

02.09.2024

Summer School organised by the Centre of Psychiatry of Reichenau and the University of Konstanz on Reichenau

REICHENAU - On 23/24 August 2024, the 'Reichenau Summer School' took place for the ninth time - traditionally in the town hall of the island community.

Organised by the Centre of Psychiatry Reichenau (Daniel Nischk, formerly Johannes Rusch) and the Centre of Psychiatry Suedwuerttemberg (Thomas Müller) as well as the University of Konstanz (Dorothea Debus / Department of Philosophy; Daniela Mier / Department of Psychology), almost 50 participants met this year for discussion and exchange.

The organisation of the Summer School is equally committed to the so-called 'translation' of topics from philosophy, psychology and neuroscience into everyday psychiatric and psychotherapeutic practice and research. This year, the perspectives of 'trust' and 'responsibility' were analysed. With Georg Juckel (Bochum), Hans Förstl (Munich), Luc Ciompi (Bern) and Dyrk Zedlik (Leipzig), renowned psychiatrists were among the speakers who, together with the philosophers Andrea Lailach Hennrich (Constance) and Maeve Cooke (Dublin/Constance), discussed this content with regard to psychiatric and psychotherapeutic practice with each other and with the audience. A multi-layered topic with multi-layered implications. According to the organisers, taking responsibility means committing to the success of a task and being accountable for it. In this respect, taking responsibility is a fundamental link in any community. However, taking responsibility is becoming increasingly difficult - both in society and in psychiatry: one's own actions are becoming more and more regulated, curtailed and subject to an administrative and accounting logic. Getting involved is quickly misunderstood as interference, overstepping one's authority or naivety.

However, while terms such as 'trust' and 'responsibility' have found a firm place in philosophy, in medicine they have now disappeared into the 'medical ethics' drawer and often seem to be forgotten. Yet the question of how we can practise trust and responsibility in psychiatry and society is highly topical. With the storm surge of 'artificial intelligence', many characteristics that used to be considered specifically 'human', such as intelligence, language and creativity, seem to be increasingly being taken over by machines. Once again, however, it may be true that we are also ill-prepared for this technological development and are indulging in playful naivety. Regardless of this, however, it is precisely this development that could help us to recognise the importance of central human perspectives such as 'trust' and 'responsibility'.

A possible summary of the rapporteurs here: Responsibility is based on relationship and care, which we as psychiatrists, even outside of our professional role, must once again focus on and cultivate more strongly as people for our living environment and our fellow human beings and patients. Without this, psychiatry is, as Luc Ciompi summarised, 'bloodless' and tempts us to view our actions solely in terms of administrative and accounting logic.

Text: Daniel Nischk and Thomas Müller

Image: Summer school Reichenau 2024

PROGRAMME

Friday, 23 August 2024

14:00-14:15 Greeting and opening: Uwe Herwig, Reichenau

- 14:15-15:45 Akrasia or compulsion - The problem of weak will and assumption of responsibility
Georg Juckel, Bochum
- 16:15-17:45 Immanuel Kant as an erring knight - a critical analysis of the 'responsibility'.
Hans Förstl, Munich

Saturday, 24 August 2024

- 8:30-10:00 On the ethnography of one's own life: life experience and responsibility.
Andrea Lailach-Hennrich, Constance
- 10:15-11:45 Thinking responsibility differently? Ethical behaviour in the age of ecological destruction
Maeve Cooke, Dublin / Constance
- 12:00-13:30 Responsibility in psychiatric practice - acting between freedom and coercion?
Dyrk Zedlick, Leipzig