Registration form
2-day Workshop on Relational Social Justice: Creative and Arts-Based Approaches to Civic Dialogue by Dr. Jordan Potash

Date: May 28-29, 2019 (Tue & Wed)
Time: 9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Venue: 2/F., 5 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong
Fee: 2-day Workshop – HK$2,600

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About the Trainer

Jordon S. Potash, PhD, ATR-BC, REAT, LCPAT (MD) LCAT (MD) is a registered, board certified, and licensed art therapist, as well as, registered expressive arts therapist (USA). He is Assistant Professor in the Art Therapy Graduate Program at The George Washington University in Washington, DC and Honorary Assistant Professor at Centre on Behavioral Health and Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong. Jordan has presented courses, as well as conference and community lectures and workshops on art and social justice in the U.S., Hong Kong, and Israel. He has also published several book chapters and articles on the topic. Jordan is the Editor-in-Chief of Art Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association and co-editor of Art Therapy in Asia: To the Bone or Wrapped in Silk (Jessica Kingsley). He is primarily interested in the applications of art and art therapy in the service of community development and social change, with an emphasis on reducing stigma, confronting discrimination and promoting cross-cultural relationships. For more information, view podcasts of past lectures, or to view his portfolio, please visit www.jordanpotash.com.
In order to begin resolving social splits that occur in politically charged times, it is necessary to find alternative ways to engage conflict, resistance, and reconciliation. Yet, when encountering threats to social justice, reactions are often reduced to either compliance with or withdrawal from opponents. These false binaries negate the range of strategies available to activists based on contextual factors and choices. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a U.S. civil rights activist in the 1960s, advised searching for strategies that “can be aggressive but nonviolent; it can dislocate but not destroy.” The relational approach to social justice answers this call by simultaneously championing human rights, while committing to unrelenting dialogue. Rather than reducing opponents to dehumanized enemies, they are re-imagined as conflicted partners struggling together to resolve injustice. Such an approach requires self-reflection, perspective taking, identification of power dynamics, and alliance formation. Art making and the creative process can parallel democratic processes for disrupting presumptions, stimulating emotional experiences, encouraging risk-taking, and fostering openness. Similarly, expressive arts offer the means for facilitating personal expression, channeling emotions, embracing conflict, and identifying purposeful actions.

Aims
In this two-day training, participants will explore arts-based civic dialogues and citizenship approaches for identifying injustices, fostering reflection, sustaining discussion, channeling emotions, and imagining solutions. Participants will be led in expressive arts activities (visual arts, creative writing, movement, drama, sound) experiential activity that can be adapted to work in health, education, and community settings.

Objectives
Particular practices will be discussed for applying the theoretical frameworks within creative and expressive arts therapy, community arts, arts education, social development, and civic dialogues. As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:
1. define the relational approach to social justice with an emphasis on creative process
2. synthesize how expressive arts can enhance arts-based civic dialogues
3. identify examples of expressive and creative arts therapy practices that can be offered or serve as a foundation for working in politically-charged times

Outline
Day 1: Citizenship and Relational Social Justice
Overview of various historical and contemporary approaches to social justice with an emphasis on the relational model and art applications.

Day 2: Engaging Arts-based Civic Dialogues
Strategies and reflection tools for facilitating workshops and community projects that emphasize social justice within an arts-based relational context.

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