Ethical Considerations

We are designing this conference, with consideration for the beliefs, principles and understandings we share as Narrativists. Whether we are working as therapists or as community workers, we are informed by a range of ideas we hold in common and by practices which flow from them. These include Feminism, Intersectionality, a commitment to the inclusion of minoritized and subjugated voices, a commitment to working across barriers rooted in sexism, racism, heteroconformity, transphobia, social class, disability, and xenophobia. We attempt to be mindful of issues of privilege and power, locally and globally.

The conference is not intended as a place for sharp cornered debates or heated arguments. With current events at a fever pitch our hope is that this place, this space will be a centre for peace, justice, and mercy.

Throughout the organisation of the conference we, the Conference Team, are aiming to be thoughtful in relation to issues of gender, class, ‘race’, sexuality, age, ability and culture. We are concerned to create a context which is consistent with the following values:

1. The creation of a space where individuals and groups who generally experience marginalisation may have their voices heard and acknowledged. We seek to ensure that people from other groups, particularly those who are privileged, do not speak on behalf of those who have been marginalised or who have been problematised, nor pronounce upon them.

2. The creation of a context where new possibilities are opened up for discussion. We believe it is important in this setting to hold on to a multiplicity of perspectives and to avoid debates, arguments, or the subjection of the views and experiences of people, particularly those who have been marginalised, to the test of so-called ‘objective truth’.

3. A commitment to understanding that problems are separate from the persons or groups who are affected by the problem. The person is the person and the problem is the problem.

There will be a number of people attending the conference who are users of services and so these considerations will be of particular importance along with your usual attention to relational ethics.

We hope that all participants will contribute to supporting these values whether in workshops, plenaries or other spaces.

As part of our commitment to working in ways that are consistent with these principles we would really like it if you would give us feedback in relation to these or any other issues in the context of the conference. This kind of work is very complex and we need your help so that we can develop our thinking and our practice. We will give all responses our serious consideration and seek to learn from them.

Thanks!