

No pearl without grit

Soesterberg 5th-8th September 2019

Workshop presenters

Juline Smit

Juline is a child of Africa. She grew up in the Kalahari Desert. The UK has been her home for the past 15 years. She has a medical degree from the University of Stellenbosch and is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London and the Higher Education Academy. She served as a physician in Namibia, South Africa and England in townships, informal settlements and state and private hospitals. Her main interests focus on the connection between Body and Mind and the space between Medicine, Psychology and Spirituality. She is exploring these frontiers as a student of Pureland Buddhism and Yoga.

James Schmeiser, Ph.D.,D.Th.

James is a Professor Emeritus at King's University College, Western University, London, Ontario. He holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies and a D.Th in Theology. He introduced a course entitled, "Visions, Dreams and Religion" at the University, which he taught for over 30 years. At the present time he is a spiritual director who honours the significance of dreams and offers guest lectures in this field as well as others in the area of spirituality.

Venerable Zhan Kong

She holds a masters degree in religious studies from the Department of Philosophy, Peking University. She is a Ph.D. candidate in management psychology from the Chinese Academy of Science. After completing her college education from a medical university, she became a Buddhist nun in the Shengshui Monastery in Liaoning province, Northeast China. She then lived a secluded life in the Zhongnan mountain for 3 years. She won the first place at the China Dharma Preaching Conference, which was organized by the Chinese Buddhist Association in 2013. Subsequently she joined the nation-wide dharma talk tour. Currently Zhan Kong is the organizer of the teaching and training affairs of meditation practice in the Guangong Provincial Buddhist Academy.

Ortwin Lüers

Dr. Ortwin Lüers MD is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist with a specialisation in treatment of posttraumatic stress disorders, working as a consultant and coach in his private practice in Berlin. He is supervisor, counsellor and instructor for medical doctors and psychologists in training. From childhood he showed early interest in eastern arts, philosophy and culture, especially in martial arts. Following meeting his first Vietnamese Buddhist Teacher and martial arts master Lou Cao van Hoa his interest in meditation grew. He finished college in 1985 & met the Tibetan Lama Ven. Chime Rinpoche and became his student. In 1989, Ortwin met the outstanding Chinese Shaolin Grandmaster Shizu Chee Kim Thong. This led to a further discipleship and intense training in Wu Ji Chuan, a inner, soft style of martial art and Qi Gong. He trained under the Grandmaster until his passing in 2001. Ortwin received permission from Master Chee to teach the full range of teachings he had received. Ortwin's approach in working with clients includes classical western psychotherapy - especially exposure therapy - combined with the utilisation of a variety of different therapeutic tools embedded in spiritual

cultivation and Qi Gong. These are used to facilitate therapeutic processing.

Gayre Christie

Gayre is a psychologist. Currently, he works as a psychological therapist in two large public hospitals. He practices within an interdisciplinary team with physiotherapists and dietitians. His career began as an Educational Psychologist in Scotland, morphed into two decades as an academic psychologist in an Australian university and he now works as a therapist in public health and has a small private practice in which he specializes in helping to ameliorate the effects of early trauma in adults, including the ways in which early trauma can manifest as later physical pain. He has taught in Scotland, Australia, the US, and China. He is a Buddhist and an Amida Buddhist refugee.

Elena Barakhova, M.D

Elena is a psychiatrist, psychotherapist, couples therapist, English/Russian translator, breathwork coach, member of the International Society of Hypnosis (ISH). She received her medical degree from Moscow Medical Academy in 2009 and took postgraduate training in internal medicine and psychiatry. She is working in the Fertility Department at Outpatient Clinic of Administrative Department of the President of the Russian Federation in Moscow and has private psychotherapeutic practice in Moscow.

Françoise Guillot

HP Françoise Guillot, 1956 Born in France is living since more than 40 years in Germany. Antecedently working as a music educator, since 25 years Therapist and book author, she is leading seminars about solution-oriented hypnosis, body therapies, mindfulness and resilience, and developing concepts and trainings for ethical leadership. Since May 2018 is Françoise Guillot authorized to give Dharma teachings in the Tibetan Tradition of Vajrayana Buddhism

Prajnatara Teresa Bryant O.A.B, R.P.

Prajna is an ordained priest in the Order of Amida Buddha and is a registered psychotherapist living in Ontario, Canada. She holds an M.A., in Counselling and certifications in Spiritual Direction, Morita Therapy and Contemplative End-of-Life Care. She specializes in grief counselling and teaches courses in the areas of aging, grief and bereavement, and end-of-life care in both university and community settings. She is currently the Director of Supportive Care at St. Joseph's Hospice, London, ON.

Désirée Verstraete

After obtaining a Masters in Sculpture and a Pedagogical degree, Désirée has completed numerous other courses and has followed workshops to learn a variety of techniques and expressions: drawing, gold smithing, ceramics, shodo etc. After several years of designing and realizing theater-and opera decors, she has been teaching the last 20 years Art Education to children aged between 12 and 18. She also creates a life time long in her own studio: sculptures, paintings, ink drawings, ceramics, jewellery, objects....She has followed since long a Buddhist path with several teachers.

Dr. Iris Dotan Katz

Iris is a senior clinical psychologist and certified supervisor working with children, adults and families on issues varying from severe disorders to personal growth. Her PhD dissertation is focused on the issue of peace making and reconciliation from psychological and Buddhist points of view. Based on her work and her Buddhist practice, Iris is constantly searching for ways to deeply integrate relational psychology with Buddhist principles. She lectures in different graduate programmes and supervises psychologists, consultants, and social activists.

Iris is part of ITZI from its initiation in 2016 and joined the past two conferences. In the 2017 conference she presented a paper titled: "From the Capacity of Being Alone to the Capacity of Being With – From Inner Peace to Outer Peace".

Susthama Marian Kim

Psychotherapist, Buddhist priest in the Order of Amida Buddha, and BSc in geological engineering, and Tesol teacher. She joined the Amida community under the tutelage of David Brazier in 2003 and has been following in his footsteps ever since. She was one of the first Buddhist chaplains in the National Health Service (NHS) in England to work in a multi-faith chaplaincy team in psychiatric hospitals. She lives with her family in England and works as a Zen therapist, spiritual mentor, and spends some of her time travelling to other Amida Sanghas to deputise for David Brazier, and to run retreats in the Pureland tradition. She is also a trustee for the International Zen Therapy Institute.