



THE CENTRE FOR TRAUMA THERAPY AND TRAUMA EDUCATION, FINLAND

**SEMINAR: 'RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PSYCHOSIS, TRAUMA, AND DISSOCIATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR TREATMENT AND CONCEPTUALIZATION'**

**Thursday, Friday, February 3-4, 2011**

**HOTEL HAAGA, Nuijamiestentie 10, 00320 Helsinki, Finland**

**Seminar fee 450 €**

**Registration: [toimisto.helsinki@traumaterapiakeskus.com](mailto:toimisto.helsinki@traumaterapiakeskus.com)**

Presenters: Onno van der Hart, PhD, Andrew Moskowitz PhD, Matti Huttunen, MD, Anssi Leikola, MD, Klaus Lehtinen, MD, Pekka Ropponen, MD, Anne Suokas-Cunliffe (Chair), MPhil,

The fields of psychosis and psychotraumatology have operated relatively independently for most of the past 100 years, developing vastly different approaches to theorizing about and treating mental disorders. Only recently has it been recognized that much benefit could be derived from increased communication between these fields. Recent retrospective studies have revealed that persons diagnosed with psychotic disorders report high levels of childhood trauma (also of course true for dissociative disorders), and prospective studies link early adverse experiences to the development of psychotic symptoms. Many psychotic symptoms, particularly so-called 'Schneiderian' symptoms which are heavily emphasized in current diagnoses of schizophrenia, are commonly found in persons with dissociative disorders. Auditory hallucinations, strongly emphasized in contemporary diagnoses of schizophrenia, are commonplace not only in dissociative disorders, but also in PTSD, and delusions are found with such frequency in PTSD—that some have called for a psychotic subtype of PTSD. And psychological approaches, including those developed in the dissociative disorders field, are increasingly being used with persons who experience psychotic symptoms.

This seminar will offer an opportunity for a dialogue between the fields of psychosis and psychotraumatology, focusing on various aspects of the interface between psychosis, trauma, and dissociation. It will aim to provide: (1) within an historical context, an update on the research and clinical literature, offering a synthesis of relevant findings and perspectives; and (2) an overview of clinical and treatment implications, including psychotherapy, pharmacotherapy, and patient management. Case examples will be presented, and participants are invited to contribute to various plenary discussions.

**DAY 1. Theory and Assessment**

13.00-14.30 **Welcome & Opening**, Suokas-Cunliffe

**Introduction and outline of seminar. Overview of various ways psychosis, trauma and dissociation may interact** / Moskowitz

**Schizophrenia and differential diagnosis** / Moskowitz, Discussant: Huttunen

- Historical overview of the concepts of psychosis and schizophrenia.
- Discussion of current concept of schizophrenia.
- Evidence for a dissociative subtype of schizophrenia.
- Prevalence and significance of psychotic symptoms in borderline personality disorder and PTSD, along with approaches to differential diagnosis.

14.30-15.00 Coffee break

15.00-15.45 **Schizophrenia and differential diagnosis continues** / Moskowitz, Huttunen

15.45-16.00 Break

16.00-18.00 **From hysterical psychosis to dissociative psychosis** / van der Hart, Discussant Leikola

- Pierre Janet, the theory of structural dissociation
- Understanding Schneiderian symptoms as dissociative symptoms

## **DAY 2. Theory and Treatment**

08.30-10.00 **Trauma and dissociation perspectives on specific psychotic symptoms /**

Moscowitz, Discussant: Huttunen

- Auditory hallucinations: psychotic or dissociative in nature?
- Catatonia, thought disorder and delusions

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-11.15 **From hysterical psychosis to dissociative psychosis treatment /** van der Hart,

Suokas-Cunliffe, Discussants Huttunen, Moskowitz

- Individual psychotherapy

11.15-12.00 **How to take the family approach into account /** Lehtinen

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-14.30 **Psychosis, trauma and dissociation: Further clinical issues**

**Medication /** Huttunen

**Dissociative psychosis in psychiatric practice /** Ropponen

**Consequences of understanding dissociative psychosis for patient. Management in outpatient and inpatient treatment /** Lehtinen, Ropponen

14.30-14.50 Coffee break

14.50-15.30 **General discussions, conclusions & closure**

- Presenters, participants
- Closure

Coffee and lunch included in the seminar fee.

### **Room reservations:**

Best Western Hotel Haaga, Nuijamiestentie 10

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Room rates for the participants of the seminar (please mention the name of this seminar while booking):

Single room 120,-

Double room 140,-