

Advanced Studies Conference: Hospitality and Mental Health

**Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health, Sigmund-Freud-University Vienna,
Collaborating Centre for Values-based Practice, St. Catherine's College, Oxford
Friday May 19th and Saturday May 20th 2017**

The seminar is organised by the [Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health](http://www.socialaesthetics.sfu.ac.at/) of the Sigmund-Freud-University Vienna www.socialaesthetics.sfu.ac.at/ and the [Aesthetics in Mental Health Network](http://valuesbasedpractice.org/) of the Collaborating Centre for Values-Based Practice, St. Catherine's College, Oxford. <http://valuesbasedpractice.org/>

Conference Place: Sigmund-Freud-University Vienna, Freudplatz 1, 1020 Vienna, Lecture Room 2002

Organisers: Michael Musalek, Martin Poltrum – Sigmund-Freud-University Vienna
Helena Fox, Collaborating Centre for Values-Based Practice, St. Catherine's College, Oxford

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ABSTRACT – Hospitality and Mental Health: In this Advanced Studies conference, the concept of 'hospitality' in mental health clinics is explored. Patients suffering from severe illness and the aftermath can be deeply affected by the experience of the 'otherness' of the self and the resulting marked changes in their surrounding world. 'Otherness' is strongly connected with alienation, feelings of strangeness and sometimes even hostility leading to isolation, separation, aggression, depression and/or paranoid reactions. The resulting problems can affect not only patients but also treatment teams.

In-patient treatment teams, in particular, are often characterized by both, conflicting and ambiguous dynamics such as welcoming and refusal, integration and disintegration, and acceptance and rejection. To solve the multiple problems arising from the interplay of such (frequently negative) forces, the development of innovative aesthetic approaches in medicine are proposed.

In "Ideas for a Social Aesthetic", Berleant (2005), introduced a new concept of social aesthetics in the philosophical discussion of everyday aesthetics. He concluded that social aesthetics, like every aesthetic order, is contextual and highly perceptual.

As intense perceptual awareness is the foundation of aesthetics, the key components of social aesthetics are a heightened perception of sensuous qualities, freshness and excitement of discovery (fascination), recognition of the person's/situation's uniqueness, full personal involvement and engagement (opening to the other), full acceptance of the other, relinquishing of restrictions and exclusivity, abandonment of separateness, and mutual responsiveness ("reciprocity"). In applying the principles of social aesthetics in general to medicine, the main fields of interest would be: cultivation of patient contact and interactions; deconstruction of barriers and pushing back boundaries in order to open up aesthetic perspectives; introducing humane practices; establishing 'beautiful' situations and relations; creating warm atmospheres and offering 'hospitality' in treatment settings.

'Hospitality' in the context of treating patients cannot be restricted to kindness in welcoming strangers alone. Here it means much more ie. transforming strangers to guests. The main task of hospitality in medicine is to consider patients not only as alien others but also as guests, making them feel protected and taken care of, and at the end of this hosting in the treatment setting, guiding them towards the next destinations in their life.

More humane approaches to medicine based on social aesthetics propose a change from a more autocratic style in professionals (often leading to the experience of alienation) to a professional dialogue, exchange and reflective practice in a warm atmosphere thus enabling decisions about treatment to be based on reciprocity and democracy.

A. Berleant (2005), "Ideas for a Social Aesthetic". In: A. Light & J.M. Smith (eds.), *The Aesthetics of Everyday Life*. Columbia University Press, New York

Friday May 19th 2017 – 13.30-18.30

Registration: 13.30-14.00, Lecture Room 2002

14.00-14.20

Alfred Pritz Welcome Address and Introduction
(Rector of the Sigmund-Freud-University Vienna)

Michael Musalek Welcome Address and Introduction
(Head of the Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health)

Chairman: Thomas Ballhausen, Martin Poltrum

14.20-14.50

Lazare Benaroyo Hospitality and "Antlitz" by Emmanuel Levinas (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

14.50-15.20

Guenda Bernegger Welcoming: spatial and narrative atmospheres (Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health)

15.20-15.30

General Discussion

15.30-16.00

COFFE BREAK

16.00-16.30

Oliver Scheibenbogen Our patient is our guest – The Orpheus Programme (Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health)

16.30-17.00

Naomi Good Making Place: Hospitable atmospheres and the Healing Environment (Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Charity)

17.00-17.10

General Discussion

Chairman: Michael Musalek, Martin Poltrum

17.10-18.10

Honorary Keynote-Lecture

Arnold Berleant Social Aesthetics (Long Island University, New York)

18.10-18.30

Discussion

Saturday May 20th 2017 – 09.30-13.00

Chairman: Lazare Benarollo, Kathleen Galvin

9.30-10.00

Thomas Ballhausen Hospitality and Literature (Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health, Literaturhaus Wien)

10.00-10.30

Ida-Maria Kisler Hospitality changes the world – the world changes Hospitality (Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health)

10.30-11.00

Michael Musalek Hospitality and Mental Health (Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health)

11.00-11.15

General Discussion

11.15-11.45

COFFE BREAK

Chairman: Michael Musalek, Sal Anderson

11.45-12.15

Mark Agius, Anna McKeever Charity and Hospitality and the Human Person (Clare College, University of Cambridge)

12.15-12.45

Matthew Ratcliffe Delusions in an Inhospitable World (University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy)

12.45-13.15

Mirjana Delic

How to say "NO" in hospitable treatments (University Psychiatric Hospital Ljubljana)

13.15-14.30

LUNCH BREAK

Saturday May 20th 2017 – 14.30-18.15

Chairman: Matthew Ratcliffe, Guenda Bernegger

14.30-15.00

Sal Anderson

Hospitality and film: the art of collaboration – (University of the Arts London, Department of Film and Television)

15.00-15.30

Martin Poltrum

Inhospitable World – Suicide Motives in the Movie (Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health)

15.30-16.00

Li Jing Zhu

Inhospitality – Suicide of Olympic Athlete and Olympic family members (University Beijing)

16.00-16.15

General Discussion

16.15-16.45

COFFE BREAK

Chairman: Mark Agius, Naomi Good

16.45-17.15

Kathleen Galvin

Hospitality and 'Nursing Openheartedness' (University of Brighton, Sussex)

17.15-17.45

Ute Andorfer

Be my guest! How to be a good host (Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health)

17.45-17.55

General Discussion

17.55-18.15

Michael Musalek

Closing Remarks (Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health)

