Recovery from and in Psychosis: Toward respectful clinical science and practice

Location: Duquesne University, Room 104 College Hall
Parking is available in the garage on Forbes Ave.
Lecture time: Friday March 11, 2011: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Mini-course: Saturday March 12, 2011: 10:00 – 1:00 and 3:00 – 6:00, and
Sunday March 13, 2011: 10:00 – 1:00

Continuing education credits: Friday lecture only: 2.5 credits; whole mini-course: 10 credits

Psychologists: Duquesne University is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Duquesne University maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Aims of the course

Students of phenomenology will know that psychiatric practice and research was first influenced by phenomenological philosophy through the descriptive psychopathology of Karl Jaspers. Jaspers’ legacy is a complex one, however. While arguing for the use of phenomenological methods to explore and describe the subjective experience of people with psychiatric disorders, Jaspers, at the same time, concluded that people with schizophrenia lay beyond the scope of empathy and understanding. This mini-course will encourage participants to join the presenter in exploring two roads that have since seldom been taken in the history of phenomenological psychopathology. The first road will be to investigate what Jaspers might have learned had he not consigned individuals living with schizophrenia to the status of the incomprehensible. The second road will be to investigate how clinical psychology would look different, both in practice and in research, had Jaspers followed Husserl on his lengthy and round-about trek to, and return from, the transcendental phenomenological attitude. The data for these two investigations will be drawn from the presenter’s empirical phenomenological research involving persons with serious mental illnesses, both as participants and as co-researchers.

In investigating these less-traveled roads, participants may come to appreciate the difficulties and dead ends that have resulted from psychology being conceptualized as a self-referential, or self-grounding, science. The dependency of psychology, and its sister human sciences, on transcendental inter-subjectivity involves not just psychology playing one inter-dependent role within an inter-disciplinary approach to human experience, but also involves accepting clear limitations on the scope of psychology and what it can hope to accomplish as a transcendentally-grounded but nonetheless empirical science. In the case of psychopathology, one of the
implications of this approach is that the various forms of psychiatric disorder, should they exist at all, can only be considered ontic, rather than ontological, in nature (to borrow terminology from Heidegger). This means that all experience is valid as experience, and is best understood precisely as what it is (i.e., “to the things themselves”) rather than in terms of what it is not or what it perhaps “should” be according to this or that particular perspective. In the case of psychosis, this approach requires us to validate and attempt to understand people’s experiences of psychosis and their ramifications for everyday life, stubbornly persisting in viewing people having these experiences as fundamentally and integrally human, as persons, deserving as much respect as anyone else. In doing so, phenomenologically-grounded human sciences become allies of the international Mental Health User/ Consumer/Survivor movement in advocating for a restoration of human and civil rights to persons with serious mental illnesses; contributing to the transformation of mental health care called for by several recent federal, national, and global organizations; and thereby manifesting one example of what Husserl referred to as psychology being a “science of life” as opposed to remaining a “science of death.”

**Learning objectives**

Participants can expect:

- Identify the important differences between existential/hermeneutic and transcendental phenomenology as providing philosophical foundations for empirical psychology;
- Understand the guiding principles of a respectful approach to psychopathology;
- Recognize the processes involved in recovery from and in psychotic disorders;
- Describe the implications of this knowledge for clinical psychological practice and research.

**Required Readings**


**Suggested Readings**


**Who may attend?**

The Friday night lecture and the mini-course are free and open to the public. Participants can expect a combination of lecture, questions, and discussion, creating a cooperative and mutual learning experience.

**Larry Davidson, Ph.D.**

Larry Davidson is a Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Program for Recovery and Community Health at the School of Medicine and Institution for Social and Policy Studies of Yale University. His work has focused on the development and application of empirical phenomenological methods to research processes of recovery from and in serious mental illnesses and addictions; the development and evaluation of innovative recovery-oriented practices, including peer-delivered services; and designing and evaluating policies to promote the transformation of service systems to the provision of recovery-oriented care. In addition to being a recipient of psychiatric care himself, Dr. Davidson has produced over 230 publications, including the
2009 book written with several of his colleagues, entitled *A Practical Guide to Recovery-Oriented Practice: Tools for Transforming Mental Health Care*. Most recently, he has released another book entitled *The Roots of the Recovery Movement in Psychiatry: Lessons Learned*. His work has been influential both national and internationally in shaping the recovery agenda and in translating its implications for transforming mental health practice.

**Inquiries**

Any inquiries should be directed to Marilyn Henline at 412-396-6522 or henline@duq.edu.

No charge for Duquesne University students with I.D., faculty and adjunct faculty, as well as anyone not wanting continuing education credits.

**Mission Statement of the Department of Psychology at Duquesne University**

*Internationally recognized for over three decades, the Psychology Department at Duquesne University engages in the systematic and rigorous articulation of psychology as a human science. The department understands psychology as a positive response to the challenges of the 21st century -- one which includes existentialism, phenomenology, hermeneutics, psychoanalysis and depth psychology, feminism, critical theory, post-structuralism, and a sensitivity to the diverse cultural contexts within which this response may find expression. Psychology as a human science pursues collaborative, qualitative research methods that pay special attention to what is particular to human beings and their worlds. Accordingly, the department educates psychologists who are sensitive to the multiple meanings of human life and who work toward the liberation and well-being of persons individually as well as in community.*

**Pre-registration form**

**Larry Davidson, Ph.D.**

*Recovery from and in Psychosis: Toward respectful clinical science and practice*

Name: (print) ..................................................  Signed: .....................................................

Email Address: ..................................................................................................................

Phone: ................................................... Professional affiliation: .................................

Continuing education credits? (Check one)  Yes............  No.............

**Fees**

Friday night’s lecture only:  $ 20.00
Mini-course, including Friday:  $120.00
$100.00 with pre-registration (by March 4, 2011)

Mail this form with check to Marilyn Henline, Duquesne University, Dept of Psychology, 544 College Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15282-1753. Make check payable to Duquesne University. Your check is your receipt. Pre-registration closes March 4, 2011. Refunds available minus $10 cancellation fee until March 11, 2011.

We look forward to welcoming you to our campus and our program.