

# Critical Suicidology 2.0

29<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017

Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent, UK



The French philosopher, Michel Foucault, once said: 'knowledge is not made for understanding: it is made for cutting' (1984: 88). When we understand something, it is likely that we are more certain about it and about what we might do in response. With such certainty, comes greater authority and power. Unfortunately, this kind of authority deems some ways of understanding more valid than others. Thus, it is important to use knowledge to make *cuts* – to challenge and disrupt the means-to-an-end logic so often taken for granted in the way knowledge is produced. Significant cuts were made during the first critical suicidology conference, '*Suicidology's Cultural Turn, and Beyond*', in March 2016, at The Institute of Ethnology, The Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic. This marked the first time an international group of interdisciplinary scholars had gathered as a collective to carve out a new intellectual space of inquiry - critical suicidology (<https://criticalsuicidology.net/>). But what do we do now? How do we move forward? *Critical Suicidology 2.0* hopes to further engage with questions concerning what a critical suicidology praxis might look like, since theory and practice are inextricably linked and cannot be treated as separate domains for understanding and responding to the complexity of suicide. We are interested in contributions which seek to reframe suicide and suicide prevention, ones that move away from the usual 'objective' and positivist approaches towards more contextualized, poetic, subjective, historical, ecological, social justice oriented, and political perspectives.

We are particularly interested in papers which;

- Offer a critical perspective on current mainstream ways of framing suicide and suicide prevention
- Analyse suicide within social, cultural, political, ethical, philosophical and historical contexts
- Draw on theoretically diverse frames and imaginative perspectives to challenge the existing order within suicidology
- Illustrate what a critical suicidological approach looks like in practice, especially from the perspective of methodologies traditionally discounted by suicidology.

## KEY DETAILS:

**Organisers:** Ian Marsh and Annie Hayford (UK)

**Organising Committee:** Rob Cover (Australia), Heidi Hjelmeland (Norway) Katrina Jaworski (Australia), Michael Kral (United States), Joseph Osafo (Ghana), Jennifer White (Canada).

**Abstract submission:** please submit an abstract of no more than 250 words with a short biography to [critsui2@gmail.com](mailto:critsui2@gmail.com) by no later than **28 February 2017**