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**ARCHEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF GRAFFITIS IN A PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT UNIT: SHINING A LIGHT ON THE GAP BETWEEN PSYCHOSIS AND CLINICIANS.**

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**Learning Goal:**

Reinforce the importance of a transdisciplinary approach to the study of psychosis and daily work in mental health. Relate the use of space as an unofficial communication channel. Show, from a historical perspective, the use of clinical spaces by patients and staff members, enriching the understanding of their social implications.

**Abstract Text:**

This presentation is part of a larger multidisciplinary analysis on the use and appropriation of space in mental health facilities in Chile. It is presented from an archaeological perspective, through material registration, aiming to enrich the understanding of social, cultural and exclusion dynamics in everyday contexts inside a psychiatric inpatient unit.

This work focuses on the study of the inpatient unit of a general hospital in a southern Chilean region. It operated since 1972 and received patients with severe psychiatric disorders, mostly with Schizophrenia or Chronic Psychosis as a diagnosis. It was closed and abandoned in 2014, having no major modifications since then.

Loneliness in people who suffer psychosis during treatment has largely been documented, even in the “post-asylum” era. We propose that the way patients and clinicians use spaces and its materiality represent subaltern behavior expression channels. We chose graffiti as object of study, analyzing it in three different dimensions: 1) Their formal characteristics, technique and content of the motif 2) how these motifs interact with architectural space and 3) similarities and differences in motifs regarding their spacial distribution inside the unit.

Number, content and distribution of graffiti in the unit were different in areas used mostly by patients compared to shared areas with members of staff.

Through this transdisciplinary work, we were able to show how in recent years and even though modernization in clinical models have been intended, asylum dynamics are perpetuated in everyday use of space broadening the gap between clinicians and patients. Social sciences as Archeology could have a significant role in widen the reflection on the way staff and patients interact.

**ON THE HEALING POWER  
OF HUMAN RECONNECTION**