

# R.D. Laing

## IN THE 21ST CENTURY

July 19-24, 2015

ESALEN INSTITUTE  
Big Sur, CA

### SYMPOSIUM SPONSOR

Sponsored & Organized by  
Free Association, Inc.

### SPEAKERS

- Beatrice Birch
- Susan Budnick
- Fritjof Capra, Ph.D.
- Michael Cornwall, Ph.D.
- Nita Gage
- Steven Gans, Ph.D.
- Will Hall
- Edie Irwin
- Yana Jacobs, LMFT
- Douglas Kirsner, Ph.D.
- Chuck Knapp
- Daniel Mackler, LCSW
- Matthew Morrissey, LMFT
- Steve Sorkin, PhD
- William Stranger
- Michael Guy Thompson, Ph.D.
- Stephen Ticktin, M.D.
- Scott Von, M.D.
- Robert Whitaker

### FOR INFORMATION OR INQUIRIES

Michael Guy Thompson, Ph.D.  
michaelguythompson@mac.com

## What is Sanity? What is Madness?

### A FIVE-DAY SYMPOSIUM & WORKSHOP



R. D. LAING wore many robes in his career, including psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, philosopher, social critic, author, poet, and mystic, and at the peak of his fame and popularity in the 1970s he was the most widely-read psychiatrist in the world.

Arguably the most controversial psychoanalyst since Freud, Laing's meteoric rise in the 1960s was the result of his rare ability to make complex ideas accessible with such best-selling classics as *The Divided Self* (1960), *Sanity, Madness and Family* (1964), *The Politics of Experience* (1967), *Knots* (1970), and many others. Laing's impassioned plea for a more humane treatment of those in society who are most vulnerable catapulted him into the vanguard of intellectual and cultural debate about the nature of sanity and madness, and inspired a generation of psychology students, intellectuals, and artists to turn this disarming Scotsman into a social icon.

Now, in this unprecedented event, Laing's former students and colleagues from around the world, including Fritjof Capra, Douglas Kirsner, Michael Guy Thompson, Steve Gans, Nita Gage, and others, will meet for five days at Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California, to explore one of Laing's most ardent questions: *What is Sanity? What is Madness?* Joining us at this historic event are some of the leading lights in the burgeoning Alternatives to Psychiatry Movement, including Robert Whitaker, Will Hall, Daniel Mackler, Michael Cornwall, and others, to further our concerted efforts to bring alternatives to the contemporary, often abusive psychiatric treatment for those in extreme mental and emotional distress.

#### Among the questions we will explore:

1. If we encounter someone who appears to be crazy and suffering beyond his or her ability to cope, how can we help that person become less crazed, but in a manner that doesn't violate their fundamental right of possession of body and mind?
2. Are each of us, perhaps, a bit crazy, and to the degree that we are, how have we managed to contain or channel our craziness into acceptable, perhaps productive, even creative endeavors?
3. How can we work together to create places of sanctuary, like Kingsley Hall, Soteria House, or Diabasis, for those in society who are no longer able to hold it together, and who need the time and the help to pull it together?
4. How might revisioning conventional notions about sanity and madness help our society to better grasp this ongoing tragedy and inspire more support, both private and public, to alleviate this problem?

Join us for five days at breathtaking Esalen Institute on the Pacific Coast to explore how we can promote more humane and effective ways of helping those suffering from extreme states.

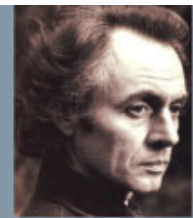
—Michael Guy Thompson

FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REGISTER ON ESALEN'S WEBSITE, PLEASE VISIT

<http://www.esalen.org/workshop/week-july-19-24/rd-laing-twenty-first-century-what-sanity-what-madness>



# R.D. Laing in the 21st Century



## What Is Sanity? What Is Madness?

Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California • July 19 – 24, 2015

Symposium Workshop Co-organizers: Nita Gage • Steven Gans, PhD • Michael Guy Thompson, PhD

### SUNDAY – JULY 19

8:30 -10:00 pm

**Michael Guy Thompson, PhD, Fritjof Capra, PhD, Steve Sorkin, Nita Gage, Steven Gans, PhD**

*Welcome, Let's Get Acquainted!*

We will spend this initial, breaking-in meeting to introduce ourselves to each other and give a brief idea of what our five days together will be like. We will begin with introducing the five principal organizers of our Workshop to you, then the faculty, guest faculty, and panelists, and finally a chance for everyone attending this special week to introduce yourselves and what you are hoping to gain from this experience.

### MONDAY – JULY 20

9:30 -10:20 am

**Michael Guy Thompson, PhD, Fritjof Capra, PhD, Steve Sorkin, Nita Gage, Steven Gans, PhD**

*Introduction to Sanity and Madness*

Michael Guy Thompson, the principal organizer, and his four cohorts will begin the first day of our Program with a brief review of why we conceived this Workshop and what we hope to accomplish. They will also review the week that has been planned for you, including the special screening of the 1972 feature film documentary, ASYLUM, about Laing's conception of Kingsley Hall.

10:30 – 11:30

**Will Hall** (moderated by Michael Cornwall)

*The Legacy of R. D. Laing and the Future of the Psychiatric Survivor Movement*

Will Hall will begin the day by reviewing Laing's critique of normalized violence in the treatment of those suffering from extreme states and the recent historical changes that have helped facilitate the emergence of the International Psychiatric Survivor movement today, and what lies ahead in this ground-breaking alternative phenomenon.

11:30 – 12:30

**Daniel Mackler, LCSW** (moderated by Matthew Morrissey)

*The Mental Health Professional as a Person First, Professional Second*

Drawing from his documentary films about alternative treatments for those in extreme states, Daniel will explore the implications of the mental health professional as a person first, a professional second, and what is happening in the international Alternative to Psychiatry movement today, both pros and con, including the role that both mental health professionals and non-professionals play in expanding this movement.

12:30 – 3:30

**Lunch Break and Free Time**

*Lunch at the Dining Hall, enjoy the rest of the break to relax and smell the ocean. Please return to the afternoon portion of today's program promptly at 3:30.*

3:30 – 4:30

**Fritjof Capra, PhD (moderated by Michael Guy Thompson)**

*Sanity and the State of the World*

One of Laing's more controversial questions he loved to ask was: which is crazier, the madman or the world we live in? Fritjof Capra, the renowned best-selling author and scientist, will take up this theme and how things look to him some twenty-five years after Laing's death.

4:30 – 6:30

**Robert Whitaker, Daniel Mackler, Will Hall, Yana Jacobs, Matthew Morrissey, Michael Cornwall (Panel Discussion)**

(moderated by Michael Cornwall)

*Contemporary Alternatives to Psychiatry in the United States*

The renowned author and journalist, Robert Whitaker will start the ball rolling in this free-wheeling panel discussion of what is going on in the United States by way of alternatives to conventional psychiatry, and what instigated the Psychiatric Survivor movement. Moderated by Michael Cornwall.

6:30 – 7:30

**Dinner in the Esalen Dining Hall.**

*Please return for the screening of ASYLUM at promptly at 8:00 pm!*

8:00 – 9:30

**Film Presentation & Discussion: ASYLUM (1972)**

In 1971, Canadian filmmaker Peter Robinson and a small crew entered a world of anarchic madness and healing compassion unlike any other. ASYLUM records their seven-week stay in R. D. Laing's controversial Archway Community, the first post-Kingsley Hall community, a London row-house where the inmates literally run the asylum, and where distinctions between therapists and patients are melted away in the nitty-gritty of living together.

Of the film itself, Laing said: "ASYLUM is the only thing we have in film that shows what we think works for, well, for people who feel that society is destroying them."

The film presentation will be introduced and followed by a discussion, led by Nita Gage, Steve Gans, Michael Thompson – all of whom lived at Portland Road, another post-Kingsley Hall house in London – and Haya Oakley, one of the therapists who was involved with the Archway Community shortly after this film was made.

## TUESDAY – JULY 21

9:30 – 10:30 am

### **Michael Guy Thompson, PhD**

*Sanity and Friendship* (moderated by Steve Gans)

Following last night's film event about the Archway Community, Michael Thompson will recount some of his experiences at another post-Kingsley Hall household, Portland Road, where he lived for four years while training as a psychoanalyst. He will talk about the philosophy adopted by Hugh Crawford, the psychiatrist in charge of the house, and what set it apart from most "therapeutic communities," including Crawford's conception of dwelling and the special role of friendship in this endeavor.

10:30 – 12:30

### **Michael Guy Thompson, Steve Gans, Nita Gage, Edie Irwin, Susan Budnick, Steve Ticktin, Rita Gayford** (Panel Discussion)

(moderated by Michael Guy Thompson)

*Kingsley Hall and Other Philadelphia Association Houses in Great Britain*

All of the panelists lived in one or more of the houses set up by Laing's organization after the closure of Kingsley Hall. The discussion will revolve around the reason why Kingsley Hall was established by Laing and his colleagues, its pros and cons, and how subsequent houses were established, all with the same purpose, but each unique in the people who lived there and the therapists responsible for setting them up. One of the panelists currently lives in one of the Philadelphia Association houses today.

12:30 – 3:30

### **Lunch Break and Free Time**

*Lunch at the Dining Hall, enjoy the rest of the break to relax and smell the ocean. Please return to the afternoon portion of today's program promptly at 3:30.*

3:30 – 4:30

### **Robert Whitaker** (moderated by Steve Gans)

*The History and Societal Conceptions of Insanity*

Societies have long struggled to draw a line between the sane and insane, and what history reveals is that there is always a cultural context to the drawing of such boundaries. Robert Whitaker, the best-selling author of *Mad in America* and acknowledged leader of the Psychiatric Survivor movement, will recount what he has learned over the past number of years researching this topic.

4:30 – 6:30

### **Beatrice Birch, Michael Cornwall, Nita Gage, Edie Irwin, Yana Jacobs, Chuck Knapp, Matthew Morrissey, Michael Guy Thompson**

*Post-Kingsley Hall, Alternative Houses in the United States*

(moderated by Matthew Morrissey)

All the panelists either lived in, worked at, or ran one of the households set up in the United States modeled on or inspired by Kingsley Hall, including Soteria (San Jose), Diabasis (San Francisco), I-Ward (Martinez), Burch House (New Hampshire), and Shadows (Marin County). Some of the panelists were involved with more than one of these alternative, "anti-treatment" milieus, in both Great Britain and the U.S. In this free-wheeling discussion, the panelists will compare their experiences that spanned a period of more than a decade, and discuss why the houses have all closed and why there are almost no such houses operating today. Some of the panelists are currently working on setting up such places, both on the East and West Coasts.

6:30 – 7:30

### **Dinner in the Esalen Dining Hall.**

7:30 – into the wee hours!

**FREE EVENING** – *Wine bar, hot tubs, conversation . . . relax, get to know each other, and connect!*

## WEDNESDAY – JULY 22

9:30 am– 12:30 pm

### **Nita Gage, Steven Gans, PhD, Michael Guy Thompson, PhD, and All the Workshop Participants!**

*All-Day Adult Playgroup Workshop – A Tribute to Laing's Famous Workshops from the 1970s.* (moderated by Nita Gage)

#### PART I: MORNING SESSION

Laing and his colleagues, including Francis Huxley, anthropologist, Hugh Crawford, existential psychiatrist, and others taught from an embodied perspective. Seminars were interwoven into group-connecting exercises. These included experiences of shamanic journey, yoga, meditation, rebirthing and other activities intended to achieve psycho-spiritual awareness, emotional intelligence, and embodied knowing.

In the tradition of Laing's work on embodied and psycho-spiritual awareness we will spend the day having fun, participating in energetic interactions through heart-based meditation, trance dance, mandala art process, guided visualization, and postmodern shamanic journeying. Small and large group sharing will deepen our personal awareness of our own duality of light and dark, sanity and madness, and bring wholeness through integration. Loose clothing advised.

Steve "The Dude" Ticktin will begin the morning session with song and amusement.

12:30 – 3:30

### **Lunch Break and Free Time**

*Lunch at the Dining Hall, enjoy the rest of the break to relax and smell the ocean. Please return to the afternoon portion of today's program promptly at 3:30.*

3:30 – 6:30

### **Nita Gage, Steven Gans, PhD, Michael Guy Thompson, PhD, and All the Workshop Participants!**

*All-Day Adult Playgroup Workshop* (moderated by Nita Gage)

#### PART II: AFTERNOON SESSION

We will continue with Part II of our All-Day Playgroup Workshop. Loose clothing advised.

Steve "The Dude" Ticktin will begin the afternoon session with song and amusement.

6:30 – 7:30

### **Dinner in the Esalen Dining Hall.**

8:00 – 10:00

### **Fritjof Capra, PhD**

*A Conversation With R. D. Laing in Zaragoza, Spain on Spirituality, Science and Experience* (moderated by Steve Gans)

Fritjof Capra, the renowned authority on the interface between spirituality and science, will share a riveting experience he enjoyed in 1980 at a conference in Zaragoza, Spain which both he and Laing attended. He will review how the new discipline of neurophenomenology is taking the first steps toward formulating the science of experience postulated by Laing in his book, *The Voice of Experience*.

This special event is reserved by Esalen for all attendees of the Workshops convening this week, and is open to everyone. It is not part of our scripted 26 hours of Program time, as it is open to the entire Esalen community and conceived as an opportunity for the participants in the various Workshops to meet everyone else who is residing at Esalen this week. Attendance is not compulsory, but you are strongly encouraged to join in and participate in this special event.

# Sanity? Madness?

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ESALEN INSTITUTE & FREE ASSOCIATION, INC.

For more information and inquiries, contact Michael Guy Thompson, PhD: michaelguythompson@mac.com

## THURSDAY – JULY 23

9:30 – 10:30 am

### **Douglas Kirsner, PhD**

*What Is Sanity, Liberty, Freedom?*

(moderated by Michael Guy Thompson)

After a day of letting it all hang out with experiential dream space activities, Doug Kirsner, the Australian philosopher, will turn to the question, what sanity is and how it is related to liberty and freedom? Among the topics he will mull over and invite us to talk about are how Laing viewed freedom and the importance this concept played in his conception of Kingsley Hall. What role did John Stewart Mill's conception of liberty play in Laing's thinking? Was Laing, like Szasz, influenced by a Libertarian conception of freedom, epitomized by the default act of leaving people alone if they wish to be left alone, within constraints that are as tolerant as possible, while valuing diversity over conformity to an unprecedented degree? Kirsner lived in Portland Road for several months during a visit to London in order to meet Laing, an experience that significantly informs his views on these matters.

10:30 - 12:30

### **Fritjof Capra, PhD, William Stranger, Scott Von, MD, Edie Irwin, Nita Gage, Chuck Knapp (Panel Presentation)**

*Spirituality and Sanity: Exploring the Lived Reality of Compassion, Neuroscience, and Notions of Divinity* (moderated by Steve Sorkin)

#### PART I: MORNING SESSION

Compassion is the foundation of embodied and practical spirituality. We will spend the day exploring spirituality from the lenses of science and physics, spiritual practices, holistic healing, and lived experiences, highlighting their application to being with people in extreme states. This day is intended to bring the week together for us in, spirit, mind, body, sanity.

The panelists will take turns sharing the ways they have each incorporated their respective spiritual beliefs into the practical situations of their work milieus, and open a discussion with workshop participants.

12:30 – 3:30

#### **Lunch Break and Free Time**

*Lunch at the Dining Hall, enjoy the rest of the break to relax and smell the ocean. Please return to the afternoon portion of today's program promptly at 3:30.*

3:30 - 5:30

### **Fritjof Capra, PhD, William Stranger, Scott Von, MD, Edie Irwin, Nita Gage, Chuck Knapp (Panel Presentation)**

*Spirituality and Sanity: Exploring the Lived Reality of Compassion, Neuroscience, and Notions of Divinity* (moderated by Bill Stranger)

#### PART II: AFTERNOON SESSION

In Part II of our panel on SPIRITUALITY AND SANITY the panelists will invite the Workshop participants to join them in continuing the conversation that was opened in the morning session, with a view to facilitating a group discussion on our personal views about the role of spirituality in madness, sanity, our efforts at transformation, and our everyday lives.

5:30-6:30

### **Chuck Knapp**

*Windhorse: Creating Mindful Therapeutic Environments*

(moderated by Michael Guy Thompson)

Based on Buddhist and Shambhala principles of creating environments of sanity, the Windhorse team approach is organized around four fundamental principles:

1) We are all fundamentally sane, 2) We are inseparable from our environments, 3) Recovery is the path of recognizing and synchronizing with our sanity, and 4) No matter how confused a mind has become, recovery is possible. Woven throughout these basic principles is the lived reality that each Windhorse clinician is on his or her own personal journey of recovery, not just in life, but as a member of each team's process. Chuck Knapp will include clinical examples in order to convey the unique path and dynamics within these whole person recovery environments, which along with the client and clinicians, includes the family whenever possible.

6:30 – 7:30

#### **Dinner in the Esalen Dining Hall.**

7:30 – into the wee hours!

**FREE EVENING** – *Wine bar, hot tubs, conversation . . . relax, get to know each other, and connect!*

## FRIDAY – JULY 24

10:00 -12:00 noon

### **Michael Guy Thompson, PhD, Fritjof Capra, PhD, Steve Sorkin, PhD, Nita Gage, Steven Gans, PhD**

*Closing Comments and Audience Discussion!*

We want to spend this last block of time together to review our five days at Esalen and what it has meant to you! How can we stay in touch and help make the connections we made with one another this week endure?

We also want to look ahead to next year, when we hope to host another five-day experience of R. D. Laing in the Twenty-First Century, and make this an on-going, annual event that you will want to participate in regularly.

Looking forward, what are some of the themes you would like us to address next year? Are there specific speakers you would like us to invite? How can we make next year's experience even better than this week's?

*Don't forget: check-out is 12:00 noon. This means your room has to be vacated before we begin our 10:00 am Friday morning session!*

*Make sure you are ready if you have booked a return shuttle to the airport.*

**Good-Bye!**

**Beatrice Birch** is the founder of Inner Fire Inc. a not for profit, proactive healing community offering a choice for people to recover from debilitating and traumatic life challenges without the use of psychotropic medications. She worked for over thirty years as a Hauschka Artistic therapist in integrative clinics and inspiring initiatives in the UK, Holland and the USA where the whole human being of body, soul and spirit was recognized and respected in their healing process. She has lectured and taught as far afield as Taiwan. Her passionate belief in both the creative spirit within everyone and the importance of choice, along with her love and interest in the human being has taken her also into prisons where she has volunteered for many years offering soul support through the Alternatives to Violence Project work, writing workshops and watercolor painting. Plans are to start building the home of Inner Fire, in Brookline, Vermont in the near future. For more information: [Beatrice@innerfire.us](mailto:Beatrice@innerfire.us)/[www.innerfire.us](http://www.innerfire.us)

**Susan Budnick**, born in Montreal Canada, trained at the Arbours Association in London, England, an offshoot of Kingsley Hall that was founded by two psychiatrists who worked closely with Laing, Joe Berke and Morty Schatzman. She is the author of several papers including, "A Mad Tea Party", which reflects some of her experiences in Arbours. Susan is currently collaborating on a paper with French psychiatrist, Dr. Michel Mennesson entitled, "Freeing the Mind," in which their mutual patient recounts her experience emerging from a psychotic breakdown. Susan is a regular contributor to the Connecticut Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology's newsletter and recently chaired a series of conferences with Dr. Virginia Goldner, Susie Orbach, and Jackie Gerrard. She lives in Litchfield, CT where she is a Licensed Psychoanalyst.

**Fritjof Capra, PhD**, is a physicist and systems theorist, a founding director of the Center for Eco-literacy in Berkeley, CA, and on the faculty of the Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Capra is the author of several international bestsellers, including *The Tao of Physics* (1975), *The Web of Life* (1996), *The Hidden Connections* (2002), and *The Science of Leonardo* (2007). He is currently working on a multidisciplinary textbook, *The Systems View of Life*, coauthored with Pier Luigi Luisi, to be published by Cambridge University Press. He lives in Berkeley, CA.

**Michael Cornwall, PhD, LMFT** has done therapy with people in extreme states since 1980 in medication-free sanctuaries and community settings. He completed his doctoral research on the Jungian sanctuary, *Diabasis*, and leads Esalen workshops and conferences on extreme states. He writes blogs on [www.madinamerica.com](http://www.madinamerica.com).

**Nita Gage, DSPS**, trained with R.D. Laing and his associates at the Philadelphia Association from 1974-1980. She left London and returned to America in 1980 and pursued post-graduate education in psychology and psycho-spiritual studies. She trained and studied with shamanic teachers and specializes in integrative psycho spiritual healing. Nita is co-founder of the NeuroImaginal™ Institute, [www.neuroimaginalinstitute.com](http://www.neuroimaginalinstitute.com); Director of Healer Within Retreats, [www.healerwithintreatments.com](http://www.healerwithintreatments.com), teaching medical and addiction professionals NeuroImaginal Practices for health and well being. She is the author of *The Women in Storage Club, How to Reimagine Your Life*, a book that addresses self-awareness and resiliency through NeuroImaginal practices. She lives in Cambridge, England and Marin County, CA.

**Steven Gans, PhD**, is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the American Public University and is in private psychotherapy practice at the Center for Relational Psychotherapy in Phoenix, AZ. He worked closely with Laing for many years at the Philadelphia Association and taught in the psychotherapy training program. Dr. Gans is the co-author, with Leon Redler, of *Just Listening: Ethics and Therapy* (2001). He lives in Scottsdale, AZ.

**Will Hall, MA, Dipl.PW**, works as a therapist, teacher and community development organizer, including Freedom Center, Portland Hearing Voices, The Icarus Project, Madness Radio, the Harm Reduction Guide to Coming off Psychiatric Drugs (translated into 10 languages), Valley Free Radio, 2 year certification in Open Dialogue with Mary Olson, Jaakko Seikkula and colleagues, more than 12 years of support group facilitation, and a private practice with individuals and families. A meditator and yoga practitioner, Will lives with altered states of consciousness, and since his teens has also been a social movement activist, including a staff person at the Resource Center for Nonviolence and the Earth Island Institute.

**Eddie Irwin**, co-editor of Akong Tulku Rinpoche's *Taming the Tiger* (Rider) and is the author of *Healing Relaxation* (Rider); both are available online. Eddie studied with R. D. Laing in India and London in the 1970s and since 1980 has worked under the guidance of Akong Tulku Rinpoche. She is currently a member of the Tara Rokpa Therapy Training faculty and practices psychotherapy in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Yana Jacobs, LMFT** is currently a Senior Program officer at the Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care, [www.mentalhealthexcellence.org](http://www.mentalhealthexcellence.org) a private community foundation with a mission to bring alternatives into the mainstream public and private sectors. She began her work at Soteria House as a staff member in the mid 70's, mentored by Loren Mosher, MD. Soteria House became her foundation as she moved into other areas of employment within the mental health field. Yana spent over 30 years working both in private practice as a therapist and in the public sector at Santa Cruz County Mental Health in California. She first worked with their crisis team and later became the Chief of Adult Outpatient/Recovery services. As an ally to people with lived experience she implemented a Peer-Run Respite House, funded by a SAMHSA Transformation Grant. Yana believes we must work both as an activist on the outside and with our allies on the inside if we are going to bring about real change.

**Douglas Kirsner, PhD**, holds a Chair in Philosophy and Psychoanalytic Studies at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. He is the author of *The Schizoid World of Jean-Paul Sartre* and R. D. Laing (2003), and *Unfree Associations: Inside Psychoanalytic Institutes* (2009). He lived in one of the post-Kingsley Hall, Philadelphia Association households during the 1970s and has retained a special

research interest in Laing's work. His 1980 interview with Laing has recently been published in *The Psychoanalytic Review* (April, 2013). He lives in Melbourne.

**Chuck Knapp, MA**, was a student of Chogyam Trungpa and a graduate of Naropa University, and worked closely with Ed Podvoll, founder of Windhorse, for many years. He was a founding member and Director of Friendship House, a residential treatment home for people suffering extreme states, and co-founded Windhorse Community Services in Boulder, Colorado, where he now serves as a Co-Director. He has published extensively on his work at Windhorse and has a special interest in exploring mindfulness-based therapeutic environments for both individual and social wellbeing.

**Daniel Mackler, LCSW** is the director of four documentary films on recovery from psychosis and schizophrenia without medication, including *Open Dialogue* and *Take These Broken Wings*. Three of his films have been subtitled in upwards of twenty languages and have been screened worldwide. He is also the co-author of two books: *A Way Out of Madness: Dealing with Your Family After You Have Been Diagnosed with a Psychiatric Disorder* (co-written with Matthew Morrissey, published by IPS-US, 2010) and *Beyond Medication: Therapeutic Engagement and the Recovery from Psychosis* (Routledge, 2008). Prior to becoming a filmmaker, Daniel was a psychotherapist in New York City for ten years.

**Matthew Morrissey, LMFT**, is a psychotherapist in private practice in San Francisco. He is the co-author and co-editor of *A Way Out of Madness: Dealing with Your Family After You've Been Diagnosed with a Psychiatric Disorder*. Matthew interned for two years at Burch House, a therapeutic community in New Hampshire modeled after PA households in London.

**Steve Sorkin, PhD** was actively involved with R. D. Laing and the Philadelphia Association for several years in the 1970s and continues to remain an associate member there. Dr. Sorkin is a licensed clinical psychologist and has provided clinical services in traditional and alternative settings. He has held faculty positions at George Washington University and the American School of Professional Psychology and a variety of administrative roles, including President of Argosy University/Washington, DC, Dean of The Chicago School of Professional Psychology/Washington, DC, and Associate Executive Director of the American Psychological Association. He consults to graduate education institutions and serves on several boards, including the Executive Committee of the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis at George Washington University, and Free Association, Inc., in San Francisco.

**William Stranger** is the founder and editor of DharmaCafé Books and [www.dharmacafe.com](http://www.dharmacafe.com), an online magazine. He is also the co-founder of the Calistoga Institute, a California based policy institute dedicated to fostering optimal well-being, cultural regeneration, and inherent unity in the Napa Valley community. A disciple of Adi Da Samraj since 1973, William's background in the history of consciousness, classical spirituality, transpersonal psychology, and post-Cartesian political, scientific, artistic, cultural paradigms, along with his work as peace activist, lecturer, author, literary agent, and publisher, gives him a broad knowledge of today's nascent cultural renaissance.

**Michael Guy Thompson, PhD**, received his psychoanalytic training from R. D. Laing, with whom he was in supervision, and Hugh Crawford at the Philadelphia Association in London, and served as the organization's administrator from 1973 to 1980. He is Personal and Supervising Analyst and Faculty Member, Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California, San Francisco, and Adjunct Professor at the California School of Professional Psychology and the California Institute of Integral Studies, both in San Francisco. He is the author of more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, and reviews, as well as five books, *The Death of Desire: A Study in Psychopathology* (1985), *The Truth About Freud's Technique: The Encounter with the Real* (1994), and *The Ethic of Honesty: The Fundamental Rule of Psychoanalysis* (2004), *The Legacy of R. D. Laing: An Appraisal of His Contemporary Relevance* (2015), and the soon to be released, *The Death of Desire: An Existential Study in Sanity and Madness* (in press), a completely revised and expanded edition of his first book, published by Routledge. He lives in San Rafael, CA.

**Stephen Tickin, MD** is a Canadian psychiatrist and psychotherapist. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1973 and then spent a year in London, England, as personal assistant to David Cooper. He subsequently studied with the Philadelphia Association from 1978-1984. While in London he helped found the *British Network of Alternatives to Psychiatry* and the *Supportive Psychotherapy Association*. He has been a visiting lecturer at Regent's College School of Psychotherapy and Counseling and was also involved with the New School of Psychotherapy under the direction of Emmy van Deurzen. In 2004 he returned to his native Toronto where he currently lives and works as a GP-Psychotherapist. He is also an amusing story-teller and song writer.

**Scott Von, MD** is a physician, psychoanalyst and Director of the *New Clinic* ([newclinic.org](http://newclinic.org)) in New York where he has developed the practice of Integral Medicine & Psychiatry. He received a Doctorate of Medicine specializing in integrative medicine and psychiatry, and worked with R. D. Laing and Felix Guattari's anti-psychiatry circles while completing his PhD in Psychoanalysis at the University of London. He has taught on the faculty of NYU, CUNY, Pacific College, and Esalen Institute, and has written several books including the forthcoming *Schizoanalysis: Chaos & Complexity in Clinical Practice*, and *Orgonomy: Integral Medicine & Psychiatry*.

**Robert Whitaker** is the author of four books, two of which tell of the history of psychiatry. His first, *Mad in America: Bad Science, Bad Medicine* and the *Enduring Mistreatment of the Mentally Ill* was named by *Discover* magazine as one of the best science books of 2002. His newest book on this topic, *Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America*, won the Investigative Reporters and Editors book award for best investigative journalism in 2010. Prior to writing books, he worked as the science and medical reporter at the *Albany Times Union* newspaper in New York for a number of years.

## REGISTRATION FOR THIS SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP

is handled exclusively through Esalen. In order to register for this Symposium Workshop please go to the link below, which takes you directly to the page on the Esalen catalog that will permit you to register. When you are ready to register, please follow these instructions:

**1. BECAUSE THIS WORKSHOP IS RESTRICTED, BEFORE YOU REGISTER YOU MUST OBTAIN A PASSWORD FROM MICHAEL GUY THOMPSON.** Email Michael at [michaelguythompson@mac.com](mailto:michaelguythompson@mac.com). He will provide you with the password by return email which will permit you to access the Esalen registration page.

If you have any other questions about registering or the Workshop, please contact Michael Guy Thompson at [michaelguythompson@mac.com](mailto:michaelguythompson@mac.com).

**2. ONCE YOU HAVE THE PASSWORD**, telephone Esalen at 888-837-2536, give them the password, then you will be able to register at the following link:

<http://www.esalen.org/workshop/week-july-19-24/rd-laing-twenty-first-century-what-sanity-what-madness>

## THINGS TO KNOW WHEN YOU ARE REGISTERING

FEES FOR REGISTRATION INCLUDE accommodation and meals, all-inclusive. The rate per person varies from \$650 to \$3,500 for a five-day workshop, depending on the choice of accommodation. The most popular option is \$1,215, the "Shared Standard" arrangement by which you share a room with one or two people. If you choose this option another person attending the Laing Symposium Workshop will be assigned to your room randomly. If you have a friend who is also attending this Workshop with whom you would like to share the room let Esalen know.

If you have any questions about the various accommodations contact Esalen directly at: 888-837-2536. If you are calling from outside the United States call: +1 703-342-0500.

## ESALEN RATES ARE ALL-INCLUSIVE

All listed rates include:

- Workshop tuition
- Accommodations and meals
- Fresh produce from the Esalen Garden
- Vegan and vegetarian options for all meals
- Coffee, tea, and bread bar open 24/7
- 24-hour use of hot spring bath facilities, Arts Center (except when a workshop is scheduled), Meditation Round House, and the entire Esalen grounds
- Participation in scheduled daily classes such as yoga, dance, meditation, art, and special events
- One-year subscription to the Esalen catalog

## TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORTS TO ESALEN

**Ridesharing:** Esalen encourages ridesharing to reduce the number of cars on the road and at Esalen. See the reservation form online at [www.esalen.org](http://www.esalen.org) for ridesharing options, or tell your reservationist you are interested.

## Van Shuttle Service Prices from airports to Esalen:

Visit Visit: [www.esalen.org/page/start-your-esalen-journey-shuttle](http://www.esalen.org/page/start-your-esalen-journey-shuttle) for more information about the Van Shuttle Service.

- \$60 from Monterey Peninsula Airport (MRY)
- \$100 from San Jose International Airport (SJC)
- \$120 from San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

Prices listed include round-trip transportation and are payable upon arrival to Esalen. No discount applies if return trip is unused. Return service must be confirmed with the Esalen office at least 48 hours prior to departure.

## Schedule:

Van service to Esalen is offered on Friday and Sunday afternoons, coinciding with our workshop schedules.

Depart SFO: 12:00 pm / Depart SJC: 12:45 / Depart MRY: 2:45 / Arrive at Esalen: 4:00

Depart Esalen: 4:30 pm / Arrive MRY: 5:45 / Arrive SJC: 7:45 / Arrive SFO: 8:30 pm

## Shuttle Pick-Up Locations:

- SFO: Courtyard #4 near the DOMESTIC UNITED AIRLINES Baggage Claim area.
- SJC: Outside Terminal B in Lot 5.
- MRY: Outside of Baggage Claim area.

## Making or Canceling a Reservation:

Reservations for the van shuttle service can be made when booking a workshop reservation online, or on the phone with the Esalen Reservations staff at least 48 hours before the departure date. Return service must be confirmed with the Esalen office at least 48 hours prior to departure.

Although there is no charge for cancelling a shuttle reservation, we ask that you provide at least 48 hours notice.

If you have any questions about the van schedule to and from the airport you are using contact Esalen at: 888-837-2536. If you are calling from outside the United States please call: +1 703-342-0500.