

Professional conference report on the ECCP 2021

Prepared by

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Event Summary

Overview: European Conference on Community Psychology 2021 (ECCP 2021) was held between the 3rd of June and the 4th of June 2021 in Oslo, Norway, with pre-conference workshops on the 1st (Norwegian) and 2nd of June. The ECCP was arranged by the European Community Psychology Association (ECPA) in collaboration with the Norwegian Psychological Association (NPA), The European Federation of Psychology Associations (EFPA) and partners.

Due to uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 situation, the conference was online. During the conference a combination of online pre-recorded videos, podcasts, online discussion forums, videoconferencing and workshops were used in order to provide a creative experience for the participants. Furthermore, we were given a virtual tour of Oslo, and were also able to be connected with colleagues from all over Europe.

Conference Organizers:

- European Community Psychology Association ECPA – President Cinzia Albanesi
- Norwegian Psychological Association – President Håkon K. Skard
- European Federation of Psychologists' Associations EFPA – Vice-President Nicola Gale

National organizing committee:

- Jonas Vaag, Norwegian Psychological Association, NPA
- Ingvild Stjernen Tislov, NPA
- Mona Cecilie Nielsen, NPA
- PUG (Psykologistudenter uten grenser)

International scientific committee:

- Cinzia Albanesi (Italy), ECPA president
- Maria Vargas Moniz (Portugal), ECPA past president
- Wolfgang Stark (Germany), EFPA SC liason to Ecpa

- Nicholas Carr (Norway), EFPA SC of Community Psychology
- Fortuna Procentese (Italy), ECPA board
- Martina Barankova (Slovakia), ECPA board
- Anna Bokszczanin (Poland), ECPA board
- Francesca Esposito (Italy), ECPA board
- Maria Fernandes-Jesus (Portugal), ECPA board

Attendees: 60-70 people

Venue: Conference was conducted in a virtual format

Aims of the conference:

The conference aimed to promote and exchange Community Psychology among scholars, students, activists, volunteers and policy makers, and to create room for professional, social and cultural meetings. The diverse and relevant topics were addressed during the keynote speeches. The activities reflected Community Psychology core values and competencies. Community Psychology has over the past 25 years oriented itself towards a systemic view of social and psychological problems.

The European Conference of Community Psychology has a long tradition of gathering colleagues from all corners of the world, to share different perspectives on contemporary problems. The lessons learned from the pandemic are about to be evaluated and transformed into new ways of coping with the crisis and preventing the causes behind it.

More important than ever, we need to rethink normality, and find ways to transform communities to foster well-being for all. How can we stay connected, and feel safe at the same time? In Oslo we are committed to ensure people health and safety and will provide physical and virtual meeting places to meet these basic needs.

During the conference the following thematic areas were touched and discussed:

- Sense of Community
- Participation and Inclusion
- Competencies and training
- Community resilience
- Environmental engagement for climate action
- Building trust and solidarity
- Community memory and regeneration
- Transforming communities and social change
- Partnerships for community development

- Migration
- Social justice
- Gender equality

Participants at the conference were able to pick their own schedule of individual presentations and symposiums based on pre-recorded material and their focus of interest. Videos were also available for a month after the conference has ended - making sure that the participants may have the possibility to both attend the live keynotes, and save some of your videos for later.

Main live program of the ECCP 2021 conference were the following during the two days of the conference:

09.00 – 9.45 – INTRODUCTION

- European Community Psychology Association ECPA – President Cinzia Albanesi
- Norwegian Psychological Association – President Håkon K. Skard
- European Federation of Psychologists' Associations EFPA – Vice-President Nicola Gale

10.00 – 10.45 – KEYNOTE

Donata Francescato

“Climate change action: what can community psychologists contribute as researchers, professionals and activists”

11.00 – 11.45 KEYNOTE – LIVE DISCUSSION

On the topic of psychologists contributions to climate change

12.30 – 13.15 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Memox: Transforming lives by focusing on potentials and working holistic, wholehearted and solution-orientated.

13.30 – 14.15 LIVE EVENT – CREATIVE SESSION

Francesca Esposito

“Migrant (In)Justice and the Role of the Psychological Establishment”

14.30 – 15.00 KEYNOTE

Isaac Prilleltensky

“Wellness, Fairness, and Worthiness: How the Synergy of Personal, Relational, and Collective Values can Improve the Common Good”

15.00 – 15.15

Questions from participants to Keynote

15.30 – 16.15 KEYNOTE – LIVE DISCUSSION

On the topic of how values can improve the common good

16.30 – 17.15 – PARALLELL SESSION

Video about “The healing power of Nature” with possibility for questions.

17.30 – 19.00 ECPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For ECPA-members and non-members. See information about content and link to meeting in top menu.

18.30 – LIVE THEATER PERFORMANCE

Clowns on the edge

Streaming from a Theater in Oslo

JUNE 4TH 2021

09.00 – 09.45 – KEYNOTE

Niki Harré

“The environmental crisis: A people-focused systems approach”.

10.00 – 10.45 KEYNOTE

David Fryer

“Aftermaths: global pandemics, capitalist violences, community psy-complexes – critical lessons?”

11.00– 11.45 LIVE EVENT

A discussion between Niki Harré and David Fryer

“Humanistic community psychology and critical community psychology approach”

Articles shared by discussants: [Article 1](#), [Article 2](#) and [Article 3](#).

13.30 – 14.15 – KEYNOTE

Ottar Ness og Dina von Heimburg

“Co-Creation of Public Values: Citizenship, Social Justice, and Well-Being”

14.30 – 15.15 – KEYNOTE – LIVE DISCUSSION

On the topic of co-creation of public values

15.30 – 16.15 – KEYNOTE

Serdar M. Değirmencioglu

“The response in psychology and Community Psychology to the inflow of refugees to Europe since 2015”

16.10 – 16.15 – CLOSING

European Community Psychology Association ECPA – President Cinzia Albanesi

On the 3rd and the 4th of June we had the following keynote speakers who shared with their ideas, thoughts, and gave brilliant presentations.

1. Isaac Prilleltensky. His keynote presentation was “Wellness, Fairness, and Worthiness: Psychosocial Foundations for the Common Good”.

2. Donata Francescato. Her presentation was “Climate change action: What can community psychologists contribute as researcher, professionals and activists”
3. Ottar Ness & Dina Von Heimburg. They presented on the topic, namely “Co-Creation of Public Values: Citizenship, Social Justice, and Well-Being”.
4. Niki Harre. Her keynote speech was about “The environmental crisis: A people-focused systems approach”.
5. David Fryer. His speech was about “Aftermaths: global pandemics, capitalist violences, community psy- complexes – critical lessons?”.

I presented in the open category with other interesting presentations. The topic of my presentation was Academic Adaptation of International Students from the Post-Soviet Countries in Hungary. In my presentation, I discussed the way we investigated the academic adaptation experiences of international students from the post-Soviet countries in Hungary, by demonstrating the important findings in our study.

First of all, I prerecorded my video-presentation in advance by using different tools. Then, I sent it to the conference organizers and they uploaded it before the conference started.

A few days before the conference started, all participants were already able to watch pre-recorded videos. Currently, I would have one-month free access to other pre-recorded video presentations. I have started watching them, however, there are a lot of materials uploaded. I hope that I will finish watching all participants videos and contributions.

During the key note presentations, I gained an insight on the scope of my research field and observed the way others analyze the data.

In my open category, some students, professors gave presentations on related topics. I would mention here two of them, since I asked some questions after watching their presentations. First of all, Mansilla and her colleagues from Spain, had a presentation on “Acculturation Process between Natives and Latin American Immigrants within a Community Context in Barcelona, Spain”. Their study was based on qualitative methods. It was used a two-phase case study design. Firstly, one-on-one semi-structured interviews were conducted with four community leaders as well as the same number of social-community service professionals. Afterwards, semi-structured interviews involved fourteen inhabitants were undertaken. In their study, thematic analysis was employed as a data analytic research method-the same as in my study. Ultimately, interviewees pointed out the need to work towards creating an inter-group collective identity in the neighbourhood, in order to foster their intercultural communal living.

Second related presentation that I would like to mention is Gunhild B. Sætren and colleague's presentation on Integrating safe mobility – teaching immigrants at risk to drive in a Norwegian context using virtual simulation.

They stated that outside the major cities, Norway is characterized by sparsely population and long distances to commercial and public services. Mobility is therefore an important factor in the integration process for immigrants. As part of the integration policy, driving a car and being able to get around in the community, is of importance. However, immigrated men from Middle East and Africa are overrepresented in the road accident statistics. In order to prevent this, learning the Norwegian way of driving is important. In cooperation with the adult learning for immigrant's office, Nord University organized a project where final-year driving teacher students provided virtual simulated learning for immigrants considered at risk. In this article, we explore what this form of simulated training provides to the participants of the project. They preliminary concluded that the use of a simulator in migration driver training could be used to increase safety during driver training and give the migration learner driver an in-depth understanding of how to drive safely in a Norwegian context. This should be further investigated using prospective designs.

Additionally, I would like to mention one key note speakers and his outstanding presentation on the ECCP 2021 conference. It was Isaac Prilleltensky and his speech on well-being, wellness and fairness. He talked about different types of justice that influence well-being within each context. Intrapersonal injustice operates at the personal level, whereas distributive, procedural, relational, and developmental justice impact interpersonal well-being. At the organizational level, distributive, procedural, relational and informational justice influence well-being. Finally, at the community level, distributive, procedural, retributive, and cultural justice support community wellness. He showed that data from a variety of sources support the suggested connections between justice and well-being.

One day before the conference, organizers gave a workshop on Community and Resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Workshop organizers stated that the COVID-19 pandemic is a historical crisis for humankind that affects our entire planet. Crises such as global climate change, industrial agriculture, racism, social-economic injustice, and gender violence also require attention. While these issues may not seem connected, they are all human made and have global impact. They are likewise an opportunity to transform our thinking.

Communities all over the globe cope with these situations in a variety of ways. Beyond political and administrative strategies and plans, community resilience and creative ideas are

part of the societal DNA needed to solve societal pandemic crises. What can we learn from them? Much like a virus jumping to a new host, creativity during times of pandemic becomes viral and spreads. It also presents opportunities to learn.

In this innovative workshop, organizers offered a space for collective learning and reflecting from different perspectives and in different frames:

Frame1: What do we learn on the experiential level: what emotions did we experience, what did we feel and sense, how did our body (re)act, how did our brain?

Frame2: Have there been innovative approaches from social science? How do we react to scientific approaches? Did we feel a special move?

Frame3: How do we experience artistic approaches toward community resilience?

Basic Idea of the Workshop was to develop as a creative space, in which participants are asked to actively resonate to samples in the distinguished frames described below. Therefore, all participants played an active role in the workshop and shared each one's experiences, reflections and ideas.

In summary, I would like to mention the features of this conference and what made it to be interesting. First of all, the conference was very organized. The help was provided on each stage of conference, despite it was conducted online. Second of all, the content of the conference was relevant and provided activities were engaging. Lastly, for me it was important to be connected with other scholars, researchers and get feedbacks on the scope of my research. Finally, the success of the ECCP 2021 was due in no small part to the engagement of the local organizing committee, the co-chairs, international committee members, speakers, and delegates, and of the many representatives of Norwegian academia that attended the event.

I am really thankful for our faculty for giving a financial support to Ph.D. students to participate in such events and to get insights on our research fields.