

Special Issue for Nordic Journal of Arts, Culture and Health

Beyond Psychotherapy: New Perspectives, Creative Interventions, and Methods for Researching and Evaluating Holistic Health

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When a person acquires an illness or lives with a chronic condition, it is not only a pathological matter, but involves existential and emotional dimensions as well. Moreover, living with an illness or disability can lead to social consequences and unforeseen secondary effects such as social isolation, loneliness, and lack of opportunity for inclusion in society. These secondary and tertiary affects, which in some cases extend to family members and informal caregivers as well, can be difficult to identify and even more difficult to address in health care systems where the disease or diagnosis remains the focus. As a result, persons and families with disabilities can find themselves in situations where they are unable to leave their home or participate meaningfully in a full and active life, (participating in the workforce, completing an education, and participating in meaningful social relations and interactions with the rest of society). Supporting persons with disabilities is not only about treating the disease or maintain physical and mental health, it is about supporting the entire individual in their environment. Interdisciplinary perspectives and creative interventions that support health and well-being should therefore be grounded in holistic approaches and supported by evidenced-based research.

Health is created and lived by people within the settings of their everyday life; where they learn, work, play and love. Health is created by caring for oneself and others, by being able to take decisions and have control over one's life circumstances, and by ensuring that the society one lives in creates conditions that allow the attainment of health by all its members (WHO, 1986). This is consistent with the biopsychosocial model of health, which considers physiological, psychological and social factors in health and illness, and interactions between these factors. However, the psychosocial aspect of the model has been neglected.

Creative psychosocial intervention includes a broad range of interventions, not only psychotherapy, but also such as music-, arts-, animal- assisted-therapy, etc.

Contributors are welcome to report evidence and to portray factors, processes, and theoretical models that could explain the mechanisms of change in new creative approaches in therapy, in a range of settings and populations. The present research topic will consider the following types of contributions:

- Original research articles with quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods designs.
- Empirical studies on therapy change processes and outcomes.
- Experiments and clinical trials.

- Assessment methods relevant to creative interventions within therapy
- Review and mini review articles (preferably systematic reviews) and meta-analysis.
- Theory-based clinical case studies and reports.
- General commentary, opinion, perspective, and theoretical articles.
- Methodological articles relevant to the creative psychosocial interventions.

Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Creative psychosocial approaches or interventions to persons living with a chronic condition or life-threatening illness.
- Creative psychosocial interventions with informal caregivers and family members
- The role of existential themes in rehabilitation e.g., hope, grief, identity, meaning-making, quality of life, profound loss, etc.
- Animal Assisted interventions to persons living with a chronic condition or life-threatening illness.
- Professional competences in a holistic approach to health.
- Creative psychosocial interventions to couples where one part is living with a serious illness.
- Reviews of holistic approaches to persons living with a disability or other life challenges.
- Empirical studies of creative psychosocial interventions in persons with a disability other life challenges.
- Cultural and arts-based approaches for persons with a disability or other life challenges.
- Critical disability studies
- Disablement

Abstract

Please submit your abstract to Stephan Skov stsk@ikp.aau.dk

Keywords: Rehabilitation Psychology, Interdisciplinary Research, Creative Art Therapies, Animal Assisted Interventions, Music Therapy, Dance Movement Therapy, Dramatherapy, Psychodrama, Effects studies

References

WHO (1986). *Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion*

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<https://www.idunn.no/journal/njach?languageld=2>

Timeline

Call for abstracts: October 1st 2022

Notification of accepted abstracts: November 1st 2022

1st manuscript draft: March 1st 2023

1st review deadline: June 1st 2023

2nd manuscript deadline: August 1st 2023

2nd review deadline: September 15th 2023

3rd manuscript deadline: November 1st 2023

3rd review deadline (if needed): December 1st 2023

4th manuscript deadline: January 1st 2024

Manuscripts ready: January 15th 2024

Publication date: April 1st 2024