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SCAN ME

Lived Experience Panelist Biographies for the Discourse Satellite Meeting in Chicago

Vegas Hodgins, B.CogSci is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Psychology at McGill University. His research broadly relates to language and bilingualism, with a particular interest in language in psychosis. Often inspired by conversations with his close others living with psychosis, Vegas is interested in the manners in which those without psychosis can accommodate and support the unique social-communication needs of people with psychosis. Furthermore, he is interested in identifying external barriers to communication success in psychosis that can be addressed by society at large, such as stigma or lack of language-accessible services. His publications, [The impact of neurotypical cognition on communication deficits attributed to pathologized people: schizophrenia as a case study](#) and [Multilingualism and psychosis: a pre-registered scoping review](#) are available for open access online.

Irnes Zeljkovic, BA, BSW, MSW, RSW embodies a remarkable journey of resilience and compassion, woven through his professional career and personal experiences. Currently serving as the clinical specialist of the LHSC psychosis program, Irnes plays a pivotal role in fortifying clinical programs, nurturing staff, and extending crucial education to the broader community. Irnes has worked across all levels of healthcare, including hospital, private, and community sectors, emphasizing the critical importance of proactive community mental health care. A passionate advocate for early intervention and community collaboration, Irnes believes in the transformative power of collective support in advancing healthcare and societal wellness. Irnes' path to his current role is deeply rooted in his own transformative journey. Having been a patient of the LHSC psychosis program in 2009, he intimately understands the challenges faced by individuals and families grappling with psychosis. This firsthand experience fuels his commitment to educate and empower others touched by similar experiences. Irnes is presently working on a film documentary, titled RESIST, which captures his personally lived experience and recovery journey. The intention of his upcoming film will always be about finding ways to move forward as a community through resiliency, forgiveness, and togetherness. Here is a link to his film documentary website: [RESIST - Home](#)

Chantal Murthy is currently a volunteer at the University of Washington's SPIRIT Center. She is researching strategies to improve outcomes for those experiencing thought disorder. Her recent work includes producing an outline on therapy gaps in CBT-p to address thought disorder with suggested treatments: <<https://chantalmurthy.com/How-thought-disorder-treatment-can-be-improved-with-CBT-p-and-adjacent-methods.pdf>> and co-creating a World Mental Health Day brochure for 2024 providing information and resources for treatment for psychosis: <<https://chantalmurthy.com/WorldMentalHealth2024>> . She has also investigated correlates of diabetes self-care in patients with SMI and diabetes as well as presented on the phenomenology of thought insertion based on her study of "Intruders in The Mind: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Thought Insertion" by López-Silva, P. McClelland: <<https://chantalmurthy.com/What-is-Thought-Insertion.pdf>>. She has co-developed educational websites to make complex topics like graph theory, immunology and genetics more accessible for self-learning: <<http://chantalmurthy.com/dinitz>>, <<https://chantalmurthy.com/immune>> and <<https://chantalmurthy.com/geb>>. Previously, Chantal worked as a software engineer at Microsoft, and she holds a B.S. in Computer Science from the University of Washington.