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Abstract Text:

Building the hospital atmosphere good enough to meet the stranger?

One of Lacan's adages with regard to treating people suffering from psychosis was "être secrétaire de l'aliené". After all, alienation is an essential characteristic of a psychotic breakdown, in which the person feels alienated from himself. This stranger in the city is often sent to treatment centers under section. How do we welcome that stranger, how do we meet him? And above all, how can we best respond to this sense of alienation? Experience shows that it is a major challenge not to reinforce alienation through implementing strange rules in the hospital, or through treatments such as forced medication, isolation and restraint, which happens more frequently when we have a limited understanding of what is going on with the patient.

In this talk, we discuss the effects of a paradigm shift in a closed residential treatment program for young adults dealing with psychotic episodes. This paradigm shift was the result of our thinking about how to organize a welcoming city, based on theories from psychoanalysis and institutional psychotherapy (or anthropopsychiatry). Specifically, it deals with understanding psychosis, and understanding the environment as an important player to counter alienation. We wish to re-establish a connection, a true meeting, which facilitates the psychotherapeutic process.

We illustrate the effects of this paradigm shift with experiences of patients and staff and offer quantitative data on isolation and restraint.

Authors:

Lucas Joos and Bart Reynders

**ON THE HEALING POWER
OF HUMAN RECONNECTION**