

Conference Digest

Vol. 2 No. 4 | December 6, 2007

This is the fourth in our series of listserv digests for **Madness, Citizenship and Social Justice: A Human Rights Conference**.

Sponsored by the Institute for the Humanities at Simon Fraser University, MCSJ will be taking place at SFU's downtown Vancouver campus on **Thursday, June 12th through Sunday, June 15th, 2008**.

Here are a few updates:

With still more than two months remaining to the submissions deadline, 55 presenters have so far submitted or re-confirmed their contributions for next June. These include 14 local participants, 22 presenters from elsewhere in Canada, and 19 international delegates. As the roster continues to grow, we will be web-mounting an interim list of participants within the next couple of weeks, with updates to ensue in mid-January, and again following the submissions deadline.

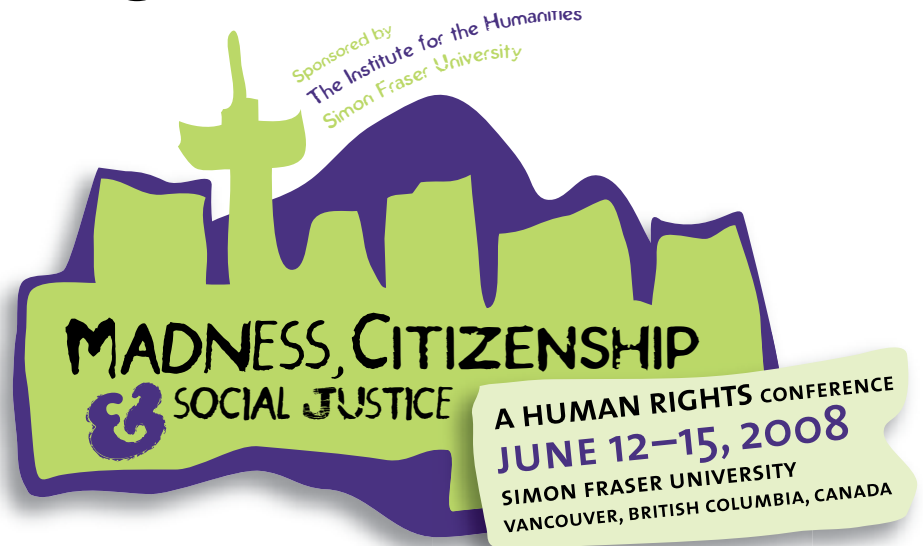
1. For panels, please tentatively plan on sessions of 90-105 minutes, and presentations of 20 minutes each, plus discussion. We will be scheduling other events (films, cultural and theatrical performances, etc.) in collaboration with the contributors involved. We will not be requiring final papers prior to the event, but manuscripts are certainly welcome and we can provide an on-site venue for their distribution. For anyone wishing to circulate advance copies of materials, we can look into setting up a web "postings" forum for that purpose. As well, we will be commencing to solicit chairpersons for unassigned panels in late February and early March (all offers gratefully received!).
2. On-line pre-registration will commence in January, via the conference website. We will also be posting and circulating further details at that time on hotel accommodation options and other local arrangements. The preliminary program will become available in March.
3. Please recall that the deadline for submitting new proposals for the program, and for reconfirming proposals originally submitted last year, is **Friday, February 15th, 2008**. Proposals should include a title; abstract/description of about 150 words; name(s), title(s) and contact information; and equipment needs. You may email proposals or re-confirmations to Robert Menzies at MadConference08@shaw.ca or menzies@sfu.ca.
4. As always, we much appreciate any and all efforts directed at publicizing the conference, encouraging participation, and generally spreading the word.
5. Finally, Ian Parker at Manchester Metropolitan University has asked us to circulate the Call for Papers for the very exciting Asylum! conference and festival, which will be taking place at MMU in September 2008. See below.

Barring any intervening news, our next digest will circulate early in the New Year.

In the meantime, many thanks to all, and the very best for the holidays and 2008.

Bob Menzies

Institute for the Humanities | Simon Fraser University



Asylum! Conference and Festival

ADVANCE NOTICE AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Manchester 10-12 September 2008

Elizabeth Gaskell Campus MMU

www.mmu.ac.uk/about/locations/gaskell-and-hollings.php

Invited speakers include:

Peter Beresford, Peter Bullimore, Ron Coleman, Jacqui Dillon, Sandra Escher, Rob Evans, Gillian Haddock, Paul Hammersley, Lois Holzman, Alec Jenner, Lucy Johnstone, Marius Romme, Dorothy Rowe, Phil Thomas, Phil Virden

Asylum! Conference and Festival Themes:

- Celebrating Terence McLaughlin – Life, work and change
- Professional and User Involvement – Radical practice
- Resisting Big Pharma – Resisting Big Psy
- Connecting Theory and Change – Academic knowledge and political activity
- Transdisciplinary Experimental Applied Psychology – Critique and creativity
- Disabling and enabling – In and against oppressive institutions
- New Social Movements – Linking with social action

This is an Asylum conference co-organised by Asylum Associates, the Discourse Unit, Hearing Voices Network and Paranoia Network, with the participating sponsorship of Campaign Against the Schizophrenia Label, UCLAN Institute for Philosophy, Diversity and Mental Health, PCCS Books, Intervoice and Working to Recovery.

The conference will bring together organisations, activists, campaigners and academics working for radical challenge and change in mental health. It will showcase critical work on psychiatry and psychology ('Big Psy') and the pharmaceutical industry ('Big Pharma'), and alternatives to diagnostic medical labels like 'schizophrenia' and 'paranoia'. The conference will run alongside a festival of organisations working for a better world. There will be guest speakers, academic papers, panel discussions, bookstalls, film, art, music and workshops.

FIRST CALL: Send proposals of 100 words, and try to think about radical ways of working not only in the content (what it is you want to do) but in the form (in the way you want to do it). Think radical for Asylum! To submit an academic paper abstract, send by January 31st to Ian Parker (I.A.Parker@mmu.ac.uk). First round decisions on acceptance of abstracts will be made by the end of February. To submit plans for a workshop, discussion, music or other event, send details by January 31st to Peter Bullimore (peterbullimore@yahoo.co.uk) or Jade Bullimore (j4d3_00@yahoo.co.uk). Contact us now if you want your organisation to be a participating sponsor in the 'Asylum! Conference and Festival', included in future publicity. Academic registration is £350 full-cost for the three days (with a range of bursaries for low-waged and unwaged participants). Participation in the festival events by organisations, activists and campaigners will be at negotiated cost. Welcome! Contact us for details.

Website: www.asylumonline.net