

# The Youth Work and Trainers Bazaar



## *Summer Sessions*

### Themes and Guest Speakers

July – September 2021

## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

- (i) **5pm (CET) Leave no-one behind – Empowerment for All: Gaia’s Municipal Plan for All Youth’s**  
**Gil Nunes, Youth Worker, Municipality of Gaia, Portugal**

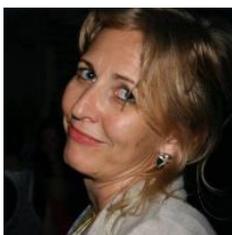
*Gaia European Youth Capital 2024 - Candidate City will show you how their Municipal Plan for All Youth(s) will ensure no young person is left behind by implementing Gaia’s Youth(s) Municipal Plan to network and create opportunities for youth, agents, and youth organisations. They started a new journey of sharing and learning and you are invited to come and hear about it and maybe even participate in the plan. To read more click [here](#). To find about more about Gaia’s Candidacy click [here](#) or follow the latest Facebook updates by clicking [here](#).*



Gil Nunes is a youth worker from the Municipality of Gaia. He was part of the team that produced the #Gaia2024 – European Youth Capital Application letter. He is participating actively on some projects – Participatory Budgeting for Youth and Ricardo Quaresma scholarships among others. He is also the Ambassador of the European Platform on Learning Mobility for Portugal, appointed by EU-COE Youth Partnership. He is also a novelist with five books published and these are available in all good Portuguese bookstores. For several years he also worked as a football scout and as a sports journalist for national and international publications. He keeps his work as a football commentator and sports expert for Russian press with regular participation.

- (ii) **6pm (CET) Positive Psychology: Resilience - The new panacea**  
**Jo Wilkie, Psychologist, Casa Centro America**

*Historically, psychology has focused on fixing problems or resolving issues from the past that enabling individuals to move forward and approach the rest of their life more with more positivity, having put the problem or issue ‘to bed.’ The belief has always been that something happened in the past and it needs to be dealt with. Positive Psychology changes that thinking and urges individuals to concentrate on ‘the positive,’ as the means by which they can move forward rather than being hamstrung by the past. This short input will give an overview and provide evidence of how Positive Psychology works and will offer ideas and thoughts you can adopt and ideas you can adapt to suit your practice.*



Jo is a British intercultural psychologist specialised in the promotion of resilience and mental health and migration. She has lived and worked all over the world and is presently living in Barcelona with her Guatemalan husband and 3 teenage children. She has worked in diverse organisations and many sectors over the years and recently has worked as an online dialogue facilitator for Erasmus Virtual exchange and also as a tutor for Unicaf online Pan African university. She is interested in promoting resilience with different groups and over the last few years has worked mainly with young people from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. Before becoming a psychologist, she worked in music. She has lived in 7 countries and speaks 3 languages.

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021

(iii) **5pm (CET): Values – We are our values!**

**Yossef Ben-Meir, President, High Atlas Foundation**

*Values that we take for granted in the non-formal sector tend to have a broad consensus. We almost intrinsically know what they are, and the spaces they occupy in our practice. Values change, and they change with people. Values we hold dear and perhaps even close to our hearts seem to have been under increasing pressure in recent times.*

*Trump's America, Europe's failure to address the issue of migrants and refugees coming to its shores, the varying approaches of respective governments to Covid and austerity, domestic policy decisions by Polish and Hungarian governments respectively are just some examples of the deep fault lines in values among individuals, politics, regions, countries, and continents.*

*In many respects, values are relative, relative to people who live in a particular area or region, for example, the UK and BREXIT. Not everyone supported BREXIT, but the majority of the voting population voted for it, and therefore is arguably relative to the views of people in the UK at a given moment. A question in response might - who are we, the rest of the world to complain, question or dictate what the UK does? But does it mean it is only relative in that moment to those it affects?*

*What are the challenges of an international youth work community that stretches across an entire continent but don't always agree on what youth work actually is? How do we reconcile this notion of relative values within a broader values context and uphold these across national boundaries? Do we need to take clear positions and alienate others, or does this then contravene some of our values when we accept and respect the wishes of others? In this session, we will explore questions like these further.*



Dr. Yossef Ben-Meir is founder and president of the High Atlas Foundation, a Moroccan-U.S. not-for-profit organization dedicated to sustainable development. In Morocco, he was a Peace Corps Volunteer (1993-95), Associate Peace Corps Director (1998-99), and a Professor at Al Akhawayn University at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (1998-1999). Dr. Ben-Meir holds a PhD in sociology from the University of New Mexico (2009), an MA in international development from Clark University (1997), and a BA in economics from New York University (1991). He is the author of more than 100 articles about development.

(iv) **6pm (CET): The Power of Humour!**

**Fergal Barr, Trainer, Humour is Serious Business Training Programme**

*Have you ever thought about humour as a power, a superpower even? Perhaps it doesn't possess that which is often portrayed in a Hollywood blockbuster but then again, the difference between the power of humour and that of a Superman or a Wonder Woman is that the latter is fake whilst the power of humour is real! Want to truly understand the value, relevance, importance and benefits of humour then come along to join Fergal as he endeavours to persuade you about The Power of Humour! Become your own Humour Super Hero!*



Involved in Youth Work since 1987, parent & grandparent Fergal is a passionate devotee to the value, benefits, relevance and importance of humour as a means of engaging and transforming relationships with people. A firm advocate of International Youth Work, he is a lifelong (sometimes suffering) Liverpool Supporter and excessive tea drinker. He is also an avid book reader and occasional author having published books in 2008, 2011 and 2020. He also has the distinction of single-handedly changing employment law in Northern Ireland in 2001. His Youth Work background includes Youth Information, Education Welfare, Community Relations, Volunteering, Mentoring, and Peace & Reconciliation. In addition, he has worked in Centre Based, Street Work, Participation, Rural & Urban based Youth Work. As well as working in Family Support and Social Justice, he has been involved in facilitation and training at local, national and international level, particularly within YOUTH / Youth in Action / Erasmus+ for almost three decades and now and again, does the odd bit of consultation, evaluation and research.

## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021

- (v) **5pm (CET): “Shared Vulnerability” as a driver of social change. An idea to possibly underpin future actions**

**Brian DeLord, Double Helix Resources**

*It seems to be that at this time of extreme separateness we have been able to respond with not only countless acts of individual love and kindness, but also with developing understanding and compassion on a global scale. Words, it seems, have become important again, because they have been all we have to build connection with.*

*The idea of shared vulnerability is not new. It is a pre-requisite for all trusted relationships and is especially evident in the helping professions. We are used to the idea of shared vulnerability as a basis for individual and maybe even organisational change. We may not have too much experience of infusing the idea into our thoughts and actions!*

*With this in mind, can shared vulnerability be a driver of societal change and how might this be implemented? Let's find out.*



Brian De Lord is a former Head-Teacher, senior youth worker, psychotherapist, lecturer and CEO. He has extensive experience of providing integrated services for the most excluded groups and training for those supporting them. He now runs Double Helix Resources (DHR), a private company, with the intention of providing educational and therapeutic consultancy, accredited training and related resources for those working with troubled and vulnerable children and their families.

- (vi) **Ecological Warfare – Joining All the Dots**  
**Susanna Holowati, Founder of Embodytopia**

*When we talk or hear about ecology, we tend to think of the planet – rivers, oceans, plants, wildlife, etc. We tend to think about it in the frame of things not human, i.e., things that belong to the planet and we do not really make the connection between these things and, us.*

*Our role and place in the ecology of the planet is much greater than we can possibly imagine but either we don't really know, or we don't really understand this relationship, but it is becoming not only more apparent as we deal with a multitude of issues looking into the future. To be equipped to deal with these challenges we need to better understand how our every action has a consequence, the impact of which can be immense, and in this session, we will increase understanding of how this is - the dots will be joined. It is time to stop procrastinating, it's time to challenge ourselves – it's time for Ecological Warfare!*



Susanna is founder and Embodied Change Facilitator at Embodytopia and helps purpose-driven people and businesses to follow their purpose, thrive and have a higher impact in this world.

## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

(vii) **5pm (CET) Children and Young People – the effects of early adversity on human development**

**Trevor Spratt, Professor in Childhood Research, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland**

*Why do human beings behave in the way that they do? Why does their behaviour often seem irrational, reactive, and lacking in explanation? In their role as Youth Workers, practitioners are trained (and more importantly compelled) to manage the day-to-day outworking's of certain behaviours but in a non-judgemental way without (perhaps) truly understanding why things happen in the way or manner that they do.*

*Knowing how early adverse experiences can influence human development is key to understanding human behaviour. Supported by discoveries in neuroscience, greater familiarity with Aha! moments make it much easier to understand why people behave in the way they do! This 30-minute input will increase your knowledge of those moments and help inform and shape your future practice.*



Having worked for some 10 years in social work practice with children and families my research interests are in this area. These include, decision making by professionals, how policy objectives are translated into professional practises, the development of child protection systems internationally, and the impact of early adversities in childhood as realised across the life-course. I currently am based in Trinity College Dublin where I am a Director of the Trinity Research in Childhood Centre.