

Title: *The Muse and the Mad Hatter: At the Intersection of Creativity and Psychopathology*

Abstract: The aphorism that madness and creative genius are opposing sides of the same coin predates contemporary psychiatry and has existed since the time of the great Stagirite Aristotle. Schizophrenia is one mental disorder intimately linked with creative thinking and achievement. There is no shortage of eminent scientists, thinkers, writers, artists, composers tentatively theorized to have precariously balanced the great divide between the demons of schizophrenia and the muses of creative illumination. However, is that association veridical in an empirical sense? If it is, how exactly are schizophrenia and creative illumination related? Using new empirical findings, Kiritsis will shed new light upon the age-old assumption; he will speak about creativity in the context of definition, research, and measurement; he will speak about the nature of the connection between creativity and schizophrenia; and he will go even further still in explaining how creative potential can be channeled in individuals with this diagnosis. Participants will have the opportunity to complete the same Consensual Assessment Technique tasks—customized creative writing tasks—those individuals with schizophrenia and their matched controls did in Kiritsis's dissertation study, *Preserving the Creative Advantages of Schizophrenia: A Quantitative Pretest/Posttest Study on the Effects of Cognitive Remediation Training on Creativity*. Mental health practitioners will find this presentation intriguing and useful.

Keywords: schizophrenia, hallucinations, creativity, disorder, healing,

Theme designation: transpersonal psychotherapy and healing (Theme 2)

Current citations:

Kiritsis, P. (2020). *A critical investigation into precognitive dreams: Dreamscaping without my timekeeper*. United Kingdom: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Kiritsis, P. (2019). *The creative advantages of schizophrenia: The muse and the mad hatter*. United Kingdom: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Kiritsis, P. (2017). *Memories of the future: A critical investigation into precognitive dreams*. In *Metamorphosis Disintegration, Re-integration, and Conscious Living: A Transpersonal Perspective*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Level of intended audience: introductory

Presenter information: Dr. Paul Kiritsis, PsyD, MScMed, is a licensed medical psychologist, author and poet, and artist. He holds postgraduate qualifications in four different disciplines – clinical neurophysiology (MScMed), clinical psychology (PsyD), history (MA), and English/professional writing and speech (Postgraduate diploma). he has authored seven books, including the creative compendium *Confessions of a Split Mind* (2017), the award-winning titles *The Creative Advantages of Schizophrenia* (2019) and *A Critical Investigation into Precognitive Dreams* (2020), and the collection of short stories *Tales of a Spiritual Sun* (2023). *Tales of a Spiritual Sun* hit #2 Bestseller in the category of short stories-historical fiction on the 6th of May, 2023, and #1 Bestseller in the same category on the 7th of May, 2023. He is also the recipient of twenty-one awards and was recently included in the 2023 Doctors edition of the *Best of California Magazine* for excellence in medicine.