

Conference Program
"Social Aspects of Mental Health and Mental Disorders"
(Organized under the project "Mental Health and Social Inequalities", funded by NSF)
17-18 June 2022, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", New Conference Hall

FRIDAY, June 17th, 2022 (GMT+3)

10.30 - 10.45 Welcome and Introduction

10.45 – 11.45 **Keynote lecture: Stigma and anti-stigma: a neverending story**
Mihail Cristian Pirlog (Mental Health Association of South-Eastern Europe)

11.45 – 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00- 12.45 Stigma
Moderator: Vladimir Nakov

Socio-economic and demographic factors associated with stigmatizing public attitudes towards mental illness in Bulgaria
Veronika Dimitrova (Sofia University)

Multiple stigma experience of children in residential care whose biological mothers suffer mental disorder
Radostina Antonova and Zhaklina Andonova (Know-how centre for alternative care of children, New Bulgarian University)

12.45-13.30 Institutional care: historical perspectives and good practices
Moderator: Mihail Cristian Pirlog

Psychiatry in socialist Bulgaria - mistakes of growth or growth of mistakes?
Vladimir Nakov (National Center for Public Health and Analyses)

New forms of care in mental health – the needs, the case, the practice
Gergana Manolova (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and World Health Organization)

13.30 – 14.15 Launch Break

14.15 – 16.30 Online session
Moderator: Veronika Dimitrova

(online) Ethical arguments against stigmatizing mental illness
Aleksandra K. Traykova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

(online) Contested normalities: parental strategies to autism in Bulgaria

Gergana Mircheva (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

(online) Communicating with mentally ill patients – medical, ethical and legal regulations

Adolf Alakidi (Medical University of Sofia), Vanina Mihaylova (Medical University of Sofia and Medical University of Plovdiv), Inna Ivanova (Medical University of Sofia), Alexandar Alexsiev (Medical University of Sofia), Antoaneta Bairaktarova (Medical University of Sofia), Mariana Liochkova (Medical University of Plovdiv)

(online) Bulgarian legislation for the protection of workers with mental health problems

Elka Toseva and Stanislava Harizanova (Medical University of Plovdiv)

(online) Exhaustion and Parental Burnout in Families of Children with Disabilities During the First Covid-19 wave in Bulgaria

Desislava Zhelyazkova (Medical University of Varna) and Krassimira Zaykova (Medical University of Varna)

(online) Web-based platform for psycho-social support for students from Plovdiv medical university during the Covid-19 pandemic

Petya Kasnakova (Medical University of Plovdiv), Anna Mihaylova (Medical University of Plovdiv), Stanislava Harizanova (Medical University of Plovdiv), Desislava Bakova (Medical University of Plovdiv)

(online) Stress management – a psycho-biological perspective

Lavinia Duica (University "Lucian Blaga" Sibiu - Faculty of Medicine)

16.30 – 17.00 Break

17.00 – 18.00 (online) Keynote lecture: Supporting Work for People with Severe Mental Illness

Howard Goldman (University of Maryland)

SATURDAY, June 18th, 2022 (GMT+3)

10.00 – 11.00 Institutional care

Moderator: Vladimir Nakov

International standards for the protection of the right to mental health of people with disabilities

Momchil Mavrov and Mariya Hristozova (Medical University of Plovdiv)

Multidisciplinary and assessment of children with psychiatric diagnoses in the center for community support

Anton Petrov (Sofia University)

Innovative integrated model of health and social services for people with mental disorders at center for mental health – Rousse, Bulgaria

Gyonyul Hayredin (Center for mental health-Rousse, University of Rousse)

11.00 – 11.30 – Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.30 The worlds of different mental disorders

Moderator: Simeon Kurkchiev

A Sense of an Ending: Cognitive Mapping in Life Stories about Alcohol Abuse

Todor Hristov (Sofia University) and Maria Martinova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

Dementia and intersubjectivity?

Boryana Bundzhulova (Sofia University)

Training Bulgarian caregivers to improve everyday dementia care

Felix Diaz (American University in Bulgaria) and Kalina Ekova (Alzheimer Bulgaria Association)

12.30 – 13.30 Launch Break

13.30 – 14.15 Parental care

Moderator: Maria Martinova

Resilience Portrayed by Parents of Children With Disabilities

Nikoleta Yoncheva (Karin Dom Foundation – Varna), S. Nikolova (Medical University of Varna), A. Seth (Medical University of Varna), K. Mustafov (Medical University of Varna), Kr. Zaykova (Medical University of Varna), R. Pancheva (Medical University of Varna), B. Cherkezova (Medical University of Varna), M. Tsoneva (Karin Dom Foundation – Varna), V. Tincheva (Karin Dom Foundation – Varna)

Theoretical review of psychological processes of loss, grief and mourning among relatives of deceased due to suicide

Toska Vlasseva-Ganeva (Sofia University)

14.15 - 14.30 Break

14.30 – 15.30 Covid-19 pandemic

Moderator: Veronica Dimitrova

Stress, distress and burn-out of the staff of a rehabilitation hospital: the impact of Covid-19 pandemic

Ivet Koleva (Medical University of Sofia), Borislav Yoshinov (Sofia University), Teodora Assenova (Sofia University), Radoslav Yoshinov (University of Library Studies and Information Technologies)

Meaning in Coping During Covid-19

Yana Petrova (Sofia University)

15.30-16.30 Round table

Establishment of a coalition for mental health in Bulgaria. The role of the WHO

Mihail Okoliyski (WHO – Country Office (Bulgaria))

16.30-17.00 Final remarks and closing the conference.