

Narrating the Heritage of Psychiatry

Narratives and Mental Health

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Narrating the Heritage of Psychiatry

Edited by

Elisabeth Punzi
Christoph Singer
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Notes on Contributors

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is a health geographer with a strong interest in heritage studies, particularly mental health heritage. She completed her PhD at the University of Heidelberg in Germany in 2005 and has since been working at several Russell Group universities in England and Scotland. She has been researching the Devon County Mental Hospital since 2007 and has authored and co-authored articles on her research in international journals and made several contributions to books. Dr Baur also regularly organises public events to engage local communities with their mental health heritage.

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grew up in East Germany, after involvement in the 1989 citizen movement she studied history, and a Rhodes scholarship took her to Oxford. She worked as a historian for the Berlin commissioner for the Stasi-files, 1999–2018, specializing in visual history of the Berlin Wall, the didactics of political education and history politics in twentieth century Germany. Personal experience stimulated her interest in survivor-led alternatives to psychiatry, also in terms of epistemologies. Alongside her job, she studied psychology at the FernUniversität in Hagen, and got involved in peer counselling at the Verein zum Schutz vor psychiatrischer Gewalt e.V. Since 2018, she has conducted research on "meanings of objects in the context of extreme mental distress, madness and psychiatric intervention", which is a Mad Studies contribution to an interdisciplinary research group working on crises and meanings of things in various times and cultures, funded by the German ministry of education and research.

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holds a bachelor’s degree in social anthropology and is a retired journalist. She has for periods of her life experienced overwhelming psychological distress and has been in out- and inpatient psychiatric units for several decades. She was a patient in those days when heavy medications with devastating effects were used, medications that are no longer permitted, and she senses that this part of the past should be neither forgotten nor superficially excused or overlooked. Helena has worked with creative writing groups for elderly citizens and is interested in heritage and history, in literature and reading, and in spending time in nature.

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Marta Wandt

is a visual artist based in Gothenburg, Sweden. She has studied at several art schools, including Hovedskous konstskola [Hoveskous art school]. She has own experiences of mental distress and of psychiatry. She says: “Through painting,

I recognize myself and my feelings and I become recognized by others. To find connection, both within oneself and in one's life. It gives a sense of restitution.”

Jenny Wetterling

is active in RSMH (National Association for Social and Mental Health, Sweden) and has worked with different developing projects in the psychiatric field for many years, she has former experience of psychiatric care as a patient. The last years Jenny has been working mainly with implementation of Peer Support and The Suicide helpline. She is a registered nurse working in acute paediatric care.