



EPA PSYCHOPATHOLOGY SECTION REPORT 2023

SECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairperson: Prof. Michael MUSALEK

Co-chairperson: Dr. Luis MADEIRA

Secretary: Prof. Maria Luisa FIGUEIRA

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Herta AGAJ, Lezhe, Albania

Mark Agius, United Kingdom

Michaela AMERING, Vienna, Austria

Argyris Argyriadis, Greece

Taha ARİK

Massimo BALLERINI, Florence, Italy

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Anzhela BAZZAEVA, г. Санкт-Петербург, Russian Federation

Samrat Singh BHANDARI, Gangtok, India

Jacques A.j. BOERMANS

Patrick BRIGGS, Clevedon, United Kingdom

Elena Daniela BUHAŞ RAMOCEA, Oradea, Romania

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Mustafa DINÇER, Şanlıurfa, Türkiye

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Maria Luisa FIGUEIRA, Lisboa, Portugal

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EPA PSYCHOPATHOLOGY SECTION REPORT 2023

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Krzysztof KRYSTA, Bytom, Poland
Levent KUEY, Istanbul, Türkiye
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Valeria LUCARINI, Paris, France
Luis MADEIRA, Lisbon, Portugal
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Dimitrie-filip MOGÎRZAN,
Luiza MOURA DE SOUZA AZEVEDO, Miami, United States
Michael MUSALEK, Wien, Austria
Beomwoo NAM, Chungju-si, Korea, Republic of (South Korea)
Michel NAWFAL, Beirut, Lebanon
Madalina-claudia NEACSU, Brasov, Romania
Boglarka ORBAN-SZIGETI
Laura ORSOLINI, Ancona, Italy
Raul Felipe PALMA ALVAREZ, Barcelona, Spain
Kollarova PATRICIE
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Christian PRÜTER-SCHWARTE, Köln, Germany
Diego QUATTRONE, London, United Kingdom
Andrea RABALLO, Lugano, Switzerland
Goran RACETOVIC, Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina
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Joshua RODRIGUEZ
Ernst RYFFEL, Pfaeffikon ZH, Switzerland
Farzaneh SAEEDZADEH SARDAHAEE, Trondheim, Norway
Şengül ŞAHİN, Gaziantep, Türkiye
Mário J. SANTOS, Amadora, Portugal
Aleksandar SAVIC, Zagreb, Croatia
Gianluca SERAFINI, Genoa, Italy
Sarfaraz Aslam SHORA, Bradford, United Kingdom
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Amro SOLIMAN, Cairo, Egypt



EPA PSYCHOPATHOLOGY SECTION REPORT 2023

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Raluca STICLOSU, Bucharest, Romania
Tanja SVIRSKIS, Helsinki, Finland
Attila SZABO, Oslo, Norway
Andreea TATAR, Hamburg, Germany
Diogo TELLES-CORREIA, Lisbon, Portugal
Fernanda TIMMERMANN, Santos-SP, Brazil
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Shruti TIWARI, New York, United States
Yasemin UENAL SAYALI, Marburg, Germany
Pedro Fernando VARANDAS, Lisboa
Petar VIDOVIĆ,
Bogdan VOINESCU, Bristol, United Kingdom
Damla YILDIRIM
Abdullah YILDIZ, Ankara, Türkiye,
Eren YILDIZHAN, Istanbul, Türkiye

LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: 2022-12-09

Venue: Elections procedures undertaken by digital tools

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2023

1. General Introduction

In 2023, the Psychopathology Section of the European Psychiatric Association (EPA) continued its history of advancing the field of psychopathology through a blend of scholarly meetings, publications, and educational initiatives. The year was marked by significant activities and contributions, reflecting the section's dedication to understanding and addressing complex psychiatric disorders. The section's activities featured its annual meeting, held in Naples under the theme "Psychopathology and New Forms of Human Aggregation." This gathering provided a platform to delve into the topic "Contemporary Social Geographies: New Paradoxes of Isolation and Aphoria: between the annulment and the avatar," reflecting on how modern life's complexities impact mental health. The meeting also celebrated the section's 25 years of influence, tracing its journey from Paris to Naples through "EPA and WPA Psychopathology Section: 25 years Narratives of Symposia."

Throughout the year, members of the section were prolific in their scholarly output. They produced a range of educational courses, book chapters, complete volumes, and papers. Notable among these is "Why Delusions Matter" by L. Bortolotti, a seminal book that explores the significance of delusions in understanding mental health. The section's members also contributed to various journals with articles covering a wide array of topics, including the ethical implications of psychosocial assessments in emergency departments, the importance of curiosity in interpersonal relationships, and the nuances of psychiatric diagnoses.



EPA PSYCHOPATHOLOGY SECTION REPORT 2023

The section's commitment to education was evident in its organization of several courses, such as the fourth edition of "Essentials of Phenomenological Psychopathology" held in Lisbon. Additionally, members delivered lectures and participated in symposiums worldwide, discussing subjects ranging from spatial and narrative atmospheres to the moral psychology of pandemics.

Engagement with the broader public was also a focus, with section members contributing to radio programs like the BBC Radio Four's "Is Psychiatry Working?" and participating in podcasts discussing the philosophy of psychology and psychiatry. These efforts aimed to demystify psychiatric issues and foster a more nuanced understanding of mental health in the public discourse.

The year also saw a notable emphasis on mentoring the next generation of psychopathologists, with several students graduating with studies focused on various aspects of psychopathology, including the investigation of anomalous bodily experiences in anorexia.

The section's activities were rounded off with contributions to special issues and book reviews, providing critical perspectives on current psychiatric research and literature. This includes involvement in issues like "Philosophy and Madness" and addressing contemporary debates in psychiatric diagnoses.

In summary, the EPA Psychopathology Section's activities in 2023 represented a comprehensive blend of scholarly discourse, educational initiatives, and public engagement.

Through its meetings, publications, and educational programs, the section has continued to foster an environment of intellectual rigor and innovation, contributing significantly to the understanding and treatment of psychopathological disorders. The breadth and depth of these activities underscore the section's role as a vital contributor to the field of psychiatry and its commitment to addressing the complex challenges of mental health in the modern world.

2. Detailed report

In the following sections we will specify the activities of the EPA Section of Psychopathology during 2023

Annual symposium - 2023

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND NEW FORMS OF HUMAN AGGREGATION
PHILOSOPHICAL AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGIC ASPECTS
Italian Institute of Philosophical Studies - Naples

PLENARY LECTURES

FRIDAY 15 Dec. (Afternoon) 14H30-18H00

- 1) Introductory Remarks
Femi Oyebode
- 2) Contemporary Social Geographies: New Paradoxes of Isolation
Luís Madeira
- 3) Aphoria: between the annulment and the avatar
Raffaele Vanacore



EPA PSYCHOPATHOLOGY SECTION REPORT 2023

SATURDAY 16 Dec. (Morning) 9H30-13H00

1) Transhumanism and the Evolution of Psychopathology:

Navigating Trough Mutable and Immutable Territories

Dimopoulos Anastasios

2) Social Isolation and Delusions

Michael Musalek

3) EPA and WPA Psychopathology Section: 25 years Narratives of Symposia – from Paris to Naples

Pedro Varandas

Publications

During the year 2023 we produced the book “Why Delusions Matter” by L. Bortolotti (Bloomsbury). Assorted papers were published: “Implying implausibility and undermining versus accepting peoples’ experiences of suicidal ideation and self-harm in Emergency Department psychosocial assessments” *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, “Why We Should Be Curious about Each Other”. *Philosophies*, “How to avoid epistemic injustice in healthcare: the case of youth mental health emergency services in the UK. *MEFISTO. Journal of Medicine, Philosophy, and History*, “Is it pathological to believe conspiracy theories?”. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, “Delusions across and beyond diagnoses”. In *The Philosophy and Psychology of Delusions: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, “On the moral psychology of the pandemic agent”. In *Moral Challenges in a Pandemic Age*. “Interpretative phenomenology of grief following reproductive loss”. *Psychopathology*; “Psychiatric Diagnoses: current state and methodological issues”. *Front. Psychiatry*. An initial investigation of the role of depressive and anxious syndromes in problematic Internet use”. *Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace*.

Courses and Presentations

There were several courses (ex. Essentials of Phenomenological Psychopathology (in Lisbon)), talks such as “Spatial and narrative atmospheres: social aesthetic perspectives”; (Oxford University Press, in press), “Begegnungen mit Atmosphären (Jahressymposium ‘Atmosphären und Begegnungen’, Sigmund Freud Universität, Vienna) and “Atmosphären und ihre Wirkungen” (Festsymposium 10 Jahre SFU Berlin) and podcasts “The Philosophy of Psychology and Psychiatry” (Las Cruces Community Radio, 2023) and “Philosophy of Psychiatry” (Behind the Stigma, 2023). Several students graduated their studies under the topics of Psychopathology such as “Anomalous Bodily Experiences in Anorexia” (Universidade de Lisboa Faculdade de Medicina, Portugal).

Radio programs

There was a Radio Programme under our section member BBC Radio Four Programme (8-part series), “Is Psychiatry Working?” (jointly presented with Horatio Clare).

Book reviews

“Koro: Clinical and Historical Developments of the Culturally Defined Genital Retraction Disorder” *British Journal of Psychiatry*, “Madness and literature. What fiction can do for the understanding of mental illness”. *Theory and Psychology*, “Maybe I don’t belong here: A Memoir of Race, Identity, Breakdown & Recovery.” *British Journal of Psychiatry*, “Is Psychiatry Working?; *Journal of Global Medicine*. Lastly, there were special Issues such as “Philosophy and Madness” under *Philosophical Psychology* (Parts 1 and 2) and Psychiatric diagnoses: current state and methodological issues under *Frontiers in psychiatry*.



EPA PSYCHOPATHOLOGY SECTION REPORT 2023

FUNDING IN 2023

Income: No funding activities in 2023

Source(s) of funding: n/a

Expenditure: n/a

Balance: n/a

EPA Treasurer audit: No

Confirmation that income / expenditure is via EPA: No