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UNIVERSITÀ
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24th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF
PERSONAL CONSTRUCT PSYCHOLOGY

Padua, 13th-16th July, 2022

CONFERENCE HANDBOOK



Università di Padova
Centro Linguistico di Ateneo
via Venezia, 16 – 35131 Padova

www.pcp2021.org
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ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Sabrina Cipolletta (University of Padua, Italy) is an associate professor in the Department of General Psychology at the University of Padua (Italy) and a personal construct psychotherapist. She is the director of PsyMed, a research laboratory of health psychology, and of a clinical service at the Center of clinical services of the University of Padua. She is authors of many articles and books in the field of personal construct psychology mainly applied to interpersonal relationships and health. She is also a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Constructivist Psychology* and *Personal Construct Theory & Practice*. She is currently coordinating a new international programme in Personal Construct Psychology and Counselling.



Chiara Centomo (Institute of Narrative Constructivism ICoNa SB, Padua, Italy) is a psychologist and psychotherapist. She works with adults, adolescents and couples in Padua and online and teaches training courses for healthcare professionals. She collaborates with ICoNa (Institute of Narrative Constructivism) and she is member of the Steering Committee of the George Kelly Society. Until 2022 she was editorial director of the "Rivista Italiana di Costruttivismo". She is interested in constructivist clinical research, in particular about the relationship between metaphors and personal constructions and about corporeality.



Gabriele Chiari, MD, (Institute of Narrative Constructivism ICoNa SB, Padua, Italy) has been Lecturer in the Faculty of Psychology, University of Florence, and Co-Director from 1983 to 2021 of the School of Specialization in Constructivist-oriented Cognitive Psychotherapy, CESIPc. Presently he is Director Emeritus of ICoNa, Padua, and of SE (Centre of Narrative-Hermeneutic Constructivist Psychology and Psychotherapy), Florence. A member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Constructivist Psychology* and *Personal Construct Theory & Practice*, and Co-Director of the e-journal *Costruttivismi*, he is Vice-President of the *George Kelly Society*. He is also the author of many articles and books on the subject of personal construct and constructivist psychology and psychotherapy.



Silvia Tomaino (University of Padua, Italy) is a licensed psychologist and a PhD candidate in Brain, Mind and Computer Science (BMCS) at the Department of General Psychology at the University of Padua. She is actively involved in research projects and clinical practice at the PsyMed laboratory and at the Psychological Assistance Service (SCUP) at the University of Padua. She is author of different articles and chapters in books about health psychology and personal construct psychology.



David Winter (University of Hertfordshire, UK) is Professor Emeritus of Clinical Psychology at the University of Hertfordshire (where he was formerly Programme Director of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology) and Director of Postgraduate Programmes at Colombo Institute of Research and Psychology. He has published extensively, primarily on personal construct psychology and psychotherapy research, and is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Constructivist Psychology* and Research Editor of the *European Journal of Psychotherapy and Counselling*.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Gabriele Chiari (Institute of Narrative Constructivism ICoNa SB, Padua, Italy)

Maria Armezzani (University of Padua, Italy)

Richard C. Bell (Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, Australia)

Luis Botella (Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain)

Vivien Burr (University of Huddersfield, UK)

Marco Castiglioni (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy)

Elena Faccio (University of Padua, Italy)

Guillem Feixas (University of Barcelona, Spain)

Robert A. Neimeyer (University of Memphis, USA)

M. Cristina Ortu (Institute of Narrative Constructivism ICoNa SB, Padua, Italy)

Harry Procter (University of Hertfordshire, UK)

Jörn W. Scheer (University of Giessen, Germany)

Dušan Stojnov (University of Belgrade, Serbia)

Valeria Ugazio (University of Bergamo, Italy)

Bill Warren (University of Newcastle, Australia)

Saturday 16th, 15:15-16:00, Lecture Hall T3

Extended paper

From personal towards agonistic constructivism

Vladimir Džinović¹, Dragan Vesić¹, Sanja Grbić²

¹ Institute for Educational Research, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

² Institute for Educational Research and University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Psychology, Republic of Serbia

We propose to consider a new constructivist approach that is rooted in Heraclitean agonism, Kelly's constructivism, Foucault's analytics of power, and Hermans' dialogical self theory. One of its key assumptions is that the dynamics of psychological life result from the interplay between the opposing tendencies towards long-term dominance and plurality of personal perspectives or voices rather than from the establishment of the core organization of semantic processes. The agonistic approach further implies that a person cannot possess a coherent and integrated self as a singular center of psychological processes. Instead, we propose a model of the self as a decentralized, socially constructed, tensed and ever-changing strategic situation embracing personal voices, other people, interpersonal relations and the institutionalized context as equal protagonists that are immersed in the struggle for predominance. The agonistic approach to constructivism brings additional categories of relations between the dimensions of personal and social meanings as its practical benefit. Examples from relevant identity research and psychotherapy show that voices are not exclusively superordinate or subordinate to other voices, as is the case in the system of personal constructs, but can cooperate with other voices, oppose them, identify with other voices while partly questioning them, and can be modified by other voices while keeping their own ideologies.

Saturday 16th, 14:30-16:00, Lecture Hall L1

Workshop

Body of a psychotherapist – Needs, strengths and resources in transition

Sladjana Živković

Serbian Constructivist Association, Republic of Serbia

Constructivism is seen as widely open for encounter with other ideas, views, techniques and therapy orientations. I am not so sure that it is so easy to connect constructivism with ideas of body psychotherapies and practices. My interest as a constructivist psychotherapist is connection of body and mind in psychotherapy. I explored meditation, mindfulness, gender theories, birth practices, dance movement meditation, Rosen method bodywork, Body psychotherapy, Body psychodrama, Somatic experience and trauma healing. Here I would like to explore the body of the psychotherapist as a tool that can be used for marking and construing important transitions. The main focus will be elicitation of constructs referring to body needs, strengths and resources in life as well as in a professional role. On the other hand, I will map professional as well as life transitions of a psychotherapist as personal constructions. The goal will be to connect the two. How we can use body constructs to help in exploring and making sense of life and professional transitions? Can we make more freedom for us in construing new dimensions of meaning by bringing more concessions to body processes and nonverbal constructs? How useful can this process be for peer supervision or quick professional check up?