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Advanced Study Institute

***The Arts in Cultural Psychiatry:  
Identity, Creativity and Transformation***

Division of Social & Transcultural Psychiatry  
Department of Psychiatry

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

Conference  
June 1, 2015  
Montréal, Québec

# The Arts in Cultural Psychiatry: Identity, Creativity and Transformation

Art plays a unique role in human experience both as an individual and a social mode of expression and communal activity. All societies have traditions of fashioning objects, language, and performance in ways that serve to transmit culture, explore the world, entertain, and edify. Active engagement with the arts can transform suffering, give meaning to affliction, and support recovery. This conference will bring together artists, scholars, researchers, and professionals involved in mental health, to discuss the role of the arts in cultural psychiatry. Art can be used to build and express individual and collective identity, as a creative process that yields new ways of experiencing the world, as a social and political intervention to critique or challenge existing frameworks, and as a modality for therapeutic interventions. Sessions will explore topics related to several broad themes:

- the nature of creative artistic and aesthetic processes of invention, enactment and improvisation;
- the role of the arts in constructing and expressing individual and collective identities—especially, public, social or political uses of art to raise awareness and challenge marginality and oppression;

- the arts as media for articulating, understanding and coping with the experience of mental health and illness;
- art making as a creative medium for individual therapeutic exploration, growth, and transformation and for collective conflict resolution and mental health promotion.

The format will be a one-day conference (June 1) for mental health professionals, social scientists, and the general public, and an intensive two-day workshop (June 2-3) for researchers working in these areas. Workshop papers will be pre-circulated to participants so that the emphasis will be on intensive discussion.



Selected papers will be revised for publication in a thematic 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 1, 2015, 9:00-21:00

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

**9:00-10:30 *Art as Process: Philosophical, Psychological and Social Perspectives***

**9:00-9:30**

*Introduction: Art, Identity and the Poetics of Illness and Healing*

**Laurence J. Kirmayer**

McGill University

**9:30-10:00**

*Reflections on Art as a Healing Process*

**Gilah Yelin Hirsch**

California State University Dominguez Hills

**10:00-10:30**

*Art and the Person of the Therapist*

**Jaswant Guzder**

McGill University

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

**11:00-11:30**

*Improvising Intersubjectivity: Trust, Paranoia, and Theory of Mind*

**Ian Gold & Eric Lewis**

McGill University

**11:30-12:00**

*Giving a Voice? Art, Exclusion and Caring Illusions*

**Cécile Rousseau**

McGill University

**12:00-12:30**

**Panel: Art and Therapeutic Process**

**12:30-14:00 lunch**

**14:00-14:20**

*The Esalen Film Seminars: Transformation through the Mindful Viewing of Films*

**Francis Lu**

University of California Davis

**14:20-14:40**

*Art as Care: The Practice of Tecnoterapia in a Peruvian Psychiatric Hospital*

**Rossio Motta**

Sherbrooke University

**14:40-15:00**

*Ethnodramatherapy: Performance Ethnography Combined with Drama Therapy in the Framework of Theatrical Performance*

**Stephen Snow**

Concordia University

**15:00-15:20**

*Body and Performance in Theater Anthropology and Other Art Forms: Clinical Applications in Cultural Psychiatry*

**Jacques Arpin**

Geneva

**15:20-15:40**

*Madness, yet there's Method in it*

(Hamlet performed in a suburban hospice in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

**Vitor Pordeus**

People's University for Art and Science, Rio de Janeiro

**15:40-16:10 break**

**16:10-16:30**

*Response-Art as Reflective Inquiry: Raising Awareness of Racism*

**Josée Leclerc**

Concordia University

**16:30-17:30**

*Dream-A-World Cultural Therapy – Using Creativity as the Vehicle for Postcolonial Social Reengineering/Healing in Jamaica*

**Frederick Hickling**

University of the West Indies

*The Kingston Seaview Dream-A-World Cultural Therapy*

"Scale Up": Methods and Outcome

**Geoffrey Walcott**

University of the West Indies

*The Eastern Jamaica Dream-A-World Cultural Resiliency*

"Transition to Scale"

**Hilary Robertson-Hickling**

University of the West Indies

*Dream-A-World Cultural Therapy in the Context of Global Mental Health*

**Duncan Pedersen**

University of the West Indies

**17:30-19:00 poster session and reception**

**19:00-21:00 performance and discussion**

**TBD**

**xxx** (Director)

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