

# Bedfordshire International Systemic Spring School

Brathay Hall, Ambleside, Lake District, UK

## Making a NewSense in Practice and Research

D. Soyini Madison    Carina Håkansson

Imelda McCarthy    Gail Simon

19th - 21st April 2018

(optional Reflexive Writing Retreat on 22nd - 23rd April)

This is slow conferencing. It is a participatory event stretching over three days for people who want to reflect with others, have deep dialogue and walk and talk by the shores of Lake Windermere. It is a place for reflexive practitioners - especially those interested in systemic, social constructionist, dialogical, narrative, appreciative and collaborative ways of inquiring. This event is for people working across the many leafy and overlapping branches of systemic practice: organisational or team consultation, leadership, therapy, social work, education, coaching, social justice and community work.

The Spring School reframes everyday reflexive practice as a form of collaborative action research. Of course, we are always reviewing what we do and imagining what else to try. This is the ethical backbone of systemic practice off which all else hangs. The Spring School provides a different space, one in which we can look again, as if for the first time, and see what we learn about our own practice, ourselves and each other. We do this through dialogue and connecting, using foreign and indigenous ways of knowing, through performance and play, and by just being in the stunning landscape of the English Lake District.

So what will you find here?

- Workshops by our guest participants and many doctoral researchers.
  - Pop-up spaces for spontaneous dialogue.
    - Performative readings of one's own or other people's writings.
      - Symposium on the future of systemic training programmes.
        - A participatory art installation.
          - Boating on the lake.
            - Early morning meditation.
              - The Spring School Dinner with fire.
                - And more...

[Click here to see a video of Brathay Hall from the air...](#)

## Guest presenters:

**D. Soyini Madison** (PhD 1989, Northwestern University) is Professor of Performance Studies, with appointments in the Department of African American Studies and the Department of Anthropology. Professor Madison lived and worked in Ghana, as a Senior Fulbright Scholar conducting field research on the interconnections between traditional religion, political economy, and indigenous performance tactics. She will present and run workshops on her work on beauty, praxis and activism.

**Carina Håkansson** (PhD) is founder of the Family Care Foundation and The Extended Therapy Room Foundation in Gothenburg, Sweden. She writes about psychiatry and societal treatment of children in foster care, and the ongoing challenges of helping people withdraw from psychiatric medication. In 2015 she hosted a film festival, "Driving Us Crazy" to encourage critical thinking about the what it means to be human and the role of mental health services in society.

**Imelda McCarthy** (PhD) is a founding member of The Fifth Province Group in Dublin, Ireland. Imelda is an elder in the systemic practice community having worked and presented internationally alongside some of the most well-known systemic therapists. She has taught and written on the politics of systemic practice and is passionate about the relationships between individual experience, community wellbeing and the influences of global economics on local life. Imelda will present via Skype this year.

**Gail Simon** (D.Prof) leads the Professional Doctorate in Systemic Practice at the University of Bedfordshire and co-founded The Pink Practice, a lesbian, gay, queer, trans therapy practice in London in 1990. As a systemic trainer and editor of the new journal, Murmurations: Journal of Transformative Systemic Practice, she is interested in the relationship between systemic change at a level of local and global systems and the implication for the development of contemporary systemic trainings in therapy and leadership. Gail's research specialism is practitioner writing and research.

*And a full programme of presentations and workshops by doctoral researchers on the Professional Doctorate in Systemic Practice.*

Hosted by the Professional Doctorate in Systemic Practice at the University of Bedfordshire. [www.beds.ac.uk/pdsp](http://www.beds.ac.uk/pdsp)

### How to book

Please send a [booking form - DOCX 39.6 KB](#) whether you pay by BACS or on Eventbrite. Payment is required at the time of booking your place.

The fee includes attendance at the 3 day Spring School and includes lunches, refreshments and the conference dinner.

### Accommodation

Accommodation is not included in the Spring School fee but is available at many hotels and bed and breakfasts in nearby Ambleside, a 10 - 15 minute walk from Brathay Hall. Have a look at [TripAdvisor](#) for reviews and recommendations in Ambleside. There are a range of rooms available on site at Brathay Hall. Book by ringing them directly 015394 33041 and say you are booking for the Bedfordshire Spring School to get the special rate.

**Book: Bedfordshire International Spring School**  
<https://systemicspring2018.eventbrite.co.uk>

Also, a space to write immediately after the Spring School:  
**Writing Retreat for Reflexive Practitioners**  
<https://systemicwriting2018.eventbrite.co.uk>