

Transforming power dynamics in MHPSS localisation



Panel discussion

World Mental Health Day - 10.10.2024

Panelists

Kristen Hope BURCHILL is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Bath. Her research is inspired by critical reflections on her own childhood, growing up in a settler colonial community in the Caribbean, then studying Arabic and spending 15 years working with child protection agencies in international development and humanitarian contexts. Using action-oriented research and participatory approaches, Kristen has experience working with children and young people from around the world, including those who have lived through displacement, violence and contact with justice systems, many of whom seek to leverage their lived experience to create change and claim their rights. Critically reflecting on this work, her research explores the encounter between feminist, decolonial theory and dominant paradigms of rights-based child participation in international child protection, within the context of the climate crisis.

Dr Neziswa Titi, Ph.D (DPsy): Dr Neziswa Titi is a transdisciplinary academic working in the Department of African Feminist Studies at the University of Cape Town. Her teaching and research approach integrates decolonial, Africa-centered, child-centric, psychological, and feminist perspectives. Her work focuses on African psychologies, child sexual violence, trauma, children's voices, violence against women and children, child mental health interventions, and access to services. Neziswa is an academic-activist and actively advocates for marginalized youth's access to higher education and promotes children's voices in law reform and child rights advocacy. In 2021, Mail & Guardian recognized her as one of the most influential 200 Young South Africans. Her public service experience includes national and international academic, professional, and civil society organizations, including the South African National Child Rights Coalition, the Psychological Association of the South African Division of Research and Methodology, and the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership Conceptual Interconnections Working Group. She also serves on the board at Lentegeur Psychiatric Hospital and Childline Western Cape and provides consultancy on GBV decolonial feminist approaches and transformative organizational culture at national and international levels

Ananda Galappatti is a medical anthropologist and a practitioner in the field of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in situations of crisis and adversity. For nearly three decades, Ananda's work has been concerned with improving access to knowledge and skills, building collaborative platforms and enhancing coherence in within the MHPSS field - both Sri Lanka and also globally. Ananda is a co-founder and currently co-Director of the MHPSS.net online platform. He co-founded the journal Intervention in 2003 and served on its editorial board until 2021. At present, he also leads an MHPSS team based at the Institute for Health Policy in Sri Lanka, and is adjunct faculty at the University of Colombo. In 2008, Ananda received a Ramon Magsaysay Award for his work in the field of MHPSS intervention in emergencies. He was elected to the Ashoka Fellowship in 2011.

Shadi Jaber is a CP/MHPSS specialist with Terre des hommes (Tdh) in Palestine and Jordan and serves as the Co-Chair of the West Bank MHPSS Technical Working Group. He is also a lecturer in the Department of Social Science at Bethlehem University. With over 20 years of experience in humanitarian settings, Shadi has been instrumental in supporting various stakeholders in designing and implementing effective child protection and MHPSS programs to enhance the well-being of affected communities. Committed to empowering local communities, Shadi believes that with the right support and guidance, they can play a key role in protecting their members and promoting overall well-being.

Patrick Mangen is an MHPSS practitioner, that has spent the past 25 years, designing and implementing large scale community mental health interventions in East and Southern Africa. He has engaged policy makers, and local actors to advocate for policy changes that promote the integration of and access to MHPSS services. He is the Chief Executive Officer. Of REPSSI,

Dr. Nancy Baron is the Founder and present Advisor to the Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo, Egypt (a program of Terre des hommes). PSTIC is a community and office based MHPSS program where refugees/migrants since 2009 have been trained and facilitated to assist their communities. Prior to this, she provided MHPSS consultation, assessment, training, program design, research and evaluation for UN organizations and NGOs in conflict and post-conflict countries around the world.

Moderators

Maria Bray has an academic background in cross cultural psychology and anthropology. She has more than 22 years of work experience in child protection and MHPSS in various humanitarian and more stable settings. Since 2010, Maria holds the position of the Child protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial advisor at headquarters in Tdh. Maria's areas of expertise include Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), children and youth participation and Empowerment and child protection system strengthening. In this role, she led the development of [Tdh MHPSS framework](#) and provides remote and on-site technical support to programs and projects (children and youth in Migration, Access to Justice, Humanitarian aid, System strengthening) in order to support MHPSS contextual and community-based/led responses supporting Psychosocial Resilience of children, families and communities in order to cope, adapt and transform their internal and environment challenges through their active participation.

Lourdes Carrasco Colom is a Spanish psychologist specialised in human rights, child protection and MHPSS in contexts of humanitarian crisis and political violence. After over 15 years of field work and learning from many contexts in Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Middle East, she has built a critical understanding of humanitarian systems and practice, deciding to dedicate more time to build MHPSS critical thinking. For the past years she has been working as an MHPSS independent consultant, advisor for Tdh, globally, while at the same time in Spain, locally, on transcultural, and critical MHPSS and lecturer of social psychology at the public University. Critically reflecting on her work, she believes that effects of colonization concern us all, and thus, decolonization is an obligation for us all, particularly in the fields of social and psychological sciences' academia and MHPSS aid sector, leading to her personal and professional engagement in deconstructing power, knowledge, and attitudes starting from herself, and within the global north psychology's academia and practice.