Mad people’s movement: Reclaiming Collective Activist Histories

Webinar

Concept Note

Abstract:
This webinar brings activists from the Global South and Global North together in an intergenerational discussion about mad activism, movements of persons with psychosocial disabilities and disability rights across time. Speakers will showcase the historical activism of psychiatric survivors/mad peoples/persons with psychosocial disabilities and bring this into conversation with contemporary activism led by the next generation. Continuing the threads of historical activism, participants in this webinar will:

- Learn about the ways in which users and survivors/mad history/movements of persons with psychosocial disabilities has been marginalized, coopted and rewritten by dominant institutions and the importance of preserving these activist histories.
- Support youth to make sense of psychiatry/medical dominance and the ways in which it is disproportionately impacting their lives.
- Bring seasoned activists in conversation with up-and-coming activists to carry on the legacies that have been built and to reshape them to respond to current challenges.

Description:
Several conversations among partners to this initiative (Eviance, TCI Global, Realizing Human Rights and Social Justice in Mental Health, Empowerment Council) brought up concerns about the erasure of memory regarding user survivor history, leaving the younger generations without an idea about our movement, making them vulnerable to co-optation by the mental health systems. This memory recall of decades old activism will potentially inform emerging
movements of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the global south. Another strain of thought was about the shared colonial histories in Commonwealth nations (global north and south), with legacies of segregation, seclusion and state sanctioned incarceration through care laws. Recognizing persons, those with ‘mad’, neurodiverse, intersectional and psychosocial disability identities, as historically oppressed groups and sharing inter cultural experiences about this, to understand what is common and what is different in their lived experiences, was also a topic of relevance to this discourse. Finally, a third strain of discussion evolved around the identity question itself- who are we, and how do we relate to the disability identity.
#WhatWeNeed

**Mad people’s movement: Reclaiming collective activists histories**  
**Friday, December 9, 2022**  
**8:30 am- 10:30 am Eastern time**

**Agenda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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| 8:30 – 8:35 am (5 mins) | Welcome note and setting the context for the session  
Introducing the intergenerational discussion about mad activism and disability rights across time | Marina Morrow                   |
| 8:35-8:40 am (5 mins) | Housekeeping guidelines                                              | Richa Sharma                    |
| 8:40- 9:10 am (30 mins) | Dialogue session on Global North and Global South experiences of movement experiences, activism and futures | Bhargavi Davar  
Lucy Costa                  |
| 9:10 -9:15 am (5 mins) | Closing of first session                                             | Marina Morrow                   |
| 9:15-9:20 am (5 mins) | Quick break/Stretch break                                            |                                 |
| 9:20- 9:30 am (10 mins) | Setting the context of the panel                                     | Olivia Boonstra                  |
| 9:30-10:15 am (45 mins) | Intergenerational panel discussion on identity locations, biomedicalism and colonialism and movement building | Chloe Rourke  
Elizabeth Ombati  
Fady Shanouda  
Sera Osborne          |
| 10:15- 10:25 am (10 mins) | Question and Answers                                                 | Olivia Boonstra                  |
| 10:25 -10:30 am (5 mins) | Closing the session                                                  | Marina Morrow                   |
Bhargavi Davar

Psych survivor, with a vision for inclusive communities. Started the Bapu Trust in 1999 as the first survivor led organization in India, and among the earliest for the Asia Pacific. Served on the Board of WNUSP, played an active role during the days of CRPD drafting in legal harmonization and movement building activities in India and Asia Pacific regions. She has published on gender, colonialism and psychiatry, disability rights and community inclusion. Has extraordinary faith in the power and resourcefulness of communities. With this confidence, convened TCI in 2013, which is now its own registered global organizaiton of persons with psychosocial disabilities, users and survivors of psychiatry, and persons with intersectional, neurodiverse identities, other than those fated with a 'finding of unsound mind' and 'mad' persons.

Lucy Costa

Lucy Costa is deputy executive director of a non-profit service user rights-based organization in Toronto, Canada. She works as an advocate promoting the rights of mental health service users/survivors, as well as encouraging critical analysis about service user inclusion in the mental health sector. She has produced education curricula for many stakeholders and is currently developing the Association of Mad Studies and Law. She has written a number of articles and blogs and is co-editor of Madness Violence and Power: A Critical Collection (U of T Press, 2019) as well as a special edition of the Journal of Ethics and Mental Health (2019).

Fady Shanouda

Dr. Shanouda is a critical disability studies scholar who draws on feminist new materialism to examine disabled and mad students’ experiences in higher education. His scholarly contributions lie at the theoretical and pedagogical intersections of disability, mad, and fat studies and include socio-historical examinations that surface the interconnections of colonialism, racism, ableism, sanism, and queer- and transphobia. He has published scholarly articles on disability-related issues in higher education, on Canadian disability history, and on community-based learning. He is an assistant professor at the Feminist Institute of Social Transformation (FIST) at Carleton University. He conducts this research diversely-positioned as a disabled, fat, POC, immigrant and settler who is living, working and creating on the ancestral and traditional territories of the Algonquin nation.

Liz Ombati

I am a passionate disability rights advocate, an alumnus of the IDA-IDDC Bridge CRPD SDGs training and based in Kenya. I identify as a woman with a psychosocial disability. My lived experience greatly supports my advocacy and for many years now I have worked within disability inclusive development. I always bring focus to underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial disabilities as well as our recognition and inclusion within the disability rights movement. My colleague and I have recently started a peer led initiative in Kenya called
Championing for Inclusive Communities to bring focus on our experiences as persons with psychosocial disabilities and advocate for our rights. As a trained journalist, I also continue to use the media for awareness raising on inclusion of persons with disabilities by contributing opinion pieces on disability inclusion in national newspapers in Kenya. I blog at https://elizabethombati.wordpress.com/.

Chloe Rourke

Chloe Rourke is a second year law student at McGill University. She recently completed a human rights internship with the Council for Canadians with Disabilities. Chloe volunteers at different legal information clinics and is an associate editor of the Indigenous law publication, Rooted. Prior to law school she completed a Bachelors of Arts & Science (hon.) in Cognitive Science also at McGill and worked in health care and disability management. Throughout her undergraduate degree Chloe was a strong advocate for improving wellness services and accommodations for students with disabilities, in particular students with mental health disabilities. She also volunteered for several years as a peer supporter and facilitated educational workshops on mental health and active listening.

Sera Osborne

Sera identifies as a person with psychosocial disability and is a young leader from Fiji. She has been associated with Psychiatric Survivor’s Association, one of the oldest survivor movement from Pacific, since 2013. She has been trained in CRPD and has been actively engaged in building a national movement of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Fiji.

Moderator’s bio

Olivia Boonstra

Affiliation: Eviance
Designation: Senior Research Officer and Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator
Bio: Olivia Boonstra completed their Masters (MA) in Criminology and Social Justice at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) and has worked in community for the past eight years. Olivia has a varied experience having previously worked on projects focused on harm reduction, anti-hate initiatives, prison abolition, and the issue of student debt for students with disabilities. Olivia has been working/advocating in the mental health/psychosocial disability space since 2014.

Marina Morrow

Marina Morrow is a Professor at the School of Health Policy and Management in the Faculty of Health at York University. In her work, Marina uses critical mental health, mad studies and intersectional approaches to better understanding the social, political and institutional processes through which health and mental health policies and practices are developed and how social and health inequities are sustained or attenuated for different populations. Marina strongly supports public scholarship and the work and activism of the Mad movement and mad scholars. Marina is the led investigator on the SSHRC funded project, Realizing Human Rights and Social Justice in Mental Health.
This webinar brings activists from the Global South and Global North together in an intergenerational discussion about mad activism, movements of persons with psychosocial disabilities and disability rights across time. Speakers will showcase the historical activism of psychiatric survivors/mad peoples/persons with psychosocial disabilities and bring this into conversation with contemporary activism led by the next generation. Continuing the threads of historical activism, participants in this webinar will:

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9 December 2022 (Friday)

08:30 AM Eastern Time  04:30 PM Kenya Time
06:30 PM Indian Time  01:30 AM Suva time

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