



# Cultural and Biological Contexts of Psychiatric Disorder: Implications for Diagnosis and Treatment

FPR-UCLA Fourth Interdisciplinary Conference

January 22 – 24, 2010

## Preliminary Program

Neuroscience Research Building Auditorium

UCLA

Jacques Hnizdovsky. *Circle of Growth*. Woodcut.

## Introduction

Our concept of mental illness in the West is largely shaped by the DSM diagnostic model. The DSM categorization of psychiatric disorders has been useful in driving research, and psychiatric neuroscience has made enormous strides in identifying some of the brain-based factors that contribute to mental disorders such as autism, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder, as well as suggesting possible drug therapies. However, both neuroscientists and anthropologists have raised questions about the validity and utility of these categories. Neuroscientists are concerned that the categories obfuscate the key brain-behavior linkages underlying pathological processes. Anthropologists on the other hand argue that the categories are largely social constructions and that the current neurobiological zeitgeist minimally attends to social and cultural processes of mental illness. Much still remains unknown, particularly how the social and cultural worlds interact with neurobiological processes to produce mental symptoms that we recognize as depression or psychosis in everyday life and what this interaction implies for diagnosis and treatment.

The aim of this conference is to improve the quality of psychiatric diagnosis and treatment by giving specific attention to biological and cultural contexts and their interactions. Given the abundant criticism directed to both the biological and cultural validity of current DSM diagnostic categories, the focus is particularly important and timely. DSM-V revisions are now underway that attempt to incorporate divergent cross-cultural aspects of mental illness, as well as underlying neurobiological factors common to different disorders. Both areas will be addressed at the conference in presentations and panel discussions.

The conference will be unique in several ways: its interdisciplinary focus; the quality of scholarship by a group of distinguished contributors from neuroscience, anthropology, and psychiatry; and the emphasis on identifying key questions and research opportunities at the intersection of biology and culture. To increase understanding of the experience of living with an autism spectrum condition or schizophrenia, the program has been designed to move between formal talks, personal stories, and observations from anthropological fieldwork.

The conference is designed to appeal to a wide audience: clinicians, researchers, social workers and therapists, neuroscientists, anthropologists, and others interested in the science, experience, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness.



## Day 1: Friday, January 22, 2010

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- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast / Registration and Distribution of Conference Kit
- 8:30 – 9:00 Opening Remarks**
- Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, PhD, Vice Chancellor of Graduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Division, UCLA
- Robert Lemelson, PhD, President, FPR; Research Anthropologist, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior; Lecturer, Departments of Anthropology and Psychology, UCLA
- 9:00 – 12:30 Interdisciplinary Foundations: Current Neuroscientific, Clinical, Cultural, and Historical Perspectives on Psychiatric Disorder**
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- Chair:** Marie-Françoise S. Chesselet, MD, PhD, Chair, Department of Neurobiology, David Geffen School of Medicine; Charles H. Markham Professor of Neurology; Director of the APDA UCLA Advanced Center for Parkinson Disease Research, UCLA Morris K. Udall Center of Excellence for Parkinson's Disease Research; UCLA Center for Gene Environment Parkinson Disease; Member, FPR Advisory Board
- 9:00 – 9:30 Introduction  
Marie-Françoise S. Chesselet, MD, PhD,
- 9:30 – 10:00 *Towards and Epistemology of Psychiatry*  
German E. Berrios, MD, FRCPsych, FBPss, FmedSci, Professor of Epistemology of Psychiatry, Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Medicine, Cambridge University
- 10:00 – 10:30 *Cross-Cultural Research on Mental Illness and Its Treatment: Enduring Challenges, Emerging Questions*  
Byron J. Good, PhD, Professor of Medical Anthropology; Co-Director, NIMH Postdoctoral Training Program in Culture and Mental Health Services Research, Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School
- 10:30 – 11:00 *The Clinician's Point of View*  
J. David Kinzie, MD, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Oregon Health and Science University; Director, Torture Treatment Center of Oregon

- 11:00 – 11:15 *Coffee Break*
- 11:15 – 11:45 *Epigenomic Mediation of the Impact of Early Life Social Environment on Adult Mental Health*  
 Moshe Szyf, Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, McGill University
- 11:45 – 12:30 *Commentary*  
 Marie-Françoise S. Chesselet (*moderator*), Tanya M. Luhrmann, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
- 12:30 – 1:45 *Lunch and Poster Viewing*
- 1:45 – 5:00    **Session 1. Cultural and Biological Contexts of Autism****
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- Chair:** Carole H. Browner, PhD, MPH, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Bibehavioral Sciences, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior; Department of Anthropology; Department of Women's Studies, UCLA; Member, FPR Advisory Board
- 1:45 – 2:15 *The Neurobiology of Autism*  
 Eric Courchesne, PhD, Department of Neurosciences, University of California, San Diego
- 2:15 – 2:45 *The Foetal Androgen Theory of Autism: An Update*  
 Simon Baron-Cohen, PhD, MPhil, Director, Autism Research Centre; Professor in Developmental Psychopathology, Departments of Psychiatry and Experimental Psychology, Cambridge University; Professor of Developmental Psychopathology Fellow, Trinity College
- 2:45 – 3:15 *The Role of Culture in the Prevalence and Management of ASD*  
 Roy Richard Grinker, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, The George Washington University; Director, The George Washington Institute of Ethnographic Research; author of *Unstrange minds: Remapping the world of autism*
- 3:15 – 3:45 *Coffee Break and Poster Viewing*
- 3:45 – 5:00 *Commentary*  
 Carole H. Browner, PhD, MPH (*moderator*), Elinor Ochs, PhD, Professor, Department of Anthropology; Director, Center on Everyday Lives of Families UCLA; Olga Solomon, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California
- 5:00 *Afternoon Adjourn*



**7:30 – 9:00    Friday Evening Keynote Panel**  
**Beyond Categories: Dimensions, Thresholds, Contexts, and**  
**Trajectories in Mental Health and Illness**

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MODERATOR

Laurence J. Kirmayer, MD, FRCPC, James McGill Professor and Director, Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University; Editor-in-Chief of Transcultural Psychiatry; Director, Culture & Mental Health Research Unit, Department of Psychiatry, Jewish General Hospital, Montréal

PANELISTS

Thomas R. Insel, MD, Director, National Institute of Mental Health

Byron Good, PhD, Professor of Medical Anthropology; Co-Director, NIMH Postdoctoral Training Program in Culture and Mental Health Services Research, Harvard University

9:00

*Evening Adjourn*



## Day 2: Saturday, January 23, 2010

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- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast / Registration and Distribution of Conference Kit
- 8:30 – 9:00 Summary of Day 1**  
 Carole H. Browner, PhD, MPH, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior; Department of Anthropology; Department of Women's Studies, UCLA; Member, FPR Advisory Board
- 9:00 – 10:30 Session 2. Cultural and Biological Contexts of Bipolar Disorder**
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- Chair:** Douglas Hollan, PhD, Professor, Department of Anthropology, UCLA; Instructor at the New Center for Psychoanalysis, Los Angeles; President-Elect of the Society for Psychological Anthropology; Member, FPR Board of Directors and Advisory Board
- 9:00 – 9:30 *Bipolar Illness: Pathology, Imagination, and Ethical Dilemmas*  
 Kay Redfield Jamison, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry; Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Mood Disorders Center, Department of Psychiatry, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- 9:30 – 10:00 *Understanding How Functional Abnormalities in Brain Circuitry Relate to Mood Dysregulation in Bipolar Disorder*  
 Mary L. Phillips, MD, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Director of Functional Neuroimaging in Emotional Disorders, Department of Psychiatry, Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic, University of Pittsburgh; Co-Director of the Brain Imaging Research Centre (BIRC), Pittsburgh; Professor of Neuroscience and Emotion, Institute of Psychiatry, London, UK
- 10:00 – 10:30 *Mania and Depression in American Culture*  
 Emily Martin, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, New York University; author of *Bipolar Expeditions*
- 10:30 – 10:45 *Coffee Break and Poster Viewing*
- 10:45 – 11:30 *Commentary*  
 Douglas Hollan (*moderator*)

**11:30 – 3:30 Session 3. Cultural and Biological Contexts of Schizophrenia**

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**Chair:** Steven R. López, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Southern California; Member, FPR Advisory Board

11:30 – 12:00 *The Continuum of Psychosis: Cultural and Biological Risks and Benefits*  
 Robert Bilder, PhD, ABPP-CN, Director, Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity and Consortium for Neuropsychiatric Phenomics, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior; Chief of Medical Psychology-Neuropsychology, Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital; Michael E. Tennenbaum Family Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, David Geffen School of Medicine; and Professor of Psychology, UCLA College of Letters and Science

12:00 – 12:30 *Predictors and Mechanisms of Conversion to Psychosis in At-Risk Youth*  
 Tyrone D. Cannon, PhD, Staglin Family Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences; Director, Staglin Music Festival Center for Cognitive Neuroscience; Associate Director, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, UCLA

12:30 – 1:45 *Lunch and Poster Viewing*

1:45 – 2:15 *Ethnographic Case Study of Schizophrenia in Indonesia (film)*  
 Robert Lemelson, PhD, President, FPR; Research Anthropologist, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior; Lecturer, Departments of Anthropology and Psychology, UCLA

2:15 – 2:45 *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness*  
 Elyn R. Saks, JD, Associate Dean and Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychology, and Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences, University of Southern California Gould School of Law; Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine

2:45 – 3:15 *Commentary*  
 Steven R. López, PhD (*moderator*); Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, PhD, Professor of Social Medicine, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School

3:15 – 3:45 *Coffee Break and Poster Viewing*

**3:45 – 6:00 Session 4. Cultural and Biological Contexts of Anxiety-Related Conditions**

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**Chair:** Emeran A. Mayer, MD, Professor, Departments Of Medicine, Physiology and Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences; Executive Director, Center for Neurobiology of Stress; Co-Director, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA

3:45 – 4:15 *Interoception in Psychiatric Disorders: When the Brain Misinterprets Signals from the Body*

Emeran A. Mayer, MD, UCLA

- 4:15 – 4:45     *Culture and Panic Disorder*  
Devon E. Hinton, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry,  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School; Medical  
Director, Southeast Asian Clinic, Arbour Counseling Center, Lowell,  
Massachusetts
- 4:45 – 5:15     *Unfamiliar Presentations of Familiar Symptoms in Ethnic Fijian Adolescent Girls:  
Culture Moderation of Eating Disorder Presentation, Risk, and Distress*  
Anne Becker, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medical Anthropology,  
Department of Global Health and Social Medicine; Director, Social  
Sciences MD-PhD Program and Associate Professor of Psychiatry,  
Harvard Medical School; Director, Eating Clinical and Research  
Program, Department of Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital
- 5:15 – 6:00     *Commentary*  
Emeran A. Mayer (*moderator*)
- 6:00             *Adjourn*



### Day 3: Sunday, January 24, 2010

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- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast / Registration and Distribution of Conference Kit
- 8:30 – 9:00 Summary of Day 2**  
 Douglas Hollan, PhD, Professor, Department of Anthropology, UCLA; Instructor at the New Center for Psychoanalysis, Los Angeles; President-Elect of the Society for Psychological Anthropology; Member, FPR Board of Directors and Advisory Board
- 9:00 – 10:30 Session 5. Integrating Biology into DSM-V**
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- 9:00 – 9:10 Introduction by Kelsey Martin, MD, PhD, Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Biological Chemistry and the Eleanor Leslie Chair in Innovative Brain Research, UCLA
- 9:10 – 10:00 *Animal Models of Mental Disorders*  
 Eric R. Kandel, MD, University Professor, Fred Kavli Professor and Director of the Kavli Institute for Brain Science, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; Senior Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- 10:00 – 10:15 Q & A, Discussion
- 10:15 – 10:30 *Coffee Break*
- 10:30 – 12:30 Session 6. Integrating Culture into DSM-V**
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- Chair:** Laurence J. Kirmayer, MD, FRCPC, James McGill Professor and Director, Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University; Editor-in-Chief of Transcultural Psychiatry; Director, Culture & Mental Health Research Unit, Department of Psychiatry, Jewish General Hospital, Montréal
- 10:30 – 11:00 *Including Cultural Variation and Cultural Context in DSM-V*  
 Roberto Lewis-Fernández, MD, Director of the NYS Cultural Competence Center of Excellence and the Hispanic Treatment Program at New York State Psychiatric Institute, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Columbia University, Lecturer on Social Medicine at Harvard University; chair of the Cultural Psychiatry Committee of the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry, a member of the Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum, Posttraumatic, and Dissociative Disorders Work Group, for DSM-V
- 11:00 – 11:30 *Life of the Mind: Psychopharmaceuticals and Social Abandonment*  
 João Biehl, PhD, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Princeton University

- 11:30 – 12:30 *Commentary*  
James Boehnlein (Professor of Psychiatry, Director of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry, Oregon Health and Science University; Associate Director for Education, Department of Veterans Affairs Northwest Network Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center [MIRECC], *moderator*)
- 12:30 – 12:40 Closing Remarks  
Robert Lemelson, PhD, President, FPR; Research Anthropologist, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior; Lecturer, Departments of Anthropology and Psychology, UCLA
- 12:40 *Adjourn*