

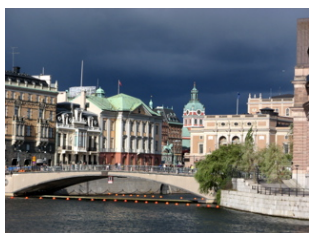
Report on the Stockholm Conference; 9-12 Sep 2007

It was a blustery autumn weekend when nearly one hundred conference participants arrived in Stockholm from North America, Europe and Asia to attend the conference on 'Multicultural Dialogue in a Globalizing World,' jointly sponsored by WPA-TPS, SSPC and WACP, that convened Sep 9th through Sep 12th.



The venue for the conference was the dramatically located campus setting of Ersta College, in the southern Stockholm community of Sodermalm. Ersta's campus is perched at the crest of a steep hill above the entrance to the inner harbor of Stockholm and offers spectacular views of the city center; a twenty-minute walk down the hill and across the bridge.

The conference welcoming Sun afternoon Sep 9th was followed by the keynote presentation by the rector of Ersta Skondal University College, Prof Jan-Hakan Hansson, titled "Reflections on Challenges for the Swedish



Welfare State in the New Millennium: Examples from current issues in psychiatric care in Sweden". That was followed Sun evening by a reception for all conference participants at the Ersta Conference Center, hosted by Prof Hansson and Ersta College.

After formal opening ceremonies on Mon morning, the scientific program continued with a comprehensive



overview plenary presentation by Marianne Kastrup from Copenhagen, on "Issues in Cultural Psychiatry in the Scandinavian Countries". Dr Kastrup cited and summarized contributions to research and clinical care in cultural psychiatry since 2000 by numerous Scandinavian academics and clinicians, as well as pointing out the implications of those contributions for policy related to health care and social services. Dr Kastrup's presentation fit very well with that of Prof Hansson, addressing similar philosophical and policy issues from clinical and research perspectives in cultural psychiatry.

The first morning of the conference included two plenary symposia; one on inter-racial and inter-ethnic marriage sponsored by WPA-TPS, and another on worldwide development of cultural psychiatry,



sponsored by WACP. These were the first of nearly thirty symposia that were incorporated in the program over the three days of the conference. The symposium topics ranged from cultural issues in the development of DSM-V to biculturalism and multiculturalism in the life experience of cultural psychiatrists, from gender and

cultural variables in psychiatric assessment to medical illness among refugees. Other symposia addressed comparative transcultural therapies in European countries, mental health issues in northern European countries, explanatory models and narrative in cultural psychiatry, chronic stress and mental health issues related to migration, doing cultural psychiatry research on a small scale, psychiatric assessment of refugees and immigrants, coping abilities of migrant mental health professionals, culture-related case histories, medical anthropology and mental health service provision, cross-cultural perspectives on anxiety disorders, culture and religion, and culture and psychotic disorders.

Over the three-day course of the conference there were nearly 100 papers presented, as well as 13 posters of scholarly work in cultural psychiatry. A complete list of papers and posters presented at the conference can be accessed on the conference website.



On the final afternoon of the conference, Drs Wintrob, Boehnlein and Tseng reported on the current activities and future plans of WPA-TPS, SSPC and WACP respectively.

The social program was as varied and intense as the scientific program, leaving only one evening free for conference participants to explore some of the fine restaurants and cultural life of the Swedish capital. Among the highlights of the social program were a reception, buffet dinner and guided tour at the extraordinarily imposing Stockholm City Hall, hosted by the Stockholm District Council, and a wonderful closing gala dinner at the Skansen national museum site.

Following the conference, many participants took advantage of the opportunity provided by being in Stockholm, to spend a few more days exploring the city, other regions of Sweden and other Scandinavian countries.

It was, overall, a very successful conference, leaving participants with the feeling that they were glad to have been able to be in Stockholm for a unique and fulfilling experience of psychiatry and culture with a Swedish flair and a Scandinavian freshness.



The conference sponsoring organizations are especially grateful to Dr Riyadh Al-Baldawi, the psychiatrist chairman of the Stockholm Organizing Committee, for



selecting the Ersta Conference Center as the conference venue and for coordinating the overall planning for the conference, along with Prof Hansson and Prof Jonas Alwall. On behalf of all conference participants, we want to thank them for their contributions to the conference. We also want to thank the Ersta College administrative staff, led by Ann-Margret Bergman, whose kindness and generous help were invaluable, both leading up to and throughout the conference.

Ronald Wintrob, M.D.
Chair, WPA-TPS

Jim Boehnlein, M.D.
President, SSPC