Hopper is currently co-investigator on a number of NIMH-funded studies. He was co-convenor of a Qualitative Methods Institute at NYU in the summer of 2002 and consults frequently on methodological issues in mental health services research. From 1999 to June 2003, he was a member of the NIMH Services Research Scientific Review Committee.

Kathleen O'Hara, Project Coordinator, The Field School for Social Research; PhD Candidate, Columbia University School of Social Work

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Kathleen O'Hara is a social worker with experience in community development and civic engagement programs in the U.S. and Latin America. Her professional experience has focused on collaborative work with low income and undocumented immigrant communities, as well as work with young people and public health/public mental health service users.

Her international research work includes contributions to a twelve-country assessment of youth volunteer movements in Latin America and the Caribbean; a study on volunteerism and community participation in Peru and Costa Rica, and a pilot participatory community development initiative in rural Madagascar. Her U.S.-based research work includes a study of employment training and labor market inclusion for New York City youth transitioning out of foster care as well as current coordination of the Field School for Social Research. She earned her MSW from Washington University in St. Louis and is currently a PhD Candidate at the Columbia University School of Social Work.

New Haven, CT

Michael Rowe, Associate Clinical Professor, Yale School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Institution for Social and Policy Studies, and Co-Director, Program for Recovery & Community Health

I am a medical sociologist with training in ethnographic and qualitative methods. I have conducted research and written mainly in the areas of homelessness and mental illness, community integration for persons with psychiatric disabilities, and in the broad area of medical humanities and bioethics.

Pittsburgh, PA

Linda Morrison, Assistant Professor, Sociology, Duquesne University

Linda Morrison joined the faculty at Duquesne University in Fall 2007. Prior to coming to Duquesne, Dr. Morrison taught sociology at Oakland University in Michigan from 2001-2007. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology (2003), M.A. in Anthropology (1995), and M.S.W. (1985) from the University of Pittsburgh, and has worked in Pittsburgh's community mental health system as a mental health professional and as an advocate.

Dr. Morrison is the author of *Talking Back to Psychiatry: The Consumer/Survivor/Ex-Patient Movement* (Routledge 2005). Her articles have been published in *Humanity & Society* and *Radical Psychology*. Dr. Morrison's work focuses on the intersection of human objects of policy with professionals who construct and provide human/social services. She studies recipient activism and advocacy, with particular attention to activist influence on policymaking, knowledge-making and evaluation processes. Her interests extend across the health, mental health, disability and welfare arenas.

CANADA

Toronto, ON

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Kathryn Church, Associate Professor and Director, School of Disability Studies,
Ryerson University

Kathryn Church is Director and Associate Professor in the School of Disability Studies. For the past decade, she has been part of key initiatives that have brought the School's "vision, passion, action" message to life across the university and in the public eye. From 2002-2009, Dr. Church directed research development for the Ryerson-RBC Institute for Disability Studies Research and Education, linking social science inquiry to a broader program of cultural production and public education. Kathryn has been active in the area of mental health policy since the mid-1980s. Her doctorate (1995) explored the "unsettling relations" produced by psychiatric survivor involvement in making community mental health policy in Ontario. She is the author of *Forbidden Narratives: Critical Autobiography as Social Science* (1995), and co-editor of *Learning through Community: Exploring Participatory Practices* (2008). Her publications include a dozen plain-text documents written for psychiatric survivor-led organizations; she consulted to the documentary film *Working Like Crazy* and remains instrumental in its international distribution. With her mother as partner, she curated *Fabrications: Stitching Ourselves Together*, an award-winning exhibit of wedding gowns that made visible and celebrated the art of domestic dressmaking; it toured six locations in Canada. With Drs. Frazee and Panitch, she curated the exhibit titled *Out from Under: Disability, History and Things to Remember* with installations at the Royal Ontario Museum (2008) and the Cultural Olympiad of the Paralympic Games (2010). The *Out from Under* curatorial team won a City of Toronto Access Award for this project; Ryerson University recognized its work with an Innovative Teaching Award (2009) and the J.W. McConnell Curricular Innovation Award (2008). Kathryn's active projects include a study of visitor responses to activist disability history in the museum, and an inquiry into the politics of dress in the lives of women with disabilities. She teaches research methods and community organizing, and supervises student projects within the School's capstone course. She won an Award for Teaching Excellence from the Faculty of Community Service in 2006.

David Reville, Adjunct Professor and Part-time Instructor, School of Disability Studies,
Ryerson University

I came to Ryerson in the fall of 2004 to teach DST 500: A History of Madness. I didn't know much about the history of madness; however, I had spent time in three different madhouses, had internalized the stigma of being mentally ill and had been "talking back to psychiatry" for almost forty years. It took me quite a long time to get re-organized after getting out of hospital in 1967. Like many discharged psychiatric patients, I was disengaged from both the economy and the community. Eventually, I found a way to earn a living – as a plumbing contractor – and a way out of my isolation – community action. Community action led to political action, political action to electoral politics, electoral politics to two terms on Toronto City Council and two in the Ontario Legislature. In 1990, when the Ontario NDP won the election, I went to work in the Premier's Office. My public service ended on March 29, 1996 when the Harris government repealed the Advocacy Act and the Commission that it had created; I'd been appointed to chair the Commission in the fall of 1994. In 1996, I began work as a consultant. Most of my clients

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did something in the mental health field; some of them were organizations run by people who themselves had been labeled mentally ill.

I am a member of the Ontario Council of Alternative Businesses' advisory committee. For seven years, I was a co-chair of the board of A-WAY Express Couriers. Below are links to some of the organizations with which I've worked. My project is to bring mad knowledge into the academy both here and internationally.

Research Interests: The consumer/survivor/ex-patient movement; the politics of mental health, madness and culture; the involvement of marginalized people in the development of public policy

Jijian Voronka, National Consumer Panel, Mental Health Commission of Canada;
Doctoral candidate, Sociology and Equity Studies, OISE/University of Toronto;
Sessional lecturer, School of Disability Studies, Ryerson University

Jijian Voronka works on the National Consumer Panel and as a consumer research consultant to the At Home/Chez Soi Project for the Mental Health Commission of Canada. At Home/Chez Soi is a research project based on a Housing First approach to mental health and homelessness. She is a current PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology and Equity Studies at OISE/University of Toronto, and co-teaches *A History of Madness* here in the School of Disability Studies. She is interested in building and strengthening psychiatric survivor-led research and knowledge production within both academic and community realms.

Danielle Landry, Research and Teaching Assistant, School of Disability Studies,
Ryerson University; Mad Students Society

As mad student and activist, Danielle feels at home in the School of Disability Studies, where she has worked in a variety of roles since 2008. She is currently a Research and Teaching Assistant, as well as a reader for a visually impaired professor. She is a graduate of the Sociology program here at Ryerson and is currently enrolled in the Certificate in Advancing the AODA. She had the pleasure of co-curating a student art show *This Is Madness!* in 2011 and 2010 alongside David Reville. Danielle is also a member of the Mad Student Society.

Becky McFarlane, formerly Co-director, Working for Change; currently Atkinson Fellow;
student, School of Disability Studies, Ryerson University

Becky McFarlane is currently an Atkinson Fellow and student in the School of Disability Studies. Becky was formerly the Co-Director of the Ontario Council of Alternative Business (OCAB), a consumer/survivor run not-for-profit organization which owns and operates four survivor businesses across the province of Ontario that collectively employ over 150 individuals who have personal experience with the mental health system.

Lucy Costa, Systemic Advocate, Empowerment Council

Lucy Costa is co-founder of the Mad Students Society and is an activist in the psychiatric survivor community. She works full time as an advocate in a psychiatric facility, where she is responsible for outreach, education and systemic advocacy.

Jenna Reid, Doctoral candidate, Critical Disability Studies, York University; Mad
Students Society

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Jenna has been involved in various ways in the Mad community since connecting with fellow activists during her undergraduate degree in social work at Ryerson University. As a bachelor of social work student, Jenna took personal experiences as a Mad student to become knowledgeable about and active in the Mad movement. Taking part in groups like the Mad Students Society and completing a school placement at the Empowerment Council she became aware of the collective experiences of discrimination that Mad people face. In her Master's research Jenna explored the experiences of Mad social work students in a community based participatory research project. Expanding her social work background, Jenna now situates her work about Mad students in critical disability studies as a Doctoral candidate at York University.

Other invited participants

Brenda Roche, Director of Research, Wellesley Institute

Brenda Roche is Director of Research at the Wellesley Institute, an independent non-profit research and policy institute working to advance health equity through community-based research, community engagement, social innovation and policy development. She was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Anthropology and Health at the Gender, Violence and Health Centre of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She comes with academic and community-based research experience exploring social and health issues in urban settings, including homelessness, sexual health, violence and psychological trauma and distress. Her doctorate, through the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, examined discourses on trauma' that operate within the context of refugee resettlement, and how these influence health and social care practices for women (and their families) seeking political asylum in the United Kingdom.

Winnie Ng, CAW-Sam Gindin Chair in Social Justice and Democracy, Ryerson University

Winnie Ng holds an MA and PhD from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Her doctoral studies focused on re-imagining the labour movement from an anti-racism perspective. Ng has championed the rights of workers through involvement with various labour organizations and networks for more than three decades. She has served as acting executive assistant to the president of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, was acting executive director of the Labour Education Centre and for eight years, was the Canadian Labour Congress' Ontario regional director.

Su-Ting Teo, Director, Student Health and Wellness, Ryerson University

Su-Ting graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in Biochemistry. She has spent time in St. John's, Newfoundland getting her medical degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Trained in Community Medicine/ Epidemiology at McMaster and University of Toronto, she has a special interest in preventative care, health promotion, and mental health.

Jennifer Poole, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Ryerson University

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With a background in community work and mental/health, Jennifer's interdisciplinary research program is centered on madness, 'health', and 'mental health', taking up philosophical, practice and policy concerns. Current projects focus on the experiences of Mad people in post-secondary education, sanism, critical approaches to grief, death and transplantation. She is particularly interested in Foucauldian notions of discourse/critical discourse analysis, theorizing the body as well as critical social work practice/pedagogy, critical disability, community based research and anti-oppressive practice(s).

Anya Kater, Senior Policy Analyst, Ontario Human Rights Commission

Anya Kater obtained her B.A. from the University of Guelph and her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Toronto, where she specialized in social policy development. Before coming to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, she did direct practice work and policy development relating to violence against women and children. Since starting at the Commission in 2003, Anya has had many different roles, including Human Rights Investigator, Public Inquiries Analyst, and most recently, Senior Policy Analyst. Her work has included leading an inquiry into attacks against Asian Canadian anglers, working with police to do organizational change to prevent and address human rights violations, and developing policy on discriminatory opposition to affordable housing. She is currently leading the Commission's policy consultation process on human rights and mental health.

Ivan Silver, Vice-President, Education, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Ivan Silver is responsible for creating a learning environment that will draw students and trainees to CAMH. He is dedicated to inter-professional collaboration, work-based learning, and linking health professional education to the principals of knowledge translation, quality and patient safety. Dr. Silver is Vice Dean of Continuing Education and Professional Development in the Faculty of Medicine at University of Toronto. His credentials include a Masters of Education, and he works as an Educational Consultant with the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St. Michael's Hospital. In addition, he is a practicing psychiatrist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre where his focus is geriatric psychiatry.

Diana Capponi, Employment Works! Co-ordinator at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Diana is a former client of both mental health and addiction services. She has been at the forefront of the consumer/survivor movement in Ontario, with a particular focus on economic and employment opportunities for people with mental health and addiction issues. She is a skilled public speaker and a recipient of a wide variety of awards presented to her for her work with the consumer/survivor community. Diana is the past Executive Director of the Ontario Council of Alternative Businesses (now Working for Change), a unique provincial organization committed to the provision of employment through the development of Alternative Businesses. Through her 14 years of work at the Council, and her experience operating Fresh Start Cleaning, a Toronto-based janitorial service, Diana learned first-hand the importance of employment to one's mental health. Diana took her passion for employment to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, where her skills assist the Centre in achieving its goal of having former clients employed within a wide cross section of positions. Diana strongly believes that a critical mass of former clients working alongside clinicians, managers, supervisors, researchers

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etc., will not only improve the quality of patient care, but will go a long way in addressing the discrimination faced by those who have mental health and addiction histories.

Tania Jivraj, Research Assistant, School of Social Work, Ryerson University; the Madvocates

Tania is a graduate of the Social Work program at Ryerson and will be starting her Master in Social Work in September, again at Ryerson. She works part-time as a research assistant in Disability Studies and part-time with the Mennonite Central Committee working with people released from correctional facilities. Tania works in the community as a Mad activist alongside other Mad folks with a group called the Madvocates. The Madvocates have presented at PsychOut! 2011, facilitated workshops and are soon to be published in *Intersectionalities: A Global Journal of Social Work Analysis, Research, Polity, and Practice* entitled, "Sanism, Mental Health and Social Work Education: A Review and Call to Action".

Luke Jones, Independent

Luke Jones is a British social worker (Bsc) who, prior to immigrating to Canada in early 2012, worked as Forensic Mental Health Social Worker across both low and medium secure facilities. Relatively new to Social work practice and to the Canadian context of Social Work, Luke is currently broadening his interests into mad peoples' history and the mad movement. These politics challenge Luke's previous work settings, and he is interested to learn more.

Presentation by members of the Mad Students Society
www.madstudentsociety.com

Mad Students Society (MSS), created in 2005, is a community of students who are attending or planning to attend institutions of post-secondary or adult education and have past/present experiences with psychiatric/mental health systems. We meet monthly and communicate through an email listserv to support each other, discover tools for self-advocacy, and connect with our history and broader social movements.