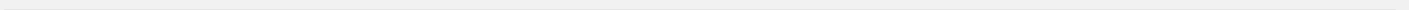




# *CuPZine*

Cultural  
Psychology  
Network

Summer Report 2024





# *The Network*

The Cultural Psychology Network acts as a facilitating entity allowing for the professional and academic development of young researchers across Europe. With this first issue of CuPZine, we celebrate twenty meetings and announce the twentyfirst which will be hosted by the University of Cyprus.

By aiming for two meetings per year, CuPsyNet and its members have been readily able to ameliorate their theoretical, methodological, as well as epistemological competences in sociocultural psychology for more than ten years.







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# Report on the Spring Edition of CuPsyNet - Belgrade 2024

On the 18th and 19th of May 2024, the Universities of Neuchâtel and Belgrade hosted and organised the twentieth meeting of the Cultural Psychology Network. Our theme was 'Theory as Engagement' to match the International Society of Theoretical Psychology conference which commenced on the 20th of May.

In our two day event we welcomed new members from the Universities of Eastern Finland and Helsinki. Antti Rajala, affiliated with the former, gave a keynote lecture titled 'Utopian Methodology: Addressing Multiple Timescales in Educational Intervention Research'. For Rajala, in

particular, utopian methodologies involve designing and implementing innovative institutional changes as incremental progress towards achieving long-term utopian objectives., in his case with social and ecological crises. These methodologies aim to help individuals, communities, and societies imagine and work towards sustainable futures by fostering critical thinking and promoting alternative perspectives within educational settings.

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## Doctoral students from across Europe presented in Belgrade..

Before the International Society for Theoretical Psychology conference., hosted by the University of Belgrade, doctoral students from across Europe presented their thesis work in a preparatory manner. Summaries of these works are presented for those who were unable to attend.

**Louis Joe Kernahan**  
University of Neuchâtel,  
Switzerland

Psychology in the Field: Sociocultural Psychological Exploration in a Museal Context

The history of museums is varied and mutually constitutive of the public they serve. Modern research within the museum increasingly uses social science to ameliorate their methodological and theoretical praxis. I presented the potential contribution that sociocultural psychology may

hold for museum practice and theory (museology). For example, this included an exploration of ethnographic, narrative interview, as well as archival data that may hold the key understanding how museum work, preserving the past, and in the case of the United Kingdom's Science Museum Group, inspiring futures can be treated as 'World-Making'.

**Anna Louise Zneg Malfilâtre**  
University of Copenhagen,  
Denmark

Brutal Honesty in Everyday Lifer: Introducing A New Conceptual Framework

Honesty is not always easy or comfortable. Sometimes it is even unwelcome or frowned upon. Such is the case with brutal honesty, a phenomenon prevalent in both public or personal spheres, yet one which

we know very little empirically. At the previous network meeting, I presented work exploring the subjective meanings, interpretations, and experiences of brutal honesty across five continents. Although perceptions of brutal honesty can, at its core, be described as the expression of honesty that breaches social and personal norms or causes conflict and discomfort in various ways.

**Maeva Perrin**  
University of Geneva,  
Switzerland

Exploring Societal Crisis through Diaries: Unveiling Meaning-Making and Development Across the Life-Course

This presentation explored the value of analysing diaries to study people's experiences of crisis and related developmental dynamics.

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Diaries written for more than 20 years enable us to take a processual view of crises, analyse how things come to be transformed, and capture the many twists and turns. The research focuses on people's experiences and development over time, aiming to explore the impact of crisis according to people's trajectories and circumstances while examining how people make sense of societal crises. Writing functions were discussed, arguing that personal writing can entail developmental dynamics during times of crisis.

**Agnès Camincher**  
University of Neuchâtel,  
Switzerland

## Subjectivity and eroticism: micro-change and meaning-making

In the history of psychology, the relationship between subjectivity and sexual desire (eroticism) has been established in some detail, from a variety of perspectives, given the complexity of the topic. However, the processes of change involved in making sense of sexual desire remain partly unknown, even though they are at the heart of contemporary questions. This research aims above all to offer a precise and substantiated discourse on the psychic dimensions of sexual desire, a discourse that is missing in dedicated institutions.

More concretely, then, it is a question of highlighting the psychic structure of the events of subjectivity in the discourse of sexual desire, and to see how they are articulated within intersubjectivity itself. We begin with an historical and theoretical milestone on the subject of sexual desire. This is qualitative research, based on the accounts of sexology patients with a request directly or indirectly related to the question of sexual desire. Only the passages concerning signification are transcribed and analyzed using the dialogical method. It will then become clear that the advent of erotic subjectivity is a complex process, involving temporality, micro-events and changes, where the levels of intersubjectivity are decisive

**Paula Ahola**  
University of Helsinki, Finland

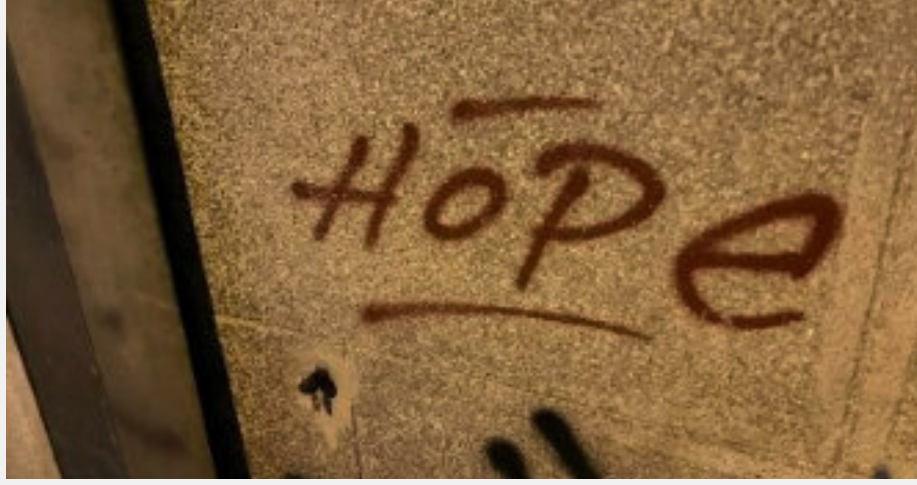
## Climate active youth as world-historical agents of change

The focus of my presentation was on the current young generation of climate activists as unique world-historical agents of change. For the youth, by awakening to and acting on the ecological crisis as "the end of the world as we know it", a historical task of the present is being taken - and by taking on the task, the youth become world-historical agents. In the presentation, nexus, the process of a mutual self-and-world-co/realization was discussed with some accounts from the interview data of the research

**Flora Botelho**  
University of Copenhagen,  
Denmark

## Is Equality Fundamentally Unattainable? An Investigation of the Limits, Implications and Effects of Egalitarianism.

The paper explores the practical and conceptual limits and implications of egalitarian ideology. It considers the persistence of inequality and discrimination within egalitarian societies, where racial and ethnic markers are systematic determinants of lowest socioeconomic positions, to reflect more broadly on universal equality as a concept, a value and a political and ideological trope that produces strong psychological and emotional identification and simultaneous exclusionary and discriminative social practices. The contention is that egalitarianism is inherently paradoxical insofar it is necessarily embedded in broader, global social hierarchies. Thus, the ideology becomes a mechanism whereby the superiority of white, Christian-secular, modern, democratic societies is asserted over other cultures and social groups. The argument is meant to inspire critical thinking and lead a productive discussion on how to conceptualise the multifaceted dynamics of egalitarianism and social inequality.



## Student Column

During the final session of the CuPsyNet meeting, non-presenting doctorants were invited to write a short column to be shared to the network. For this first edition of CuPZine.

**Magi Young**  
Open University, United Kingdom

Experiences, understandings, and expressions of hope in antiracist protest.

I am grateful to have shared my work with CUPSYNET colleagues in Copenhagen (2023) and Belgrade (2024 at ISTP). I am researching the Black Lives Matter protest in Bristol, UK on 7th June 2020 when the statue of a slave trader, Edward Colston, was toppled and thrown in the River Avon.

I use mixed methods (within a transdisciplinary sociocultural psychological framework) to explore experiences of Black and white co-researcher participants as told during walking interviews with protestors and as expressed through works of art from and after the protest. I am also analysing ethnographic

materials from the local community and the transcript of the trial of the four people charged with criminal damage to the statue. Input from historians, antiracist and community activists, educators, lawyers and artists is helping with psychological theorising and contextualisation (Trawalter 2022). I adopt an 'event centred' approach building on collective action scholarship and Power and colleagues' (2023) concepts of 'world making' and 'cascading consequences'. It was invaluable to discuss my critical reflexivity, (including concepts of 'whiteness' [DiAngelo 2011], 'decoloniality' [Malherbe et al. 2021], 'epistemic modesty' and a 'beginner's mind' [Teo 2023]), all of which are essential to my theorising as a white academic studying antiracism.

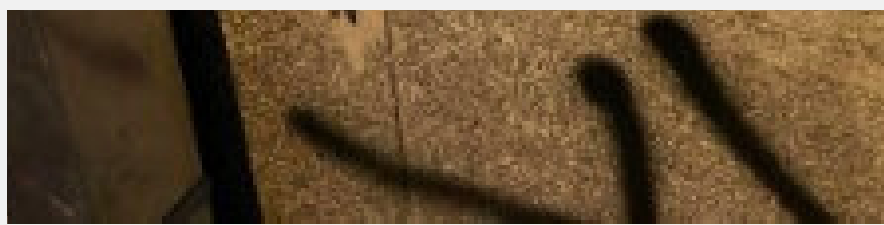
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# 21st CuPsyNet Meeting - Nicosia, Cyprus in November



The team at the University of Cyprus are looking forward to welcoming you all to the next CuPsyNet meeting, which will take place in Nicosia, Cyprus between the 22nd and 23rd of November, 2024. The meeting will be funded by the EASP Small Group Meeting Grant and will be open to CuPsyNet as well as to EASP members. We are excited for this collaboration as it will provide a unique opportunity for us to exchange ideas and foster new relationships.

The meeting will take place at the New Campus of the University of Cyprus on the Friday and at the Home for Cooperation on Saturday in Nicosia. The Home for Cooperation is one-of-a-kind building on the island, situated in the buffer zone between the two sides. Given its multi-communal element, it is a place where members of the two main communities as well as those other communities residing on the island can meet each other.

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Aligned with CuPsyNet's primary purpose, the event will focus on early-career researchers and PhD students who are in the process of conducting their research; offering them the opportunity to present and discuss their work, meet and connect with senior and junior researchers and participate in discussions regarding current issues in the field of social-cultural psychology.

If you are planning to attend the meeting, please fill out the following application form by 30th of September:  
<https://forms.gle/uQGAPgakkbVbwiCqZ>.

In the meantime, if you would like more information for the event, please contact: Elisavet Panagiotou: [epanag04@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:epanag04@ucy.ac.cy)



# Editorial

This first newsletter exists as a testament of the partnership of CuPsyNet student members across member universities. Not affiliated with a traditional publishing house, this independently distributed work exists as a 'Zine', hence CuPZine.

In the aim of keeping network members connected between meetings, the aim for this work is to facilitate working relationships across CuPsyNet and to allow for low-risk, non-academic collaborative opportunities.

With this, the following credits go to all those who allowed for the creation of the first edition of CuPZine to happen.

Editor: Louis Joe Kernahan  
Collaborator: Anna-Louise Zheng Malfilâtre  
Columns and their images: Magi Young (Page 4) Elisavet Panagiotou (Page 5)  
Other photos: Canva and Louis Joe Kernahan

# Contacts

For more information about the network please contact us at [doctoral.network@gmail.com](mailto:doctoral.network@gmail.com)

For more information regarding the next meeting please contact Elisavet Panagiotou at [epanag04@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:epanag04@ucy.ac.cy)

To get involved in the next newsletter, to be distributed after the 21st meeting, please contact Louis Joe Kernahan at [louis.kernahan@unine.ch](mailto:louis.kernahan@unine.ch)

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Cultural Psychology Network

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Université de Neuchâtel

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