



INVITATION

It is my pleasure to invite all the colleagues interested in Cultural Psychiatry to take part in the II World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry that will be held in Italy in the medieval town of Norcia, 27-30 September 2009.

The 2009 WACP Congress is organized under the auspices of the Municipality of Norcia, which has offered particularly attractive conditions in which to host the participants who shall be accommodated in the “Bianconi Ospitalità” Hotel chain.

The Istituto Italiano Igiene Mentale Transculturale and the Transcultural Psychiatry Section of the Italian Society of Psychiatry represent the local organizing bodies providing support to the WACP Organizing Committee, consisting in turn of numerous International Associations of Cultural Psychiatry.

The scientific profile of the II WCCP was outlined by the suggestions received during previous World Congresses and by several Regional Conferences jointly organized by the WACP and local Associations worldwide. As you might remember, the closing Plenary Session of the I WCCP (Beijing 2006) was devoted to the topic “The Future of Cultural Psychiatry”.

The session underscored the importance of performing an in-depth analysis of the connections interrelating biology, culture and society.

We therefore deemed it appropriate to interconnect the cultural brain and living societies in an evolutionary outlook with the specific goal of inviting you to search into the osmotic processes between biological and cultural evolution in determining the construction of the living societies to which we belong. With this I do not intend to claim that culture has now achieved the status of biology in the construction of nosology, but that it is impossible to understand psychopathology as an entity isolated from the actions of individuals in their cultural-political world.

Particular relevance will be given to the need to delve into the new hybrid sciences and especially bio-culture, considered as the main epistemological approach in establishing the influence of biological, geopolitical, cultural and relational factors in the construction of new pathologies, both in the West and in developing Countries, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the psychotherapeutic approaches used in different cultures, as well as to organize culturally sensitive Mental Health Services. Finally, the Congress intends to focus on the analysis of the complex problems arising from the relationship between Science and Faith.

Browsing through the list of topics, you will notice the emphasis placed on breaking down a field of study generally designated as Psychiatry & Religion. Considering the traditional scientific rigour of

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cultural psychiatry, it is anticipated that the topic shall be discussed through a methodology characterised by a scientific and not a theological approach.

The area of Psychiatry & Religion was supported by the many colleagues who contributed to a multitude of panels on these topics throughout my term of office as Chair of the WPA Transcultural Psychiatry Section. These shared intentions spurred me to re-propose these issues that, in the current historical point of time, seem to be of ultimate importance for Psychiatry: our willingness to tackle a plurality of issues should not represent a limit to what should be adamantly addressed here and now. In order to be as thorough as possible in performing my assignment, I shall be glad to receive any suggestion or proposal from you (as indicated in Paragraph L) for the list of suggested topics. I believe we should incorporate all creative external suggestions into the major topics already covered by cultural psychiatry.

Proposals for symposia, presentations, posters and video sessions can be sent to the Scientific Secretariat. On behalf of those who are assisting me in configuring a welcoming venue and forum for us all, I warmly invite each and everyone of you to become key players in this important second phase in the path undertaken by the WACP.

Goffredo Bartocci

2nd World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry

President