

Impressions of the International Summer University, Dublin 2009: published in Holland, Ireland, Austria

What did you get out of this conference?

'Being aware that I am not the expert – that the expert is the client / supervisee – that to stop and slow down will allow me to learn.'

Catherine Twomey, Ireland

'Very collaborative and in depth review of supervision as a process'

Michael Carrol, England

'For me summer university of ANSE in 2009 was after Tallinn 2007 at first continuing not only talking about diversity but to experience diversity. At second I found in Dublin a good place to stop and think about our profession. So I am at last curiously looking forward to Norway 2011'.

Per Wolfrum, Deutschland

'It was like a journey in the home-town of supervision – reminding me of the importance of the basics of supervision, for example reflection, respect, group dynamics et. And it was a privilege to meet personally the authors of the books I have been reading during my study.'

Barbara Gogala, Slowenija

'Understanding of different points of view of our ANSE-countries in our own profession and the Irish emphasis on the basis positive attitude of a supervisor that makes it work, more than method or theory.'

Ines Rinke, Netherlands

'To meet colleagues from other countries helps you think 'out of the box'. For instance: Irish lecturers use poetry and images to clarify their thoughts. This is like a gift to me and opens up my possibilities to think and act.'

Margot Scherl, Austria

'This conference gives me a change of perspective, also because of the language, that provide new thoughts for my work. It brushes me up!'

Eva Nemes, Hungary

'I liked to hear about standards for the quality of supervision from the different perspectives of other cultures. It makes me think again about our own, which I find enriching. And I have fun to meet all these different colleagues.'

Guido Baumgartner, Switzerland

'The artistic, poetic and philosophical approach to our profession by the Irish and English lecturers was inspiring. Also the more methodical, narrative input is usefull material for my work as an educational manager.'

Konrad Willeit, Italy

'I learn a lot and feel at ease with international colleagues in this friendly and welcoming atmosphere. With me and my Norwegian colleagues more than 10% of our members came to Dublin'.

Arild Stensland, Norway

Summary of the Keynote Speakers:

Keynote Speaker Michael Caroll, Bristol: From Mindless to Mindful Practice

Michael Caroll understands supervision as a dancing partner to our work. The three secrets are attention, attention, attention. He sees supervision as learning methodology. There are four levels of reflection in supervision: Level 1 = external, non reflective stance – personal view, level 2 = emotional distance and understanding (other view), level 3 = systemic view, level 4 = self transcendent perspectives.

Keynote Speakers Verena Bruchhagen, Dortmund & Michaela Judy, Vienna: The Parallel Universe of Diversity

Referring to the four layers (Gardenswartz & Rowe) of Diversity was described according to the keywords dominance, discrimination and de/ construction of difference (Bruchhagen) and reframing, reconstructing and managing (Judy). The last part dealt with the question, why counsellors should know about Diversity. Central Questions for Supervisors with a Diversity focus were discussed.

Keynote Speaker Brigid Proctor & Francesca Inskipp, London: Group Supervision.

At age 77 and 88 the speakers showed their ongoing quest for excellence in their lifelong commitment to group supervision. The audience, who were introduced to the general principles of group supervision in their initial training as supervisors, could afterwards discuss the value of the developments and improvements in methodology and dialectics that have occurred during the course of the speakers' professional careers.

Keynote Speaker Mary Creaner, Dublin: What is good supervision?

Mary Creaner presented a phenomenological inquiry into the meaning of "good supervision" as perceived by experienced psychotherapy supervisors from their perspectives as supervisor and supervisee. The synergy of supervision is defined by three contributing factors: the relationship, the process and the context. The output is client welfare, supervisee professional development, supervisors professional development and development of the profession.

Diversity in Dublin

The International Summer University 2009 of ANSE – Association of National Organisations for Supervision in Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland from August 17th to August 21st. The famous Trinity College in the heart of Dublin was a fine place for listening, working, reflecting and laughing together. SAI, Supervisors Association of Ireland, prepared this conference in cooperation with ANSE. About 70 participants from 10 different countries met to learn about cultural diversities and to encourage cooperation.

ANSE is the leading association for supervision and coaching in Europe and represents more than 8.000 qualified supervisors and coaches in the field of consulting in 22 European countries and more than 80 training institutions. ANSE focuses on professional interests on a supranational level and is in contact with professional organisations for supervision and coaching world-wide.

To enhance the exchange of information between national organisations and training institutes and the exchange of experiences between experts in counselling, ANSE is organising International Summer Universities, in cooperation with several national supervisor associations.

“A vital vision for today” was the motto of this conference. After a welcome by the presidents of SAI and ANSE, Geraldine Halton gave an overview of supervision in Ireland. On the first evening, the supervisors were invited to a dinner with Irish music and dance. During the course of the conference, many different aspects of the subject were addressed. After a keynote speech each morning – see the summaries below – the participants could choose between several workshops. The following topics were discussed during the workshops: “Supervision in Life Long Learning Process” (Carroll), “Ethics in Supervision” (deRoos / Rinke), “The parallel Universe of diversity” (Bruchhagen/Judy), “Process Brainwork of Supervision” (Moore), “International Intervision Group” (Young-Buchner), “Group Supervision” (Proktor/Inskipp).

On Friday, the presidents of the national organisations for supervision finished the conference in the “city of the writers” with a special rendition of an old Irish farewell:

“May (...) the rain fall soft upon your fields
Raining backwards as you stand on solid ground
And the wind blow you safe upon your journey
As you embrace diversity with openness and curiosity
And until we meet again
May love hold you
In the safe restorative space of Super vision
Helped by the 4 Cs confidence, competence,
Compassion and Creativity
As we say s lán”

The presidents of the national supervision associations concluded that there are noticeable differences in current tendencies in the various nations. Questions that arose are: why are many important books not translated into more languages, why is the level of communication between national organisations so hard to improve? Would international intervion improve this situation?

The colleagues from Norway are looking forward to welcoming the ANSE-members at the Summer University in Norway in 2011.

Bettina Struempf (Austria) and Marijke Beukema (Holland)