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George Szmukler is Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry and Society at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London, and was previously a consultant psychiatrist at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

He was Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry (2001-2006), Medical Director of the Maudsley and Bethlem NHS Trust, later the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (1997-2001), and a Visiting Professor in the BIOS Centre, Department of Sociology, at the London School of Economics (2005-2013). He was also an Associate Director of the National Institute of Health Research – Mental Health Research Network with special responsibility for patient and public involvement in research (2007-2015). Since 2016 he has been the chair of the Special Committee on Human Rights of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK.

In the past he worked for a number of years in the field of eating disorders, with a further interest in family interventions. His major current research interests are in decision-making capacity; mental health law and its reform; methods for reducing the use of coercive interventions in psychiatry; the role of 'risk assessment' in mental health care; and the engagement of service users and carers as collaborators or partners with researchers in the conduct of research.

An overview of his recent work is presented in his book: 'Men in White Coats: Treatment under Coercion'; Oxford University Press; 2018