

Therapeutic Spaces Behind Bars: Eco-supportive Prisons & Forensic Psychiatric Wards



Images: Alberto Urrutia-Moldes, Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola, CNN

Monday 26th - Tuesday 27th February 2024

The Royal Society, London

In affiliation with:



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Conference Summary

This conference will gather scholars from social, health and built environment sciences to discuss for the first time the biopsychosocial dynamics of prisons and forensic psychiatric institutions, through people-centred, trans-disciplinary perspectives. The environment of closed secure spaces contributes to physical and mental health outcomes. We aim at generating evidence-based insights on spaces meant to contain dangerousness, concerning end-users' health and well-being. We will explore the more developed field of prisons and lay the foundations for the un-researched area of forensic built environments. We will investigate positive/negative effects of those places on people's health and their potential to reduce stigma through eco-psychosocial interventions. In two days, experts will debate existing evidence on health and wellbeing. Delegates will participate in co-production workshops on therapeutic secure spaces with experts in co-creative methods. A working group will be generated to outline and establish the field and take things forward, aiming to produce future guidelines.

Conference Convenors

- **Dr Evangelia Chrysikou**, The Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction, UCL
- **Dr Artemis Igoumenou**, Division of Psychiatry UCL
- **Dr Helen Brown Coverdale**, UCL School of Public Policy
- **Dr Alberto Urrutia-Moldes**, University of Westminster

Conference Programme

Day One: Monday 26th February, 09:00 – 17:00 (GMT)

Registration: 09:00 - 09:30am

Morning Session: Health & Wellbeing in Prisons (Part 1)

To provide up-to-date evidence-based knowledge on the effects of the natural and built environment on the promotion of health and well-being of people in prison facilities.

09:30 - 11:00

Day 1 introductory remarks from Dr Evangelia Chrysikou.

Chair:

Dr Alberto Urrutia-Moldes
University of Westminster

Presentations:

Dr Helen Brown Coverdale, University College London
'The case for care for patients and prisoners'

Prof Dominique Moran, University of Birmingham
'Carceral geography and the production of space'

Dr Alberto Urrutia-Moldes, University of Westminster, and **Helena Pombares**, Pick Everard
'Salutogenic design in prison environments'

Morning Session: Health & Wellbeing in Prisons (Part 2)

11:30 - 12:30

Prisons around the world: Sweden, the Middle East and Greece: Ethical aspects of isolation and segregation within total institutions

Chair:

Dr Artemis Igoumenou, University College London

Panel:

Prof Georgios Alevizopoulos, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Dr William Bülow O'Nils (remote), Uppsala University

Dr Hasanen Al-Taiar, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Lunch: 12:30 - 13:30

Tea & coffee: 11:00 – 11:30

Afternoon Session: Designing Prison Facilities for Health and Wellbeing

13:30 – 14:30

Applying knowledge from the morning session into design by following co-creation techniques.

Chair:

Dr Helen Brown Coverdale,
University College London

Speakers:

Dr Artemis Igoumenou,
University College London
'Interview with an ex-prisoner'

Dr Geraldine Brown, Coventry
University
'Oppositional knowledge' and 'counter narratives 'in prison research'

Tea & coffee: 14:30 – 14:45

Afternoon Session: Designing Prison Facilities for Health and Wellbeing (Workshop)

14:45 – 16:50

Dr Jonas Rehn, Darmstadt University of
Applied Sciences
'Participatory design, densities and overcrowding. Design for mental health'

Closing Remarks

16:50 – 17:00

Dr Alberto Urrutia-Moldes, University
of Westminster, and **Dr Helen Brown
Coverdale,** UCL

Day Two: Tuesday 27th February, 09:00-17:00 (GMT)

Registration: 09:00 – 09:30

Morning Session: Health & Wellbeing in Mental Health Facilities (Part 1)

To provide up-to-date evidence-based knowledge on the effects of the natural and built environment on the promotion of health and well-being of people in mental care facilities.

09:30 – 11:00

Day 2 introductory remarks from Dr Evangelia Chryssikou.

Chair:

Dr Artemis Igoumenou,
University College London

Presentations:

Dr Clarine van Oel, Delft University of Technology
'Environmental Psychology in healthcare complexes: the case study of the Netherlands'

Prof Nigel Blackwood, Kings College London
'Prisons as therapeutic environments'

Dr Evangelia Chryssikou, University College London
'Cross-country comparison of inpatient psychiatric premises'

Tea & coffee: 11:00 – 11:20

Morning Session: Health & Wellbeing in Mental Health Facilities (Part 2)

11:20 - 12:30

International cultural perspectives in forensic mental health hospitals from European, African and the Middle Eastern countries

Chair:

Dr Evangelia Chryssikou,
University College London

Panel:

Prof Georgios Alevizopoulos,
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Dr Eleni Palazidou, University of Nicosia
Medical School

Dr Hasanen Al-Taiar,
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Mary Davoren,
Trinity College Dublin

Sophie Verschuere, FPC Antwerp

Caroline Parker, University College London

Lunch: 12:30 – 13:20

Afternoon Session: Designing Healthcare Facilities for Health & Wellbeing (Part 1)

Applying knowledge from the morning session into design by following co-creation techniques.

13:20 – 14:50

Chairs:

Dr Artemis Igoumenou,
University College London

Dr Jonas Rehn, Darmstadt University
of Applied Sciences

Speakers:

Dr Callum Ross, Broadmoor Hospital,
and **David Norton**, West London NHS
Trust, *'Forensic smart hospitals from a
clinical perspective'*

Francis Murdock Pitts, Principal,
Architecture +
*'Case studies of North America Behavioral
health facilities'*

Prof Mardelle McCuskey, Cornell
University (**remote**) and **Dr Naomi
Sachs**, University of Maryland (**remote**)
*'Design of Mental and Behavioral Health
Facilities: Applications to Justice Facilities
in the US'*

Tea & Coffee Break: 14:50 – 15:10

Afternoon Session: Designing Healthcare Facilities for Health & Wellbeing (Part 2)

15:10 – 16:30

Speakers:

Abigail Anane-Forkuo and **Bibi Masala**,
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health
NHS Trust, **Dr Jane Biddulph**, University
College London, **Dr Evangelia Chrysikou**,
UCL, and **Dr Artemis Igoumenou**, UCL
'Homely secure psychiatric spaces'

Andrew Gibson, West London Mental Health
Trust
*'The building functionality of a high secure
hospital'*

Sara Boulter, North London Forensic Service,
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health
Trust, **Sarah Hill**, Barnet, Enfield and
Haringey Mental Health Trust, and **Dr Carolyn
Stanley**, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental
Health Trust
'Patients' perspectives of inpatient environment.'

Roland Karthaus, University of East London
'Well-being in prison design'

Discussion and Closing Remarks

16:30 – 17:00

Dr Evangelia Chrysikou, UCL, and **Dr
Artemis Igoumenou**, UCL

During the Conference:

Loukia Minetou, theatre designer and
researcher on storytelling and design for
vulnerable people, will draw sketches of the
atmosphere of the closed spaces described
in each presentation during the conference.
Her drawings will be exhibited as they
finish on panels on the conference venue for
delegates to reflect upon. That way, she will
create a visual narrative of the conference,
with her unique skills as a set designer to
translate narratives to visual
representations.