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WPA CLINICAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY SECTION TRIENNIAL REPORT 2023-2026

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LAST SECTION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS HELD:

Date: 2024-12-09

Venue: Elections procedures undertaken by digital tools

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN 2013 – 2025:

Activities of the Section in the Year 2023:

During 2023, the Psychopathology Section of the EPA maintained its core commitment to the study of psychopathology, with continuity in education, research, and scholarly exchange, alongside a set of focused events and collaborations. Members sustained regular scientific output, with several papers released during the year, and kept an active presence across European and national meetings, symposia, and teaching initiatives. Education and training remained a central pillar.

The section's activities featured its annual meeting, held in Naples under the theme "Psychopathology and New Forms of Human Aggregation." This gathering provided a platform to delve into the topic "Contemporary Social Geographies: New Paradoxes of Isolation and Aphoria: between the annulment and the avatar," reflecting on how modern life's complexities impact mental health. The meeting also celebrated the EPA Psychopathology Section's 25 years

of influence, tracing its journey from Paris to Naples through "WPA Clinical Psychopathology Section and EPA Psychopathology Section: 25 years Narratives of joint Symposia." (Plenary Lectures: "Introductory Remarks by Femi Oyeboode; "Contemporary Social Geographies: New Paradoxes of Isolation" by Luís Madeira; "Aphoria: between the annulment and the avatar" by Raffaele Vanacore; "Transhumanism and the Evolution of Psychopathology: Navigating Trough Mutable and Immutable Territories" by Dimopoulos Anastasios; "Social Isolation and Delusions" by Michael Musalek; "EPA and WPA Psychopathology Section: 25 years Narratives of Symposia – from Paris to Naples" by Pedro Varandas

Throughout the year, members of the section were prolific in their scholarly output. They produced a range of educational courses, book chapters, complete volumes, and papers. Notable among these is "Why Delusions Matter" by L. Bortolotti, a seminal book that explores the significance of delusions in understanding mental health. The section's members also contributed to various journals with articles covering a wide array of topics, including the ethical implications of psychosocial assessments in emergency departments, the importance of curiosity in interpersonal relationships, and the nuances of psychiatric diagnoses.

The section's commitment to education was evident in its organization of several courses, such as the fourth edition of "Essentials of Phenomenological Psychopathology" held in Lisbon. Additionally, members delivered lectures and participated in symposiums worldwide, discussing subjects ranging from spatial and narrative atmospheres to the moral psychology of pandemics.

Engagement with the broader public was also a focus, with section members contributing to radio programs like the BBC Radio Four's "Is Psychiatry Working?" and participating in podcasts discussing the philosophy of psychology and psychiatry. These efforts aimed to demystify psychiatric issues and foster a more nuanced understanding of mental health in the public discourse.

The year also saw a notable emphasis on mentoring the next generation of psychopathologists, with several students graduating with studies focused on various aspects of psychopathology, including the investigation of anomalous bodily experiences in anorexia.

The section's activities were rounded off with contributions to special issues and book reviews, providing critical perspectives on current psychiatric research and literature. This includes involvement in issues like "Philosophy and Madness" and addressing contemporary debates in psychiatric diagnoses.

During the year 2023 we produced the book "Why Delusions Matter" by L. Bortolotti (Bloomsbury). Assorted papers were published: "Implying implausibility and undermining versus accepting peoples' experiences of suicidal ideation and self-harm in Emergency Department psychosocial assessments" *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, "Why We Should Be Curious about Each Other". *Philosophies*, "How to avoid epistemic injustice in healthcare: the case of youth mental health emergency services in the UK. *MEFISTO. Journal of Medicine, Philosophy, and History*, "Is it pathological to believe conspiracy theories?" . *Transcultural Psychiatry*, "Delusions across and beyond diagnoses". In *The Philosophy and Psychology of Delusions: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives.*, "On the moral psychology of the pandemic agent". In *Moral Challenges in a Pandemic Age.* "Interpretative phenomenology of grief following reproductive loss" . *Psychopathology*; "Psychiatric Diagnoses: current state and methodological issues". *Front. Psychiatry*. An initial investigation of the role of depressive and anxious syndromes in problematic Internet use". *Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace*.

There were several courses (ex. essentials of Phenomenological Psychopathology (in Lisbon)), talks such as "Spatial and narrative atmospheres: social aesthetic perspectives"; (Oxford University Press, in press), "Begegnungen mit Atmosphären (Jahressymposium 'Atmosphären und Begegnungen', Sigmund Freud Universität, Vienna) and "Atmosphären und ihre Wirkungen" (Festsymposium 10 Jahre SFU Berlin) and podcasts "The Philosophy of Psychology and Psychiatry" (Las Cruces Community Radio, 2023) and "Philosophy of Psychiatry" (Behind the Stigma, 2023).

Several students graduated their studies under the topics of Psychopathology such as “Anomalous Bodily Experiences in Anorexia” (Universidade de Lisboa Faculdade de Medicina, Portugal).

There was a Radio Programme under our section member BBC Radio Four Programme (8-part series), “Is Psychiatry Working?” (jointly presented with Horatio Clare).

Book reviews: “Koro: Clinical and Historical Developments of the Culturally Defined Genital Retraction Disorder” *British Journal of Psychiatry*, “Madness and literature. What fiction can do for the understanding of mental illness”. *Theory and Psychology*, “Maybe I don’t belong here: A Memoir of Race, Identity, Breakdown & Recovery.” *British Journal of Psychiatry*, “Is Psychiatry Working?; *Journal of Global Medicine*.

Lastly, there were special Issues such as “Philosophy and Madness” under *Philosophical Psychology* (Parts 1 and 2) and Psychiatric diagnoses: current state and methodological issues under *Frontiers in psychiatry*.

In summary, the EPA Psychopathology Section's activities in 2023 represented a comprehensive blend of scholarly discourse, educational initiatives, and public engagement.

Activities of the Section in the Year 2024:

In 2024, the Psychopathology Section of the EPA maintained its dedication to the study of psychopathology. The section focused on consolidating its efforts in education, research, and scholarly exchange without introducing significant new initiatives. Yet several relevant events were organized.

Prof. Michael Musalek organized 25th Annual Conference of the International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry (INPP) together with the Institute for Social Aesthetics and Mental Health, Vienna & Berlin, Vienna where several international speakers were allowed to discuss relevant themes – including Levent Küey who spoke about “What keeps humankind alive in crises? Uncertainty: is there a room for hope?”

A recurring WPA Section’s educational activity, the “Essentials of Phenomenological Psychopathology” course, was offered again with consistent participation in Lisbon. This course finished also with the 1st encounter of the Psychopathology section of Portuguese Society of Psychiatry.

Also relevant WPA Section’s Clinical Psychopathology activities included the Summer School of Psychopathology of the Romanian Psychiatric Association taking place in July 2025: „What keeps humankind alive in crises? Uncertainty: is there a room for hope?“

Presentations of the Section members contributed modestly to the field through journal articles and participation in symposiums.

The section’s annual meeting was held in Naples with the theme “Nature and Narratives of Impulse Control.” The program included a limited but focused set of discussions, primarily on the psychopathology of violence, anger, and dysphoria. Key presentations included: “Basic Emotions: The Architecture of Anger” by Femi Oyebode. “Phenomenology of Aggressive Emotions: From Anger to Resentment and Revenge” by Luís Madeira and Maria Luísa Figueira. “Invisible Violence: The Disappearance of the Interhuman Dimension” by Raffaele Vanacore.

The meeting provides a platform for introspection rather than expansion, focusing on well-defined themes relevant to contemporary psychiatric challenges.

Section Members contributed to a few podcasts and participated in discussions on mental health, but the overall focus remained internal to the academic and clinical communities.

During 2025, the Psychopathology Section of the EPA continued to maintain its core commitment to the study of psychopathology, with continuity in education, research, and scholarly exchange, alongside a set of focused

events and collaborations. Members sustained regular scientific output, with several papers released during the year, and kept an active presence across European and national meetings, symposia, and teaching initiatives.

The Section supported and co hosted, in partnership with national scientific societies and academic units, the 3rd SPPSM Conference on Philosophy and Psychiatry, with a specific focus on „Phenomenology, from Jaspers to contemporaneity“, held in hybrid format in Lisbon on 26 and 27 June 2025, with the Section explicitly listed as an institutional partner. Section members contributed as speakers and moderators, including content on atmospheres and the role of environment in human phenomena, and engagement with international faculty across phenomenology, psychopathology, and psychotherapy.

The Section also contributed to broader interdisciplinary postgraduate education through the four day intensive course, The Ethics, Aesthetics and Politics of the Body in Contemporary Society, held 15 to 18 May 2025 across academic and cultural sites in Lisbon, including Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Gulbenkian Museum, and MAAT. Coordinated by Prof. Luís Madeira, the programme combined theoretical sessions with close reading, walking forums, workshops, and performance related activities, bringing together psychiatry, philosophy, anthropology, dance, museum education, and social aesthetics.

This initiative strengthened the Section’s visibility in applied phenomenology and embodied approaches, while also consolidating bridges with cultural institutions. Scholarly exchange was further supported through conferences centred on contemporary forms of suffering.

In December 2025, the meeting Psychopathology of Absence and Loneliness took place in Lisbon, bringing together leading voices to address solitude, isolation, intersubjectivity, and the collapse of relational bonds, including presentations by Femi Oyeboode, Michael Musalek, Guenda Bernegger, Gilberto Di Petta and Martina Billeci, Luís Madeira with Maria Luísa Figueira, and Raffaele Vanacore. The programme reinforced the Section’s emphasis on lived experience, narrative, and the psychopathology of relational disruption in late modern contexts.

In parallel, the recurring educational activity Essentials of Phenomenological Psychopathology continued with consistent participation, and members contributed to additional training activities, including summer school formats at national level.

Across the year, a small number of podcasts and public discussions complemented academic activities, while the Section’s main efforts remained oriented toward rigorous clinical and theoretical work.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES (2016):

Annual Symposium of the WPA Section Clinical Psychopathology organized together with the EPA Section Psychopathology in Naples (5th and 6th December, 2026; Preliminary Program: Plenary Lectures: „Waiting as a Core Human Condition: Hope, Dread and the Experience of Time“ by Femi Oyeboode; „Towards Social Aesthetics of Waiting - Various Atmospheres and Their Effects“ by Michael Musalek; „No man's time: waiting as suspension and the Unfinished narrative“ by Guenda Bernegger; „Waiting for Relief: Addiction, Craving and the Captured Future“ by Gilberto Di Petta and Martina Billeci; „Medical Illnesses demand waiting: A Phenomenological, Anthropological, and Ethical Analysis of Medical Temporality“ by Luís Madeira and Maria Luísa Figueira; The Permanent Wait: Digital Availability, Intermittent Response and the Suspended Relationship by Raffaele Vanacore.