

Upcoming events

Children and Youth Psychodrama Conference



2nd International Children and Youth
Psychodrama Conference | Zagreb, Croatia

Preconference workshops – 24 – 25 September 2020

Conference days – 25 – 27 September 2020

2nd International Children and Youth Psychodrama Conference Zagreb, Croatia

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Zagreb, Croatia's capital, for the [2nd International Children and Youth Psychodrama Conference](#) which will be held from 25-27 September 2020 with two preconference workshops on 24 - 25 September by Rebecca Walters ([Sociodrama and Story in Children's Groups – Sociodrama with children](#)) and Mario Cossa ([Rebels with a Cause: Psychodrama with Adolescents](#))

We face the challenges of the digital age, which moves a significant part of communication into the virtual world with which children are encountered since the early age. The demands of social networks and other online content subtract a big part of free time, narrowing down the field of interest and giving a partial picture of reality, and all this can lead to alienation from the authenticity of identity and the various psychological difficulties of children and youth.

Psychodrama communicates with children and youth in the language of play, action, and helps them to get into contact with each other, to increase their self confidence, free their creativity, leading to self healing.

Specific psychodrama methods for children and youth have been developed in the last two decades by several schools around Europe.

Recently, interest in the method grew rapidly, starting an international cooperation via FEPTO Network Group for Psychodramatists Working with Children and Youth. After the last International Conference held in Budapest in 2018, we are continuing with our meetings with experienced colleagues and schools to discuss and explore the method. Our discussions will include similarities and differences in our methods, theory behind them, understanding the role and competencies of therapist, and elaboration methods to

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measure the therapeutic effect.

On behalf of Croatian Center for Psychodrama we invite all interested, in the hope of everybody's enrichment when talking our common language of symbolic play and working together.

We would like to invite all children psychodramatists to present a workshop/ presentation/ lecture/ poster. Please submit your proposal by March 1st 2020 using online form on our webpage!

<https://childrenyouthpsychodrama.com/>

All abstracts and submission details must be submitted in English.

English is official language of conference

In the end, we invite you to explore Zagreb – the city with the million hearts. As you set out to take a tour round Zagreb, determined to see its highlights, you'll find that you'll end up rather enjoying it. Sitting at one of its various cafés, strolling leisurely around its streets and promenading through its parks, it's like you're starting out on a love affair with this city and its people. And pretty soon you'll know that this is love in its early stage, the kind that only grows stronger in time. Don't miss it!

On behalf of Program and Organizing Committee,

Vedran Korusic

president of Croatian Center for Psychodrama

Preconference 2-days Workshops

24 – 25 September 2020

Rebels with a Cause: Psychodrama with Adolescents

Mario Cossa (USA)

These two, full-days of training explore the theory, philosophy, and practice of utilizing psychodrama, sociodrama, and sociometry with adolescents, individually and in groups.

Participants will receive a PDF copy of Mario's book: *Rebels with a Cause* (in English).

Day 1: Adolescence from the Inside Out

At time role reversing with their Inner Adolescents, participants will explore, in action:

Developmental needs of adolescents in action-focused groups, including from Moreno's "4 Universalialia of Psychotherapy: Time, Space, Reality, and Cosmos")

Unique working of the Adolescent Brain

Therapeutic and educational considerations specific to adolescent populations

Elements that contribute to participant safety and participation in an adolescent group

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Day 2: The Therapeutic Spiral Model (TSM) as an Action Template for Supporting Adolescent Development.

Participants will explore, in action, using TSM model to:

- ⇒ facilitate activities that support therapeutic and educational challenges at various stages of group development
- ⇒ facilitate activities that support group members in meeting their developmental challenges at various ages
- ⇒ address professional challenges in their own work/professional settings

Mario Cossa, MA, RDT/MT, TEP is a Psychodramatist (Trainer, Educator, Practitioner – American Board of Examiners), Drama Therapist/Master Teacher (North American Drama Therapy Association), and Theatre Educator who specializes in work with adolescent groups and trauma survivors. He has an international reputation for work with youth and youth workers around the globe (including USA, Canada, UK, Korea, Indonesia, China, Australia, New Zealand.) He is currently Director of Training for Therapeutic Spiral International and resides in Bali, Indonesia. Mario was the 2019 recipient of the Innovator's Award of the American Society for Group Psychotherapy & Psychodrama for his work with utilizing Psychodrama in Education with Indonesian youth and youth workers. More about Mario Cossa – <https://dramario.net/about-mario/>

Sociodrama and Story in Children's Groups – Sociodrama with children

Rebecca Walters (USA)

This professional training will offer participants the opportunity to learn adaptations of the sociodramatic method that works especially well with groups of children ages five through eleven.

Sociodrama is a natural, powerful and playful method for helping children develop problem-solving skills and try out new behaviors and roles. It helps children learn how to self-regulate and develop impulse control as well as to safely and appropriately express strong feelings. Sociodrama and story can be used to address social issues that may arise in the classroom and on the playground such as fighting, bullying, and intolerance. They can also be used to address the sorts of issues that commonly are addressed in counseling and therapy groups, such as dealing with abusive siblings, the death or divorce of parents, etc. It is a useful medium for teaching social skills and problem-solving to students with diverse capabilities and challenges in a wide range of settings.

Participants will explore, experience and practice sociodramatic structures and variations of sociodramatic action techniques that work with children such as:

- ⇒ The Sociodramatic Empty Chair
- ⇒ The Use of the Double
- ⇒ Sociodramatic Dialogues
- ⇒ Group Created Stories
- ⇒ The Use of Newspapers and Current Events

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- ⇒ Rescue Fantasies and Sociodramatic Heroes
- ⇒ Sociodramatic Scenes for Role Training for New Behavior
- ⇒ Short Scene Work: Creative Drama and Sociodrama
- ⇒ Use of Fairytale and Literature (Bibliodrama)

Participants will also learn how to:

- ⇒ Choose the Right Story for the Right Time
- ⇒ Be an Effective Storyteller
- ⇒ Design child-friendly warm-ups to challenging roles and difficult stories
- ⇒ Devise rules that contribute to the working of the group
- ⇒ Use action to support pro-social behavior
- ⇒ Address the needs of the quiet child
- ⇒ Utilize the gifts of the highly verbal child
- ⇒ Manage the disruptive child
- ⇒ Set scenes with safety and containment

Rebecca Walters, MS, LMHC (Licensed Mental Health Counselor), LCAT (Licensed Creative Arts Therapist), and TEP, is the founder and co-director of the Hudson Valley Psychodrama Initiative (1989). Rebecca received her Master's degree in Expressive Therapies from Lesley College in 1978 and has worked with individuals and groups of children, adolescents, and adults since then. With thirty years of inpatient experience, she was the Director of Child and Adolescent Psychodrama Services at Four Winds Psychiatric Hospital, Katonah, NY where she ran six psychodrama groups a week with children and adolescents. She also supervised the psychodrama internship program at Four Winds. While at Four Winds she developed ways to effectively use psychodrama and other action methods in Dialectical Therapy (DBT) skill groups which she ran on the adolescent units several times a week.

Rebecca is known for her expertise in the use of action methods with children and adolescents as well as in the use of psychodrama in DBT skills groups. She has brought her well-received training seminars in these areas to conferences and training institutes throughout the US, Central America, Europe, and Asia. She is known for her warmth, sensitivity, and humor.

Rebecca is certified as a Trainer, Educator and Practitioner by the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Creative Arts Therapist. She was an elected member of the Executive Council of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama, an organization in which she is a Fellow. She was the 2018 recipient of the J.L. Moreno Award for outstanding life-long contributions in the field of psychodrama.

Zagreb, Croatia