January 2016


Between 24 and 28 January, Renos Papadopoulos was in Athens, offering training to staff of the three partner organisations in Greece of the project Prometheus II. This European-funded project aims at creating a specialist service in Greece for those refugees who were tortured. CTAR has the role of offering training and ongoing mentoring to the three Greek organisations: Babel; Mental Health Day Centre for Refugees and Migrants, The Greek Council for Refugees, and MSF (Médecins Sans Frontiers). In addition, he was invited to offer a day seminar/workshop within the postgraduate programme of the Advanced Course in Disaster Medicine of the University of Athens, as well as consultation and supervision to other organisations that work with the arriving refugees on the Greek islands. Finally, with two senior staff of Babel; they had an extensive meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health Mr P. Giannoulatos who requested of Babel and CTAR to assume a leading role in the psychosocial support for the refugees who arrive in Greece.

Between 31 January and 2 February, Renos Papadopoulos was in Hannover, invited by the Volkswagen Foundation to be a member of the International Review Panel of professors examining applications for the funding call on Experience of Violence, Trauma Relief and Commemorative Culture – Cooperative Research Projects in the Arab Region. For two days, the interdisciplinary Review Panel and senior staff of the Foundation discussed the presentations of the proposed research projects by the teams of applicants.

February 2016

On 8 February, Renos Papadopoulos was invited by the Clinical Psychology department of the University of Leicester to give a seminar in their University's series 'Psychology Cultures'. The title of his seminar was 'The current refugee crisis: what role for clinical psychology?' and Renos reflected on his recent experiences in working with refugees in the Middle East, Turkey and Greece. The seminar was attended by well over hundred persons, mainly psychologists, who engaged with Renos and his presented ideas.

Between 10 and 15 February, Renos Papadopoulos was in Canada, invited by the University of Ottawa (the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, the Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics, the Brain and Mind Research Institute, the Department of Psychiatry and the Refugee Hub). He gave two public presentations: on 11 February he was the main speaker at a Panel on 'The Refugee Crisis and Mental Health' held at the Fauteux Hall and on 12 February, he gave a presentation on his approach to working with refugees at the Faculty of Medicine of the same University (at their Roger Guidon Campus). On 12 February, he also consulted to professionals working in the field, mainly from the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organisation and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, and on 13 February he was interviewed live on the main national television channel, Canada TV (CTV). In addition, he met with other academics and professionals involved with refugee work, especially those engaged with the current refugee crisis, and on 14 February, he spoke to a gathering of the Greek Community of Ottawa about the current refugee situation on the Greek islands. After a request from the Greek Ministry of Health, he prompted the Greek community of Canada to approach the Canadian Government in order to assist the Greek efforts to address the refugee crisis in Greece. For this purpose, he also met with the Greek ambassador in Canada, Mr George Marcantonatos, and connected him with key Canadian professionals who will facilitate this project. The new Prime Minister of Canada has stated clearly his intention of moving his country to resume its leading role in international affairs, and this request from the Greek Government fits well with his new direction.
Renos Papadopoulos at the entrance of the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario where he gave a presentation to health professionals during his recent work visit to Ottawa.

As part of the MA Refugee Care, the students every year are granted a unique opportunity to visit the Hatton Cross Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. The visit gives the students the rare experience to observe asylum appeals and to interact with the honourable judges over lunch and discuss freely and informally with them about the hearings they had observed as well as about their work in general. This year, the students were particularly fortunate to have extensive time with Deputy Chief Judge Edward Woodcraft and Judge Kyrie James who generously answered questions and discussed in detail some of the subtleties of their work and their dilemmas. Being able to ask questions and interact with the judges, the students were able to combine theory and practice and reflect on what they have learned. This trip was, hence, exciting and a most useful learning opportunity. We are very grateful for the hospitality we received and for the judges remarkable willingness to share their knowledge, expertise and experiences!

Fatima Ahmed (MA Refugee Care student).

The visit of the MA/PhD in Refugee Care group to the Hatton Cross Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. In front, to the right of Professor Papadopoulos are Judge Kyrie James and Designate Judge Edward Woodcraft.

On 24 February Renos Papadopoulos and Zuhura Mahamed were invited to a meeting at the residence of the Iraqi Ambassador to Britain, Dr Salih Husain Ali. The aim of the meeting was to bring
together key members of the AMAR Foundation (including its chair, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne), relevant donors and professionals to consider ways of improving the services AMAR offers to the Iraqi people. AMAR is an award-winning charity (founded 23 years ago) that works in the Middle East, building and improving the lives and livelihoods of some of the world’s poorest and most disadvantaged people. AMAR’s patron is Prince Charles, and its activities in Iraq, since 2014, started to also focus on the 3 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) forced from their homes by the so-called Islamic State. Renos and Zuhura were invited to explore ways of assisting with the psychosocial provision to these IDPs.

March 2016

Between 29 February and 6 March Renos Papadopoulos was in Cyprus involved in the following activities:

- Developing further the project he established last year with the Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) in providing psychosocial assistance to asylum seekers and refugees at the Kofinou Refugee Reception Centre. The plan is to establish a two-year project that will be funded by the ESRC Impact Fund as well as additional relevant bodies. Accordingly, he visited the Reception Centre again, had meetings with the CRCS director and deputy director (Mr Neophytou and Mrs Kaparti), along with the two psychosocial workers (Melissa Tsimon and Dina Miqdali) who have been involved in this project, and whom he has been supervising. In addition, he consulted with Mr Polydorou, the Director of the Asylum Service of the Republic of Cyprus. David Alexander, a PhD student in Refugee Care whom Renos supervises, also came to Cyprus and joined this work as part of an existing and funded Impact case.

- Working towards setting up a Refugee Care and Humanitarian Assistance Masters and PhD programme at the University of Nicosia that will be closely associated with our own university Refugee Care course. For this, he met with the President of the Council of the University of Nicosia, Professor Nikos Peristianis. The prospects are very favourable for the development of this joint venture.

- Continuing consulting to the community project that was set up as a response to the economic crisis in Cyprus.

Renos Papadopoulos and David Alexander at the Kofinou Asylum Reception Centre, in Cyprus.
On 9 March, Renos Papadopoulos was invited to speak at a Press Conference in London that the AMAR Foundation organised on Iraqi Refugees' Mental Health, to raise awareness of the plight of girls and young women raped systematically by Daesh soldiers. The speakers also included a Yazidi teenager survivor of such a horrendous ordeal as well as Baroness Emma Nicholson, (AMAR's chairman, on the photo sitting when Renos is speaking), Dr Ali Muthanna (AMAR's Regional Manager in Iraq), and Rojin, a Kurdish-Turkish musician who also assists these survivors. Before and after the Press Conference, Renos was interviewed by several journalists from newspapers, news agencies and TV channels.


Renos Papadopoulos was invited to join the 'Presidential Task Force on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants' of the British Psychological Society (BPS). In his new role, Renos (who, for many years, has been a Chartered Clinical Psychologist and an Associate Fellow of the BPS) will be expected to influence wider policy on these matters.

Renos Papadopoulos was quoted in a Reuters article on Syrian children:
http://news.trust.org/item/20160314090249-app1c
Following the AMAR Press Conference, on 9 March, to draw attention to the plight of the rape victims by Daesh fighters, here are some reports that include Renos Papadopoulos' views.

http://news.trust.org/item/20160314090249-app1c/

http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/mar/17/kidnapped-by-isis-at-15-i-never-thought-id-see-the-day-when-i-was-free

(from 15.15)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmzBfiGH9AM

On 22 March Renos Papadopoulos spoke at the public event that the 'Welcome Refugees Colchester' movement organised at St Botolph's church in Colchester. The event, attended by 230 persons representing 30 communities and organisations, was a 'Pledge Assembly' where pledges were publicly declared, offering concrete forms of assistance to refugees in the Colchester area. Renos, in addition to outlining the main features and functions of the Refugee Care courses and CTAR, pledged that CTAR is prepared to offer supervision and training to those who work with refugees. Even before the Assembly, as soon as the Syrian families arrived in Colchester, Renos started making arrangements to support staff at 'Fresh Beginnings' in their work with these families. The Assembly was also attended by Alexandra Artzoglou, on behalf of CTAR (next to Renos in the photo, making the CTAR pledge), as well as by Julie LubwaAjok and Zekiye Bayram from the 'MA Refugee Care' course.
May 2016

Between 4 and 6 May, Renos Papadopoulos was in Milan. He was invited by the University of Milan (Bicocca) and the Philosophy College 'Philo' that both co-organised a Day Event on the 'Drama of Refugees and the Traumatising Effects of the Trauma Discourse'. In addition to Renos (who gave the keynote speech and led the afternoon workshop), there were five other speakers who gave shorter presentations: Professors Romano Madera and Laura Formenti (both from the Human Sciences of the Bicocca University of Milan), Claudio Minoia (director of the refugee and Cultural Services of the Municipality of Milan), Nicole Janigro (psychoanalyst and political commentator), and Ivan Carlot (director of the services for refugees of the Municipality of Venice). The event, held at the University and under the auspices of the Municipality of Milan (Comune di Milano), was attended by about a hundred persons from academic and professional circles as well as by members of the wider public.

June 2016

CTAR, UNHCR and The Tavistock Clinic Refugee Week Event

Every year, the 'Centre for Trauma, Asylum and Refugees' organises with UNHCR and the Tavistock Centre an Event to mark Refugee Week. This year, it took place on Thursday evening, 29 June, at its permanent venue at the Tavistock Centre. To reflect the theme of this year's Refugee Week, the theme of the event was 'Welcoming Refugees: a wider community response'. The invited guest was Giles Duley, the remarkable photographer and documentary film-maker who was nominated for an Amnesty International Media Award (in 2010) and was a winner at the Prix de Paris in 2010 & 2012; his self-portrait was selected for the 2012 Taylor Wessing Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. He spoke about and presented photographs and video excerpts of people in severe adverse conditions, always emphasising their astonishing resilience. The event was introduced and chaired by Sarah-Jane Savage of UNHCR. Renos Papadopoulos (CTAR director) spoke about new conceptualisations of mental health work in this field, and Gillian Hughes (Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Systemic Psychotherapist at the Tavistock Centre) presented and discussed the work of the Tavistock Refugee Service that she heads. The event, that was overbooked, ended with a lively discussion and interaction with the participants that continued over a drinks reception.
Refugee Week Event 2016, left to right: Renos Papadopoulos (CTAR), Gillian Hughes (Tavistock Clinic), Guest Speaker Giles Duley, Sarah-Jane Savage (UNHCR UK)

Professor Renos Papadopoulos, Director of CTAR, was recently quoted in The Guardian newspaper in an article on how experts are sounding the alarm over mental health toll borne by migrants and refugees. You can read the article in full here.

On 8 June, Renos Papadopoulos was invited to Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre (The NCS) to offer a CPD to their staff on how to address difficulties their students face with regard to typical but also current issues, including radicalisation.

Between 11 and 19 June, Renos Papadopoulos was in Greece as part of the European-funded project Prometheus II that aims at creating a specialist service in Greece for those refugees who were tortured. CTAR has the role of offering training and ongoing mentoring to the three Greek organisations: ‘Babel’ Mental Health Day Centre for Refugees and Migrants, The Greek Council for Refugees, and MSF (Médecins Sans Frontiers). In addition, he participated in a meeting of the appointed group of professionals that advises the Greek Ministry of Health about issues pertaining to refugees and migrants. Finally, he offered training and supervision to the group of volunteers who work with migrants and refugees on the Greek island of Kalymnos.
Renos with the staff of the Prometheus II project in Athens

Renos with the group of volunteers in Kalymnos
Professor Renos Papadopoulos is to receive an award for his outstanding contribution to the field of family therapy by the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA). Click [here](#) for more details.

Between 22 and 25 June, Renos Papadopoulos was in Switzerland, invited by the section of the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR) ‘On The Move’ to speak at their Second Annual Conference ‘Changing Realities of Migration and Mobility. A Swiss Perspective’. ‘On the Move’ was founded by the NCCR to promote the study of the various facets of migration, and the NCCR are a research instrument of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The conference was held at the University of Neuchâtel and it was attended by about hundred social scientists and researchers from many parts of the world. Renos’ presentation was on ‘A framework for working with refugees: trauma, resilience and adversity-activated development’ and it was offered in the context of the conference sub-section ‘Politics of Asylum and Mental Health: Transforming Conceptualizations and Treatment of Trauma’. During his visit, he was invited to join the professional committee of a new research portal on the mental health perspectives of migration that will be based at the university of Neuchâtel.
Renos with members of the mental health sub-section of the NCCR

July 2016

Between 18 and 22 July, Renos Papadopoulos was in Pisa, Italy, offering training in the course ‘Psychosocial Interventions in Migration, Emergency and Displacement’. This is a two week residential course co-organised by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM, with whom CTAR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding) and the University of Santa Anna in Pisa. Renos has been a co-director of this annual course that is provided for staff of international organisations. This year, the course was attended by 28 participants from 25 countries.
August 2016

Between 26 August and 3 September, Renos Papadopoulos was in Bolivar, Pennsylvania, USA, offering training in collaboration with David Alexander (PhD student that he supervises), as part of his project enabled by the ESRC Impact Acceleration Fund. The project aims at training Western and Japanese aid workers and professional caregivers active in the field of humanitarian assistance. Thirteen influential caregiver trainers attended a 50-hour train-the-trainer workshop, and in the next month they will train a total of 700 more caregivers in their respective circles of professional influence on various aspects of Renos’ approach to working psychosocially with adversity survivors.

September 2016

Between 5 and 14 September, Renos Papadopoulos was in Cyprus developing further the project that he established last year with the Cyprus Red Cross Society in providing psychosocial assistance to asylum seekers and refugees at the Kofinou Refugee Reception Centre.

On 17 September, Renos Papadopoulos offered a Day Seminar to the Association of Jungian Analysts in London on ‘The Current Refugee/Migrant Crisis; Us and Our Practices’. In addition to all the trainees, the seminar was attended by eight senior analysts.

Between 27 and 29 September, Renos Papadopoulos was in Lebanon offering training to the mental health professionals who were appointed to screen the Syrian refugees that have been accepted by the British Government to resettle in the UK.

October 2016

On 8 October, Renos Papadopoulos was invited by the Welsh Psychoanalytic Association to be one of the two speakers at their Day Conference in Cardiff on 'The Stranger in our Midst'. The second speaker was the psychoanalyst Fakhry Davids. The conference was attended by psychotherapists and other mental health professionals, and Renos’ presentation was on ‘Strangers and Homes: Trauma and Disorder - Distress and Resilience’.

Renos Papadopoulos was informed that he was given an award by the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA) for his ‘Outstanding contribution to the field of Family Therapy and Systemic Practice’ and was invited to attend the award ceremony at its 9th Conference held in Athens. Consequently, Renos was in Athens between 29 September and 2 October and, in addition to attending the award ceremony and receiving his award, he was invited to also take part in three other events of the conference. He was one of the two presenters in the Invited Symposium on ‘Towards the Hospitable Passage: From estrangement, to development, to co-evolution’ where his own presentation was on ‘Working with refugees and migrants: Technologically or Synergically?’.

On 19 October, Renos Papadopoulos was at the British Psychological Society (BPS) in London for a meeting of the Presidential Task Force on Refugees. As a member of this body, his tasks include co-authoring a Guidance document for psychologists, liaising with the Home Office with regard to the Syrian refugee children who were brought from Calais, as well as contributing to the current debate about refugee issues.

Between 20 and 23 October, Renos Papadopoulos was invited to Milan, continuing his collaboration with ‘Terrenuove’ (an organisation that provides therapeutic care to refugees and migrants) and Comune di Milano (the Milan local government). His programme, as previously, included an oversubscribed public event on refugees (held again in the centrally located venue of La Casa dei Diritti) with the title 'Refugees and Migrants Today’, consultation and supervision to the network of the relevant local organisations, and a separate supervision of the Terrenuove team. At the public event, the Director of the Commune di Milano Health Services, Dr Claudio Minoia, updated the audience of
the latest situation with the refugees in their city (especially unaccompanied minors) and introduced Renos. Yet again, strong interest was expressed for Renos to offer a regular training course in Milan.

Renos with a group of staff from organisations in the Milan region that work with refugees and migrants.

An extensive interview of Renos Papadopoulos was published in the Italian journal of Family Therapy. He gave this interview to Dr Antonello d'Elia who came to London to interview him a few months ago. By the way, this interview was given before the European Family Therapy Association announced that they gave Renos an Award for his ‘Outstanding Contribution to Family Therapy and Systemic Practice’, and it was published after their announcement. This means that the interview and the award are unrelated. The full bibliographical information is as follows:


November 2016

On Saturday, 5 November, Renos Papadopoulos offered a half-day workshop to the trainee analysts from three Jungian Training organisations: The Society of Analytical Psychology (SAP), the Association of Jungian Analysis (AJA), and British Jungian Analytic Association (BJAA). The Workshop, on ‘Working with Adversity Survivors’ was attended by about 50 trainees and some analysts from these three organisations, it was held at SAP and it was a great success generating a lot of positive interaction. Renos addressed the similarities and differences between analytical work in the consulting room and work with refugees in the context of humanitarian aid interventions. The analyst chairing it, Neil Hamer, closed the event characterising Renos’ presentation with one phrase: ‘life changing’.

Renos Papadopoulos had a co-authored paper published in the latest issue of the ‘Journal of Compassionate Health Care’. This paper is based on the work he has been doing in Cyprus in offering training in Compassionate Health Care during some of his visits to the island. The full bibliographical reference is as follows:


Between 16 and 18 November, Renos Papadopoulos was in Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania) invited to offer a workshop on ‘Working in Synergy with Survivors of Different Types of Adversities. Trauma, Resilience, and “Adversity-Activated Development”’ at a conference that was co-organised by ‘Juconi’
(Mexico) and ‘Railway Children’ (UK). Both organisations work with homeless, ‘street’ children and the event brought more than 250 participants from at least 15 countries. The title of the event was ‘Breaking the Cycle; reintegrating street-connected children: applying theory, developing practice’ and it was the first time that such a conference was organised in Africa. In addition to offering his workshop, Renos was invited to participate in meetings both with ‘Juconi’ and ‘Railway Children’ as well as with representatives of the British, Mexican and Tanzanian governments, where they discussed the further provision of his assistance to this type of work.

Then between 18 and 20 November, Renos was in Rome, invited to speak at a conference on ‘Focusing on the Father in Family and in Therapy’, organised by the Italian Academy of Family Psychotherapy. The Conference was attended by about 150 participants, mainly Family Therapists and trainees, and his presentation was on ‘Refugee Fathers: Vulnerability, resilience and therapeutic access’.
Renos Papadopoulos is a member of the small Scientific Committee of the recently launched 'Migration and Mental Health Database' that is hosted by the University of Neuchatel. This is a significant development in this field and it will be of substantial help to all relevant academics and practitioners. This database is unique and it can be accessed for free by anybody, at this website: https://migrationandmentalhealth.wordpress.com/about/

CTAR Lecture 22 November 2016
I can only tell you what I see: Covering the refugee crisis” Giles Duley

After 10 years as an editorial photographer in the fashion and music industries Giles Duley now focusses his work on humanitarian projects. Although documenting challenging, and at times, horrific situations, Duley captures the strength of those who fight their adversity rather than succumb.

Last Tuesday around one hundred people attended a talk arranged by the Centre for Trauma, Asylum and Refugees by Giles Duley, a photographer who focusses his work on humanitarian projects. Giles told us about his early career and how he came to stand on an improvised explosive device (IED) whilst with US Army in Afghanistan in 2011. His injuries were life changing; however you could see in the hard hitting footage of his rescue what an amazing, courageous individual Giles Duley is. He continued to tell us the challenges in continuing his work after losing two legs and an arm, and how two years later he met up with the two young medics who saved him on the helicopter journey to the UN Hospital in Kandahar. He met them in Chicago for drinks and the humour he adds to his storytelling is infectious. He was frank about the lows of his recovery, but continued to give inspiration as he decided he would not let his injuries interfere with his work, which you could genuinely experience, he totally loved doing. It is not a job for Giles capturing those moments of humanity in crisis, he sees the resilience, and hope and happiness within, you can tell it is part of him. Giles shared some stories of the incredible people he has met whilst capturing the daily lives of people/refugees whilst in/amongst post war torn situations. He does not photograph people as victims, he portrays their human spirit and love. He gains their trust and you could tell by the remarkable photographs he takes, that he has a real connection with people. As people left the room they thanked Giles with hugs and tears. Giles and the people he meets are truly remarkable, inspirational human beings. An evening to remember …
Renos Papadopoulos is a member of the small Scientific Committee of the recently launched 'Migration and Mental Health Database' that is hosted by the University of Neuchatel. This is a significant development in this field and it will be of substantial help to all relevant academics and practitioners. This database is unique and it can be accessed for free by anybody, at this website: https://migrationandmentalhealth.wordpress.com/about/

Between 14 and 23 December Renos Papadopoulos was in Sierra Leone. With a Global Challenges Research Fund of the ESRC Impact Acceleration scheme, he went to Sierra Leone to offer psychosocial assistance and training, supplementing the humanitarian work of the Orthodox Church Archdiocese of Sierra Leone. He offered training, consultation and supervision to teachers, to staff and students of a Teachers' Training College, to clergy and others involved in the humanitarian work of this Archdiocese. Sierra Leone is facing a multiplicity of acute and chronic adversities. Having come out of a long and most destructive Civil War and of the Ebola crisis, the country is struggling to find a sense of normality, given that it is one of the poorest countries in the world, with the highest rate of infant mortality and the lowest life expectancy (only 45 years). During his visit, Renos also had exploratory and planning meetings with two Deputy Government Ministers, the Honourable Rugiatu Neneh Turay (Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs), and the Honourable Madina Rahman (Health). In addition to other possible plans, it has been decided that in 2017 Renos offers in Sierra Leone a specialist training course on 'Psychosocial Care for Adversity Survivors' that will be open to selected staff of the various philanthropic and humanitarian services of the Archdiocese, of the two mentioned Government Ministries, and of the international organisations and NGOs working in Sierra Leone.