Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology Call for Papers:
Critical Underpinnings of User/Survivor Research and Co-Production

Guest Editors: *Jayasree Kalathil, PhD & Nev Jones, PhD(c)*
Editorial Assistant: *Clara Humpston, M.Sc.*

Over the past several decades, user/survivor *leadership* in research as well as academic "co-production" (understood as a more robust form of academic co-leadership and shared decision making as opposed to nominal or tokenistic participatory methods) has gained strong traction in the areas of mental health services research, program evaluation, policy reform and, to a lesser extent, philosophy and cultural theory.   In spite of these advances, the theoretical assumptions and implications involved in such projects remain largely underdeveloped and critically un-interrogated. Likewise, critiques of user/survivor involvement and leadership rarely make their way into peer-reviewed publications, for the most part enduring in the space of informal conversations and behind-the-scenes decision-making. Certain areas of academic scholarship, including the medical humanities and philosophy of psychiatry and psychology, have similarly failed to consider the unique *theoretical* contributions scholars or others with lived experience might be in a position to make. Literary and philosophical analyses of others' first person accounts, narratives or memoirs often exclude any discussion of the role or contribution of first person *theory (*broadly understood as the formal or informal interpretation and analysis of the sociopolitics, temporal dynamics, implications and/or rhetorical effects of first person narrative, story-telling or memoir).

The goal of the current call for papers is to solicit proposals aimed at tackling the 'hard' questions implicated in processes of user/survivor inclusion, exclusion and co-production.   Proposals will be considered for inclusion in one or more special issues of the journal *Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology* as well as a planned edited book tentatively targeted for Oxford University Press' *International Perspectives on Philosophy & Psychiatry* series. We are soliciting proposals in English from a range of disciplines as well as from diverse positions and standpoints, including but not limited to individuals who identify as service users or survivors. We particularly encourage the submission of papers that critically appraise user/survivor research, leadership or co-produced work (again, both from peer and non-peer scholars and stakeholders).

Examples of topics of interest include (but are emphatically not limited to):

- critical explorations of the meaning and value of 'expertise by experience', particularly with respect to theoretical and philosophical work
- implications of the heterogeneity of service experiences, madness/disorder, temporal trajectories of distress and/or recovery, and identity
- political issues involved in the marginalization and othering of user/survivors with intersecting socio-political minority identities

- methodological and ethical considerations (including inter- and trans-disciplinarity, leadership in the humanities and basic and translational science vs. applied mental health services research)
- interrogating key terms: user involvement, co-production, control, leadership, co-leadership
- ethical and methodological issues in relation to academic and theoretical engagement with personal narratives of madness/mental health (including autobiographies and memoirs)
- divisions between academia, community-based engagement, policy and organizational development, and activism

Proposal details:
We are asking for proposals including a title, five key words and a focused, 500-word abstract. The special issue editors will get back to potential authors within 6 weeks of the proposal deadline. *Please note that all full submissions will be subject to blinded peer review.*

Proposal deadline: Jan. 15th, 2014

Please send proposals to pppspecialissue@gmail.com or contact Jayasree Kalathil (jayasree@survivor-research.com) or Nev Jones (nev@lernetwork.org) with any questions.