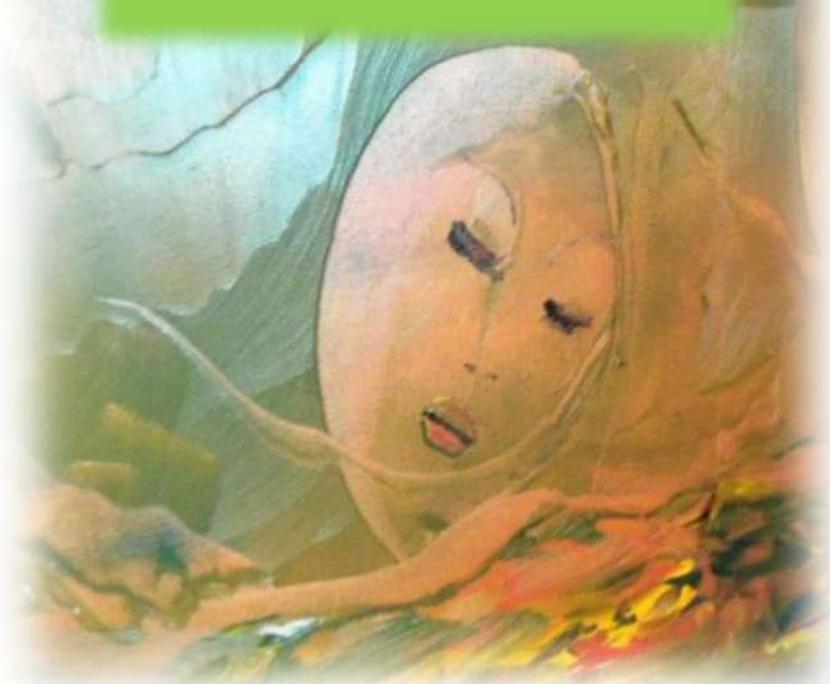


The MAD Space 18 – 20 September



The MAD space is continuous throughout Refocus on Recovery. It is hosted by OPEN FUTURES, Making Waves and Nottingham MAD Network - all lived-experience-led initiatives and collectives.

50% or more of Refocus on Recovery's organisers, abstract reviewers, co-hosts, keynote speakers and expert workshop leaders identify as individuals whose existences are characterised by mental distress or difference. A significant number of presentations are from survivors or service-users, or describe equitable partnerships with them. This sets the context and the underlying values for emergence of the MAD Space at this year's event.

The MAD SPACE has a physical dimension in that it will 'occupy' the surrounds of the lower entrance to the auditorium. (MAD averse delegates may prefer the upper entrance!) Lived experience displays, spontaneous interval presentations and representatives from local survivor organisations will welcome you to stop by and engage with some moments of MADness. Please feel free to join in

But this space, in spirit of true MADness, may not confine itself within physical or social boundaries. Who knows where or when it might turn up next!

MAKING **waves**
challenging ideas about madness



Nottingham MAD Network



Open Futures

Refocus On Recovery 2017 MAD activity throughout



The MAD space is not a tick-box
nor is it a professional trophy

many people occupying the MAD space are conference organisers, designated hosts, presenters and partners in their own right.

The MAD space is not an add-on
nor is it a fringe activity

MAD activity permeates the main body of the conference; in addition to a protected and privileged space there will be MAD networking and unannounced flash-spots of MADness.

The MAD space is not 'PPI' nor
is it 'service user involvement'

far from invited guests at the party – we are the party-planners who have co-constructed the guest lists, the events, the 'happenings' and the ambience. We're here from start to finish as active collaborators.

‘you wanted to accept everything
- so accept madness too - ‘

CARL JUNG



The MAD space is not a
‘special needs’ warehouse

teachers, researchers, practitioners, authors, story tellers, survivors, acknowledged experts and people with potential and room to grow, we represent a rich diversity of class, culture, orientation, gender, ethnicity, life experience. We celebrate all that we are and might be.

The MAD space is not a clinic
or a mental bin

we collectively identify and own our shared status of mental distress or difference and the medals of disgrace it confers - but we re-define ourselves as survivors of the wider social ills that wound the earth.

Let the MAD space embrace you too!

- entry via ‘people first’ credentials not ‘power or privilege’ status
- ‘person- friendly,’ safe, supportive, all welcome, MAD or otherwise!

some thoughts on MAD Studies as a radical way of thinking about mental distress, difference and wellbeing follow here and we look forward to discussing them with you at REFOCUS 2017

Refocus On Recovery 2017

MAD Studies definitions

What Do We Mean by MAD Studies? - thoughts from Julie Gosling, Ria Foster, Lou Hunt - NMN

Our present discussions at *OPEN FUTURES*, *Nottingham MAD Network* and *Making Waves* define MAD as cutting edge constructs, in thinking on and acting for mental justice and wellbeing. Found within alliances between academic thought and activism, MAD Studies may be described as:

collective and dynamic discourse that accords central importance to the knowledge, principles and 'sense-making' gained from personal insights of living with mental distress or difference.

research and knowledge-sharing frameworks and processes, and their underlying values, that are generated or significantly and personally influenced by the experiences, the collective validation and the learning of those of us who have lived with such distress, deviance or neurodiversity and with its subsequent physical, emotional, social, cultural, economic and political impacts on our lives.

mapping the personal and communal footprints of mental, emotional and spiritual pain, navigating our day-to-day struggles and solutions to survive and pass through terrains of fear, pain and despair and moreover re-charting positive altered experience as territories of wisdom, spiritual identity and insight.

open to uncertainty and endless change, a MAD flux generating free-flow of ideas, possibilities and *chaordic* energy, as opposed to static, rigid, commodified and controlling knowledge products

welcoming of all MAD experience, regardless the 'fit' with established MAD doctrines - and open to new and emerging narratives of MADness

promoting the principles of peer support, compassionate care and person-centred discovery and advocating return to a grass roots ownership of recovery as emancipation, autonomy and choice

allied with other marginalised groups and social movements, mutually supporting human rights and resisting the mechanisms that suppress them

antidisciplinary and intersectional in transcending territories, margins and boundaries yet, at the same time, honouring and incorporating 'on-the-edge' experiences with their rich significance and learning.

unconditional and embracing of deeply complex interfaces and inequities, particularly within the many distresses or differences which are less well heard, less willingly accommodated, less worthily served

activist and agitating both within and without of the MAD arena:

for - breadth of acknowledgment and opportunity that is restricted neither to straight, white, male, middle class mentals, nor to privileged 'mentalectuals' over and above 'mere peers.'
and

against - widely unequal distribution of resources for wellbeing among and within economic, social and cultural communities of 'haves' and 'have-nots'

opened up to alliances of mutuality and respect which share power, recognition, responsibility and reward - and receptive to traditional academia and research that honours 'people first' perspective.

creative in calling on arts and humanities as clarions of individual and collective wellbeing

community and 'green' orientated, by protecting the assets of our planet and its people to promote public wellbeing, spiritual peace and global sustainability

humble when serving ideals of justice and knowledge production, kind in responding to human pain, fearless to challenge where necessary, but more-so hopeful to collaborate and openly dialogue within academic, practice and experience partnerships to pursue best solutions and wanted outcomes.

ever receptive to reflection, evaluation and nurturing of MAD values, processes and practice

M - maladjusted to unkindness, unfairness and oppression

A - architects and activists for wellbeing

D - dialogue, deconstruct, discover!

OPEN FUTURES Research Group at the Institute of Mental Health and Nottingham MAD Network on behalf of personal lived experience welcome you all to Nottingham and this year's Recovery conference