

Contemporary neuroscience reduces mental illness to brain-based operations, instantiating a division between biology and culture, mechanism and context, brain and biography. This has the effect of marginalising a richer, inner-subjective complex of individual meaning, personal history and narrative. This meeting surveys recent significant shifts in biological psychiatry methods for the assessment of mental illness and questions their validity and limitations. It also explores nuances and interstices between the regard of psychiatric disorders as neurochemical flaws or experiential conditions, the cultural history of psychopathologies and how brain-based accounts of mental illness circulate in the public domain and are incorporated into culture.

Organiser:
Giovanni Frazzetto
giovanni.frazzetto@ici-berlin.org

Partner:
European Neuroscience &
Society Network
www.neurosocieties.eu

ICI Kulturlabor Berlin
ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry
Christinenstr. 18/19, Haus 8
D- 10119 Berlin
Tel: +49 30 473 72 91 10
www.ici-berlin.org
U-Bhf Senefelder Platz (U2)

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BERLIN INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL INQUIRY

BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY AND PERSONAL NARRATIVE

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

List of Speakers:

Lisa Appignanesi
Noga Arikha
Lisa Blackman
Laura Bossi
Felicity Callard
Trudy Dehue
John Forrester
Allen Frances
Giovanni Frazzetto
Stephan Schlem
Ilina A. Singh

28. –
29.
April
2011

**Berlin
Germany**

Thursday 28 April

From 14.00: Arrival and Registration

Session I: Tensions of Diagnosis **Chair: Linsey McGoey**

15.00 Welcome Giovanni Frazzetto,
BIOS/ICI Berlin

15.15 Allen Frances, Duke University, NC, USA

»The Uses and Misuses of Psychiatric Diagnosis«

16.00 John Forrester,
University of Cambridge, UK

»Historical Notes on the Psychiatry Complex: Market Forces, Legal Imperatives and Moral Treatment«

16.45 – 17.15 Coffee Break

17.15 Trudy Dehue, University of Groningen, NL

»To Be Someone:
Embracing Diagnosis in Competitive Times«

18.00 – 18.30 Panel Discussion

18.30 -19.00 Coffee Break

19.00 Keynote Lecture:
Lisa Appignanesi, UK, novelist
(www.lisaappignanesi.com)

»Mad, Bad and Sad:
A History of Women and the Mind Doctors«

Reception

Friday 29 April

Session II: Voices from Within **Chair: Scott Vrecko**

9.00 Felicity Callard, Max Planck Institute
for the History of Science, Berlin

»It's in the Family: the Transmission of Traits and Trauma in
Family Members« Accounts of Schizophrenia Aetiology«

9.45 – 10.30 Coffee Break

10.30 Stephan Schleim,
University of Groningen, NL

»Dangerous Brains, Sick Genes? A Critical Reflection of
Brain-based Understandings of Psychiatric Disorders«

11.15 Ilina Singh, BIOS, London School
of Economics, UK

»A Disorder of Anger and Aggression: ADHD in the UK«

12.00 – 12.30 Panel Discussion

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch Break

Session III: Neurotransmitters and Psychopathology in History and Culture **Chair: Ilina Singh**

14.00 Lisa Blackman, Goldsmith College, UK

»Listening to Voices:
an Ethics of Entanglement«

14.45 – 15.15 Coffee Break

15.15 Laura Bossi, Paris

»Images of Melancholy«

16.00 Giovanni Frazzetto, BIOS and ICI Berlin

»The Sky Begins at your Feet«

16.45 Panel Discussion

17.15 -18.00 Coffee Break

18.00 Keynote Lecture
Noga Arikha, New York,
Writer and Historian of Ideas
(www.nogaarikha.com)

»Humoural Bodies and Balanced Minds«

Followed by Prosecco in the Lounge