

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & PSYCHIATRY

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

23rd ANNUAL MEETING

May 14 & 15, 2011

Honolulu, Hawaii

THEME: The Future of Psychiatric Nosology

Conference Chair: Claire Pouncey, MD, PhD, Philadelphia PA

In the half century since Carl Hempel addressed the World Conference on Field Studies in the Mental Disorders in 1959, the literature on the philosophy of psychiatric nosology has grown exponentially. However, it is not clear to what degree conceptual explorations of psychiatric nosology have actually influenced our systems of classification. Now, as we anticipate the publication of ICD-11 and DSM-5 in 2013, what have the lessons of the last 50 years been, and what should we anticipate for the next 50? What shall we strive for in the future? Should future classification systems be global and intercultural in scope? Should they attempt to serve multiple purposes – clinical, research, and administrative? Should we hurry to move beyond descriptive diagnostic criteria? On what bases should we make decisions about lumping and splitting, defining ‘mental disorder’, utilizing dimensions versus classes, and articulating the role of theory in shaping our nomenclature? How do we duly consider the social, political, epistemic, and professional values that influence a classification and how it is used? What do developments in contemporary philosophy of science contribute to the future of psychiatric nosology?

Possible presentation topics include, but are not limited to:

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a single nosology?
- What are the ultimate aims and desiderata of a psychiatric nosology?
- Do we need a unifying definition of ‘mental disorder’?
- Are mental disorders best conceived as kinds, natural or otherwise?
- Should a psychiatric nosology be grounded in explanatory theory?
- What can social constructionism contribute to our understanding of psychiatric nosology?
- What values contribute to psychiatric nosology, and what are the implications of these contributions?
- What does a psychiatric classification classify?
- What are the metaphysical and epistemological commitments behind psychiatric nosology?
- What counts as evidence in psychiatric classification?
- What are the measures of nosologic validity?

Presentations will be strictly limited to 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

Abstracts will be blind reviewed – please attach the author’s identifying information on a separate cover page.

Abstracts should be 500-600 words and should be sent via email by November 15, 2010 to pouncey@mail.med.upenn.edu.