

AANZPA Conference 2026

Programme

Whakarongo mai rā, ki te reo karanga o te ao...
kei te aha koe?... kei te aha tātou katoa?

Listen to the call of the world...
What are you doing? What are we all doing?
What is our work in the world?

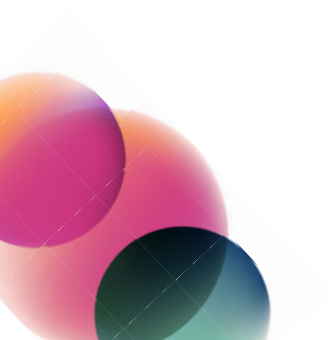
Wednesday

5pm–6pm	Mihi whakatau—opening and welcome.
6pm–7pm	Dinner.
7pm–9pm	Getting together. Viv Thomson & Paul Baakman

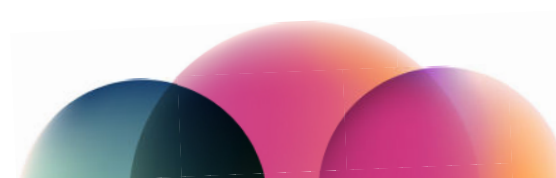
Thursday

9am–9.30am	Sociometric choosing
9.30am–12.30pm	Metaphors of our work in the world. Bona Anna
	Role reversal—love and kindness. Annette Fisher
	Small intentional moments matter: appreciating the ripple effects of our actions in a challenging world. Sue Christie and Cushla Clark
	Intergenerational resilience: coping or progressive? Charmaine McVea
	A trek through the labyrinth. Sara Crane
	Sociodrama for learning and healing. Walter Logeman

12.30pm–2pm	Lunch
2pm–2.30pm	Sociometric choosing
2.30pm–5.30pm	Getting below the surface: explorations with solo-psychodrama and psychodrama as a shovel. Peter Howie
	Humanising systems through creative connection. Bernadette Rutyna
	Sink or swim when everything lies broken. Katerina Seligman
	Role training to address a recurring and limiting role in your functioning. Phillip Corbett
	The sacred thread Sheryl Gardyne
	Relating to the guide within. Carol Parkinson-Jones
6pm–7.10pm	Dinner
7.10pm–7.30pm	Sociometric choosing
7.30pm–9.30pm	Come to life communicating with the horse. Kate Tapley
	Repairing the world one stitch at a time. Bronwen Pelvin
	The occasional psychodramatist. Diana Jones and Anja van Holten
	How a plant became a dad–action, concretising and using a timeline in 1–1 work. Roy Vickerman
	Domestic violence and women’s stories. Josephine Dewar



Friday	
9am–9.30am	Sociometric choosing
9.30am–12.30pm	Connection, play and embodiment. Zsófi Kigyossy
	From spark to story: writing with structure, heart, and soul. Diana Jones
	Women and power: psychodrama and the witch wound. Katherine Howard
	Listening across differences. Jenny Hutt and Bev Hosking
	J L Moreno has three Gods in his evolution of The Creator: He-God, You-God, I-God: This can mean three different minds, or One. Kevin Franklin
	Listening for the action cue in the clinical hour. Maria Snegirev
12.30pm–2pm	Lunch
2pm–2.30pm	Sociometric choosing
2.30pm–5.30pm	On the brink of everything. Patricia O'Rourke
	Time to reflect... Judith McDonald
	Developing the capacity of noticing and valuing progressive roles – small moments of change. Nikki McCoy
	Being the change we want to see. Eric Park
	Psychodrama – an applied method. Elizabeth Synnot
	Embodied and engaged: warming up to a creative revolution. Simon Gurnsey
6pm–7.10pm	Dinner
7.30pm–9.30pm	Entertainment for tonight to be confirmed



Saturday

9am–4.30pm AGM

6:30pm–Late Dinner & Dance.

Sunday

10am–1pm Moreno's creative revolution is us.
Rollo Browne & Cissy Rock

2pm–2.30pm Poroaki–closing and farewell.

End of Conference

Presenters

Sink or swim when everything lies broke Katerina Seligman

Session Description

When everything lies broken, whether we are facing personal loss, or distress about the wider catastrophes, can we find it in ourselves to allow joy to rise up? How can we access joy without being in denial? Without feeling guilt? This will be an experiential psychodrama workshop in which, together, we will dive into the depths of our beings to feel the sadness, anger, fear, and joy that is ever-present in each of us, and experience the liberation that can arise when we un-mix entangled feelings, allowing each to be expressed in its purity.

Bio

Katerina Seligman is a psychodramatist and retired TEP. Entering her 80th year of life, she is determined to keep doing the things that enliven her being, and make a contribution to a more beautiful world. Her love of the psychodrama method remains central to her life and work.

Come to life communicating with the horse Kate Tapley

Session Description

We will learn Equus, the horse's ancient language of energy, focus, rhythm, and stillness. We will warm up to being a horse and to ourselves and most importantly to interaction between the two. We will experience a different quality of connection, communication and leadership.

Bio

Kate has been a horse lover since she can remember. She combines this with her training as a nurse, social worker, psychodrama along with her 17 years running a horse trekking business teaching Equus, connection and communication. The journey never stops.

Being the change we want to see Eric Park

Session Description

These are intense and uncertain times. We can find ourselves asking: Is there more I could do in the face of all this strife in the world?

"Think global, act local" still resonates, but it can feel like our individual efforts barely register. And yet, we know change starts close to home: with how we show up, how we relate, how we act. At the heart of it all is one essential question: What does it take to be the change I want to see?

Bio

Born in Antigua to Kiwi parents, Eric has journeyed through civil engineering, sustainability leadership, and founding development charities in Aotearoa and beyond. Now based in Tāmaki Makaurau, he's on the path to certification as a sociodramatist. Eric comes alive co-creating new ways of being and doing together.

Role reversal – love and kindness Annette Fisher	
Session Description	This session will be experiential using the principles of group work, psychodrama role training and sociodrama. The session will conclude with discussion and analysis to explore observations, thoughts and views regarding the place of role reversal in our work in the world.
Bio	Annette Fisher is a psychodrama TEP. She is a psychodrama private practitioner and a multi-media visual artist. She has experience in mental health and community development. She exhibits her artwork and is at present preparing a short film called Annie and Peter 7 years exploring the nature of a relationship in later years. She is a mother of three daughters, has 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

J L Moreno has three Gods in his evolution of The Creator: He-God, You-God, I-God: This can mean three different minds, or One Kevin Franklin	
Session Description	A sense of purpose focuses the mind. However, at the centre of culture, individual and collective, is a conundrum: the relation of parts-and-wholes, and instead, the relation of wholes-and-parts. The human mind is a complex concept; its definition varies depending on the discipline. From a Morenian perspective, what is mind and how does 'it' become One instead of many. Kevin draws on Morenian practice-and-theory, and his own lifetimes work, to identify this elusive 'thing', butterfly or spirit. In this session, explore 'mind' in theory-and-practice.
Bio	Kevin advocates for a wholistic, whole-and-parts, philosophy of life, like J L Moreno. He knows dysfunction and coping with that dysfunction: he wants to be progressive on purpose, mindful of individual-social-collective aliveness, collaboration and individuation: creative and co-creative.

Repairing the world one stitch at a time Bronwen Pelvin	
Session Description	This session will focus on our capacity to 'mend' in a way that sustains the participants and the planet. Through enactments and group work, we will learn how to get alongside one another, find out what needs mending and explore ways to maintain the mana of those that might need reparative work while challenging ways of being and doing.
Bio	<p>Bronwen worked as a midwife with a home birth practice, a community midwifery practice, a manager of a maternity unit followed by 20 years as a professional advisor ending in the Ministry of Health in Wellington as the principal advisor maternity services.</p> <p>A psychodrama trainee for over thirty years, Bronwen is now retired from formal work but remains active in AANZPA and her local Nelson community.</p>

Embodied and engaged: warming up to a creative revolution Simon Gurnsey	
Session Description	<p>This three-hour workshop will explore the role of embodied warm-up processes in bringing the psychodrama method into the world. Moving beyond cognitive understanding, we will engage in physical improvisations and spontaneous interactions; in pairs, in small groups and as a whole group. These embodied experiences are not simply preparatory for the 'real' work of the group; they are the essence of our work, a direct physical path to connecting with others and discovering our joint capacity for creative, improvised action.</p> <p>You will be invited to rediscover your full expression and spontaneity in the context of an intentional human group. We will explore how physically stepping into the world of others can lead to a deep sense of telic connection. The improvisational processes are designed to ignite sparks of creativity, challenge conserved roles and role relationships and enable group participants to rehearse new ways of being and relating.</p>
Bio	I've been noticing recently that I haven't been doing embodied warm-ups in the groups I've been leading. Physical theatre, playback, and improvised dance were so entwined with my entry into and early involvement with psychodrama that I couldn't tell you which enabled my development more. Actually, I can – it was both. This workshop is my way of getting back to my roots. I am an AANZPA TEPit in the PANZ Ōtautahi Campus.

Developing the capacity of noticing and valuing progressive roles – small moments of change

Nikki McCoy

Session Description	<p>I work with First Nations men, many of whom have been incarcerated since they were 10 or 12 years old and have on and off experienced 10 to 20 years of their life in prison. When I am with the men in the group, it is my role to be a mirror to their joy, to their spontaneity, to their playfulness, to see in them what already exists but remains undervalued and unrecognised by those around them. This often has a profound impact on how the men begin to relate to each other, how they begin to notice the care and support in the room that they begin to give each other. I notice it and bring it to their attention. This is my work in the world and this is what we will explore in this session.</p> <p>In this session we will focus on the act of noticing the progressive role in ourselves and others. We will bring to light the forces that pull us away from valuing our own strengths and functioning and highlight the forces that enhance, lift up and move us towards connecting with ourselves and each other.</p> <p>We will become curious of how paying attention to our inner experience provides a sacred moment in time, allowing for freedom of expression, where our inner world and outer world can coalesce. We will explore moments in our life where we have become able to receive and value our strength and what indeed it takes to stay with our humble greatness. We will investigate the forces at play when the conserve is heavily focused on “what’s wrong with you”, with diagnosis and finding quick fixes. We will explore what it might take to come to valuing our expanding limitless beingness and the necessary wading through the darkness to find this light.</p>
Bio	<p>Nikki McCoy is a counsellor /psychodramatist with specialist skills in trauma and addiction. Nikki has worked for 30 years in Aboriginal communities supporting the growth and development of First Nations languages, cultures and music. Nikki provides psychodrama groups and counselling for men and women who are incarcerated and post release in Alice Springs. Nikki’s work is grounded in co-creation and cross cultural collaborations, focusing on building relationships to enable creativity to thrive.</p>

Getting below the surface: explorations with solo-psychodrama and psychodrama as a shovel

Dr Peter Howie

Session Description	<p>This workshop firstly works through an example of solo-psychodrama. This is a process where a person highlights a personal concern and using concretisation and other psychodrama processes, runs through a typical psychodramatic enactment, being both director and protagonist along with all necessary auxiliaries. While it sounds kind of strange, it works a treat. Secondly, the group will be invited to try it out for themselves. Lastly, the group members will be invited to explore and investigate together at depth how it is or what it is that permits such exploration and change to occur in solo-environments and what this tells us about the psychodrama method, ourselves, and human beings more generally.</p> <p>Participants can expect to come away with a practical experience of how to do this process and how to use it in their own life. They will also craft their own seeds of inquiry to develop greater depth of understanding of psychodrama and the nature of spontaneity.</p>
Bio	<p>For over 25 year, Peter has been developing deep learning experiences for adults. He is a group therapist, psychodramatist and TEP. He has a PhD in how people warm-up to new experiences and situations, and how this affects how we learn. Peter has many years of training experience, and a practice of working therapeutically with groups and individuals using creative methods such as psychodrama, drama, and interpersonal engagement. More recently he has been trained in sexological bodywork, urban tantra, and the wheel of consent and added the title of adult sex educator to his work.</p>

Women and power: psychodrama and the witch wound

Katherine Howard

Session Description	<p>"You are not a wicked witch my friend, you are simply, or complicatedly, a woman. And your magic is not something you can choose or lose. It always is, and always has lived within you." Donna Ashworth</p> <p>"A witch ought never be frightened in the darkest forest, Granny Weatherwax had once told her, because she should be sure in her soul that the most terrifying thing in the forest was her." Terry Pratchett</p> <p>There are records of women being killed in Roman 331 BC for magically causing illness. Through the times of the burnings and the drownings from the 15th to the 18th Century (and beyond- places in the world even today, including DV in Australia) women have been persecuted. You might recall stories of Victorian times and women's "hysteria", or even as recently as the 1960s when women could not have credit cards or mortgages. In this workshop, there will be a warm up to some of the "Witch Wound" stories which are fearfully imprinted in the feminine DNA. There will be a warm up to ideas of power and empowerment put forward by Starhawk in her book "Truth or Dare".</p> <p>And then there will be enactments coming from the group, in whatever way action comes alive after the warmup.</p>
Bio	<p>Katherine is a grandmother, mother, daughter, sister and partner. She works as a psychotherapist and psychodramatist in private practice. In addition to her occupational therapy and psychodrama training, Katherine has trained with some of the Foremothers of the Women's Spirituality movement both in Australia and overseas. She has presented and participated in psychodrama in Australia, Aotearoa, UK, Spain, France, Ireland and USA. She presented her "Women and Power" workshop in 2025 at the Wise Women's Gathering in Sydney and as a Webinar. She has been selected to present at the Seven Sisters Festival in Victoria in 2026 which is attended by over 2000 women.</p>

From spark to story: writing with structure, heart, and soul

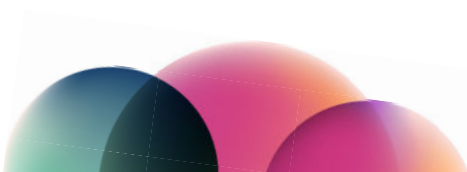
Diana Jones

Session Description	<p>Writing begins with a spark; the possibility of a thesis, the social atom assignment or a systems paper - waiting to be shaped into a vibrant informative revelation of applications in your work, with your insights, research and reflections. Through vignettes and group sharing we will discover personal practices and the simple structures to capture your writing. We will uncover the joy of giving your experience and ideas their voice while maintaining your authenticity.</p>
Bio	<p>Diana Jones is a TEP, AANZPA's Journal Editor and staff member of PANZ Te Whanganui-a-Tara Campus. In her work as leadership advisor and coach she assists leaders bring greater vitality to their formal and informal relationships. She has authored two books on leadership, is a portrait artist, and not having children of her own, lives the miracle of being the third grandmother to four.</p>

Role training to address a recurring and limiting role in your functioning

Phillip Corbett

Session Description	<p>Morenian role theory has given us a liberating understanding of the self as consisting of a number of psychodramatic roles. This concept can potentially free us from a sense of having a fixed and unchanging personality.</p> <p>However certain persistent roles we enact can have a persistent and recurring hold on us!</p> <p>In this session I aim to provide an opportunity initially in small groups to identify and share just what that restricting role may be for you and briefly consider its history. We will then offer a role training session with one protagonist to work towards developing and practicing a more progressive counter role.</p>
Bio	<p>Phillip is an advanced trainee in psychodrama from Melbourne. He has presented many workshops at previous AANZPA conferences and facilitated a support group for over ten years using psychodrama for people who experience anxiety and depression. He is a father of four and a grandfather of eight.</p>



Small Intentional moments matter: appreciating the ripple effects of our actions in a challenging world

Sue Christie, Cushla Clark

Session Description	<p>In this workshop we will examine what we do or have done in our everyday lives across relevant systems that have created new and potent outcomes for ourselves and others. We will acknowledge, explore and appreciate the ripple effect of these interventions and the forces that are enabling or holding us back from being conscious of the value and impact of our actions.</p> <p>We will explore how we hold the hope for a better world and stay grounded and creative in our lives so that going forward our actions are achievable and life giving for us and the people with whom we have connection and influence.</p>
Bio	<p>Sue Christie is a sociodramatist who after leaving employment in a large organisation is working with individuals and groups to enhance and support development in life giving ways. Sue is living in a small town on the Coromandel Peninsula enjoying strong family and community connections.</p> <p>Cushla Clark is a psychodramatist who facilitates self development psychodrama workshops . She continues to be inspired by the many surprising and profound healing moments for people when working as a group with the psychodrama method. Cushla lives north of Auckland and loves living in the country attending to a large garden of rambling old roses.</p> <p>Our aim is our group gets enlivened in ways which lead to ongoing motivation and commitment to action as participants reenter their families, workplace, place of worship etc more conscious how they can build on the health in those systems.</p>

Connection, play, and embodiment

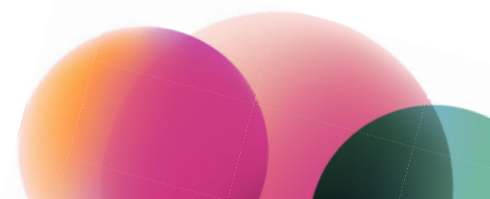
Zsófi Kigyossy

Session Description	<p>I often find that human connection is tangibly craved in this time when technology develops with the speed of light. Just as embodiment and play often remains untouched or hidden in the life story of many.</p> <p>The main focus of this workshop is on the process of creating connection through play and embodiment with a special emphasis on the warm up in a psychodrama group. Building on the first half of the session, in the second half we will proceed to a psychodrama and sharing.</p> <p>Wear comfortable clothes for movement.</p>
Bio	<p>Zsófi is a psychodramatist and psychotherapist working in private practice in Wellington. By living on three different continents she has gained multicultural experience to see how psychodrama works in different cultures. When not working Zsófi loves exploring the wilderness in Aotearoa.</p>

Time to reflect...

Judith McDonald

Session Description	<p>As you've been travelling through the conference experiencing other people's application of psychodrama in the world, you may have begun reflecting on your own work and its place in your life.</p> <p>Are you satisfied with the work you are doing? Does it need adjusting in some way, more of some things and less of others perhaps? Are you satisfied with your current work and life balance?</p> <p>What vision are you forming of your future as you approach the end of the conference and start warming up to returning to your life?</p> <p>Come to this workshop to explore in small groups what's important to you going forward in your work and life, using vignettes, and with companions alongside as they do the same.</p>
Bio	<p>Judith is a psychotherapist in private practice in Ōtepoti Dunedin, and a TEPit. She loves visiting her daughter, container gardening and this year has taken up salsa dancing and tennis.</p>



A trek through the labyrinth Sara Crane	
Session Description	<p>I will present some of the challenges of my experience being contracted to provide 'supervision' and 'wellness' in the Justice system in Aotearoa New Zealand. Justice is a deeply complex concept which aims to restore balance and right relationships. Staff often struggle with the work demands that expose them to situations outside their own life experience and they grapple with high expectations of flexibility and accountability in an under-resourced environment.</p> <p>Participants can expect to share their own work experiences and together we will investigate ways in which we can maintain our spontaneity and develop our abilities as change agents in ever changing circumstances.</p>
Bio	Sara is a psychodramatist juggling her professional responsibilities with being a creative writer, potter and llama farmer.

The occasional psychodramatist Anja van Holten and Diana Jones	
Session Description	Diana will interview Anja as she warms up to applying psychodrama methods in her work. They will set out 2 – 3 vignettes of some of Anja's psychodramatic interventions and the resulting shifts in both staff behaviour and systems. Audience questions and responses are welcome.
Bio	<p>Anja Van Holten is an advanced trainee and the service manager in a residential DBT service.</p> <p>Diana Jones is a TEP, author, leadership advisor and coach. Both are longtime AANZPA members and colleagues.</p>

Listening for the action cue in the clinical hour Maria Snegirev	
Session Description	<p>This workshop involves an exploration of what it means to apply psychodrama in the psychotherapy setting of a private practice. Many psychodrama concepts are based in group processes and our training happens within the context of a training group with peers. What happens when we enter into private practice as practitioners? How do we warm up clients to action when they have expectations of a "talk therapy". How can we use auxiliaries with only two people in the room?</p> <p>We will use role training, small figures, or other enactments to maximise opportunities for using action in the role of psychotherapist. The psychodramatist must stay present and alive alongside the therapeutic aims.</p>
Bio	Maria is a psychodramatist, registered psychotherapist and TEPiT. She is currently in private practice having spent many years running stopping violence groups for men. She is involved in the Ōtepoti (Dunedin) and Ōtautahi (Christchurch) training campus.

Relating to the guide within Carol Parkinson-Jones	
Session Description	The group will begin with a familiarisation of the concept of spiritual birth as the developmental task of maturity/ eldership in Western, Eastern, and Indigenous communities. There will be an opportunity for group members to share and explore what this means for them using the psychodrama method. This will be actioned in groups of two or three, depending on the number of participants. It will take the form of an interaction between themselves and their spiritual guide, ancestor, energy body, higher self, or the symbol/ description of spirit that suits them best. This will be followed by a group sharing focus on what is coming up in response to the vignettes. During this, we will choose a protagonist for the group, and I will direct a psychodrama or two.
Bio	Carol graduated as a psychodramatist at the 2024 Dunedin Conference. She has devoted her life to healing through community, both as an agent and a receiver of healing. She has been involved with psychodrama since the early 1980s.

Listening across differences

Bev Hosking and Jenny Hutt

Session Description

How well do we discuss our differences? As we bring different experiences, affiliations and viewpoints to our everyday conversations, can we resist the pull to polarise, reject, withdraw, or talk over each other?

This session focuses on clearing the way for listening, extending our capacities to listen across differences and allowing ourselves to be affected by others. There will be opportunities to experiment using role play and role training, to reflect together, and to consider approaches used in the fields of public dialogue, conflict resolution and anti-racism practice.

Bio

Bev Hosking is a counsellor, supervisor and trainer. She is a role trainer and TEP and Director of Training with PANZ Wellington Campus. For many years Bev has explored creative approaches that promote social dialogue and the formation of cohesive communities. She has taken an active role in the Tauwi Tautoko project to address online racism.

Jenny Hutt is a group facilitator, supervisor and trainer. She is a sociodramatist, TEP and Director of Training at Psychodrama Australia's Melbourne Campus. Jenny is an experienced diversity educator. She co-facilitates reconciliation projects as an associate of Burbangana, an Aboriginal-owned and led consulting company.

Jenny and Bev have conducted a range of workshops about belonging, social cohesion, racism and intercultural work. They work to create a space where participants can consider their experiences, have room to find out what they feel and think and strengthen their resourcefulness.

Domestic violence and women's stories

Josephine Dewar

Session Description

I have worked mainly with women in the area of domestic violence for many years however I do not see myself as the expert in another person's life. Rather I am a naive enquirer, a guide and sometimes just a quiet listener to a woman's grief, anger, and sadness. Mainly I listen to the injustice she is/may be feeling, and sometimes it is listening to the joy of her relief at escaping and starting the process of healing.

In this workshop I will present stories of 1 or 2 women's DV experiences. We will then work to sensitively connect with each other and develop new responses to our own perceptions around domestic abuse, and the ways in which we can stand beside someone who is experiencing this abuse.

Bio

Jo is a phone counsellor practitioner working with women who have experienced violence and abuse in their relationships. This has been a lifelong commitment starting in 1975. Since 2001 she has been working in a call centre listening to stories of sadness, loss, anger, resilience, and strength. Over the years in this area of work she has run groups in women's prisons and has presented DV workshops around NSW in rural areas. The focus of these groups was educational and developing conversations around how domestic abuse impacts a person's life. Through her work the psychodrama method has supported her enormously to use her voice and her ability to listen deeply to a person moment by moment.

Metaphors of our work in the world

Bona Anna

Session Description

Our work in the world – it's quite a notion isn't it. When I happened upon it in the conference flyer, I warmed up to quite an expansive vision that went a bit beyond what I actually do and the ways in which I apply the method. I experienced a larger sense of myself and my work that went more towards the inspirational, the metaphorical, perhaps a sense of a psychodramatic role. I thought it would be stimulating and enriching to use the method to explore our work in the world at this more symbolic level.

Bio

Dr Bona Anna is a psychodramatist, TEP (trainer, educator, practitioner) and Co-Director of Training at the Sydney Campus of Psychodrama Australia. She is inspired by the groundbreaking work of Joseph Levi Moreno, the founder of psychodrama, finding many useful applications in contemporary work and life.

On the brink of everything

Patricia O'Rourke

Session Description

I delight in toddlers – their open-armed flying as they totter and fall, over and over, laughing and reaching for their life. I want to age like that, reaching out and reaching in, living as fully as I can while wholeheartedly embracing the inevitability of dying.

What can we develop together to keep showing up fully and freely? How do we keep bringing all that we have been and done into the world? Can we be grateful for life even in the hard times? In this three hour workshop we'll explore what embracing change, accepting ageing and facing up to our mortality means for us.

Bio

Patricia O'Rourke is a psychodramatist, TEPiT and psychotherapist. She's a psychodrama trainer in Adelaide and Brisbane, a senior lecturer in the Paediatric Mental Health Training Unit, Adelaide Medical School and a member of the Critical and Ethical Mental Health research group currently implementing the Maternal Looking Guide, an infant mental health-based clinical assessment tool for perinatal professionals. More recently she's been enjoying watching blackbirds ferreting in her garden, blossom drifting from the corner tree, reading, walking and playing with charcoal and oil pastels when she's not somewhere else with her partner and some of their ten grandchildren

Psychodrama – an applied method

Elizabeth Synnot

Session Description

Psychodrama is a systemic method where we learn from our experience coupled with deep reflection. Many trainees say that they want to learn to use the method and think that learning by being a director is the only way to get there. This is not true. For instance, the timing executed by a director can be learned from being a protagonist, and being an auxiliary is a wonderful opportunity to be a role analyst, and so on.

This workshop is largely an experiential psychodrama workshop for those of us who are warmed up to being a protagonist and do not have a group where we are able to take this work. We will come together to form a group and have an opportunity to progress in our lives by enacting vignettes and perhaps one drama using the trained auxiliaries that are in the room.

There may be time towards the end of the session to reflect on and discuss our work and the use of our method.

Bio

Diz works primarily with families and doing individual psychodramas. She lives in a small 'secondary house' next to her granddaughter and great grandchildren. She spends a lot of her time with her great grandchildren and works permanent part-time.

Humanising systems through creative connection

Bernadette Rutyna

Session Description

This experiential workshop invites you to explore how we can humanise systems using sociometric tools and applying our collective wisdom. As a participant you'll uncover challenges that require attention within the groups, organisations, and communities that you interact with and work in.

The session involves action and reflection, allowing insights to emerge organically through shared experience. You'll work together to map systems you inhabit, discovering how spontaneity and connection can breathe life into rigid patterns.

You can expect a learning environment where vulnerability meets courage, creating the conditions for addressing real life issues applying sociometry as a potent tool for transformation. You'll leave with fresh perspectives on humanising the systems you work within and lead.

Bio

Bernadette is an advanced trainee from Queensland who applies her psychodramatic practice within an organisational consulting world, offering learning and development programs in the public and not for profit sectors, and in remote Aboriginal communities. In her consulting business coaching and developing leaders, building effective teams, mediating and resolving team conflict, she designs and facilitates experiential programmes and workshops in a broad range of settings, supporting leaders and groups to strengthen relationships and create environments where people can flourish.

Sociodrama for learning and healing Walter Logeman	
Session Description	Together we will create a sociodramatic family and enact the relationships in this family. The family is not the family of any one person in the group, it is a family created by the group. You may enjoy the drama as a participatory artform, or learn about working with people in systems or find personal healing. Your warmup will be reflected in the sociodrama. The action will be followed by sharing.
Bio	Walter is a psychodramatist who works part time as a couple therapist, group worker and supervisor. Walter has been conducting sociodrama for learning for many years, see his Journal: aanzpa.org/wp-content/uploads/AANZPA2021WEB-0721Logeman.pdf . In 2025 he conducted events that were for both learning and healing.

How a plant became a dad – action, concretising and using a timeline in 1-1 work Roy Vickerman	
Session Description	<p>Keeping a client's world present and visible is a big help to me in 1-1 work. It also builds rapport with the client.</p> <p>I'll let you know some ways I go about this in my practice. Then, in small groups, you can experiment with how you might do this. We will have time for reflections and questions. The words "playful" and "enlivening" are likely to be relevant.</p>
Bio	Roy was an advanced trainee for a long time and he is now a Community Network member. He is a counsellor and sees long-term and short-term clients in his practice in Richmond. The psychodrama method and scoring a clean hoop at croquet light him up.

The sacred thread Sheryl Gardyne	
Session Description	<p>Sitting in a weaving wananga, I am reminded of a kōrero, a conversation of a weaving concept of 'the sacred thread' which refers to the first line of the weave in the weaving. The first line sets the pattern in place and there was a reference to the sacred thread connecting to source. A question was raised – what happens when there is a disruption or a disturbance in the first line of the weave? A resounding response came, "it anchors in" and it affects the integrity of the weave.</p> <p>Working with the relationship to the sacred thread, I accompany whānau in action to the first line of the weave of them, that connects to source, to their life source. If you are coming to this workshop, it would be good to warm up to being interested in the metaphor of your sacred thread: where am I connected? What am I coming to? What is active in my own landscape that I can experience my weave that weaves into connections with others.</p>
Bio	<p>E tu ka tēra e o tāku maunga Manaia e Ka titiro au ki ngā tai hihi ki ngā tai haha o Ngunguru e Ka huri tāku kanohi ki te Tupuna Whare e tu nei ara ko Paratene te manu Ko Ngāpuhi tōku Iwi I stand at the brow of my ancestral mountain Manaia That looks on to the lashing tides of Ngunguru I turn my head towards my ancestral house Paratene te Manu Ngāpuhi are my people.</p> <p>Sheryl is currently working in a kaupapa Māori NGO that specialises in sexual violence and whānau harm, in Ōtautahi/ Christchurch as a counsellor. In the work, she has worked in Intimate Partner Death Review panels and court and police processes. She has been involved in the Royal Commission of Enquiry, supporting survivors that have been in State Care and Faith based Abuse. Currently, she is working with the Survivor Experience Service.</p> <p>Outside of this work Sheryl has run a psychodrama group in a Māori Alcohol and Drug residential rehabilitation programme and she is currently running a group in a therapeutic residential programme for wahine transitioning from prison to community.</p>

Intergenerational resilience: coping or progressive?

Charmaine McVea

Session Description

'I'm worried: my child isn't resilient'. This is a cry I hear from people who are anxious about their adult children and want guidance about how to help them. Through the lens of the social and cultural atom, we can look beyond this initial provocation, to investigate the social and personal dynamics affecting these people: what might the other person have to say, if they were in the room?

What does it mean to be resilient? When is 'resilience' a coping response born of anxiety and when is it an element of a progressive response? How do family dynamics promote or undermine resilience? Where does genuine relationship show up in this family? In this experiential workshop we will set out vignettes to explore intergenerational resilience, and reflect on implications for therapeutic work."

Bio

Charmaine is a psychodramatist and counselling psychologist, based in Brisbane. She has been a trainer with Psychodrama Australia and ran psychodrama groups in the community. She now shares her time between her private practice and playing with family and friends.

