

KNOW YOUR SPEAKERS FOR 'CLOSURE 2023'



Susan Perrow (M.Ed)

THERAPEUTIC STORYTELLER & AUTHOR

Susan Perrow specialises in writing therapeutic stories that address various challenging situations for individuals of all ages, as well as communities, and even on a global scale. Over the course of 20 years, she has traveled internationally, delivering keynote speeches and conducting therapeutic story-writing seminars for teachers, therapists, and parents worldwide. Currently, she also offers online teaching. Susan has authored four resource books of therapeutic stories, which have been translated into 14 languages.

For more information, you can refer to the following links:

Website: <http://susanperrow.com/books>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/susanperrow_author/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/healingthroughstories/>



Dr. Rochelle Suri

A LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BASED IN MUMBAI, INDIA.

Dr. Rochelle Suri holds an MA in Integral Counselling Psychology and a doctoral degree in East-West Psychology from CIIS. She lived in San Francisco for 10 years, and prior to that, she resided in India and the United Arab Emirates. Rochelle has extensive experience working with diverse populations and minorities, and she is dedicated to integrating Western psychology and Eastern spirituality within the realm of her psychotherapy practice. She has presented her research at several national and international conferences and has also been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals. Currently, Rochelle is in private practice, working with individuals, couples, and families. Additionally, she serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Humanistic Psychology.



Saiyami Juvekar

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Saiyami Juvekar has over ten years of experience in various roles within the fields of Education and Mental Health. She has worked as a School Counsellor, Remedial Educator, Career Counsellor, Waldorf Teacher, SEL Trainer, and Storyteller. Saiyami holds an M.A. in Counselling Psychology (Honours) and an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration. She has received training in different therapeutic approaches, including Rogerian Personal Counselling, Rational Emotive Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Anthroposophic Psychotherapy. Currently, she is pursuing an M.A. in Yogashastra. Saiyami also possesses a Diploma in Yoga Teacher Training and certifications in Waldorf Education, Remedial Education, and Storytelling.

Saiyami embraces a holistic approach to healing and actively works towards destigmatizing mental health through her interactions with clients and families.

She is deeply passionate about understanding psychotherapy within the Indian context and strives to integrate Western Psychology with Eastern philosophy, particularly Yoga. Currently, Saiyami practices psychotherapy in Mumbai through her initiative called "Your Wellbeing Therapist."



Zheni Nasi

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Zheni Nasi, MA, is a licensed psychotherapist whose professional life extends beyond psychology across countries such as the United States, Canada, and Greece. She is involved in various fields, including diplomacy, conflict management, healthcare, and social justice. Additionally, she is an AAP Associate, a member of the Board of the AAP in North America, and a representative of the AAP to the International Federation of Anthroposophic Psychotherapy Associations (IFAPA) in Switzerland.

Currently, Zheni practices psychotherapy in the Greater Toronto Area, Canada. Her approach primarily stems from an anthroposophic, humanistic, and transpersonal perspective, and she utilizes a trauma-informed and individualized approach to therapy.



Dr. Vasuki Mathivanan (PhD)

PSYCHOLOGIST AND FOUNDER, DIRECTOR IAPS

Dr. Vasuki is an accomplished psychologist with over 2 decades of experience in the field of mental health.

She has extensive experience in training, teaching, counseling, and clinical supervision.

To channelize and consolidate her vast experience and provide a noble service to society, she established "Explore Counselling" (<http://explorecounselling.com>), an organisation with the committed motto of "Hopeless to Hopeful."

She is the first ACA (Australian Counselling Association) certified Supervisor in India and a member of the ACA College of Supervisors. She serves as an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) consultant for several organisations and regularly conducts training and workshops exclusively for mental health professionals, managers, and team leaders of organisations. Dr. Vasuki has also conducted workshops and seminars on various topics in countries like the UK, Malaysia, Australia, Doha, and Sri Lanka. Additionally, she is the Founder and President of the "Indian Academy of Professional Supervisors" (IAPS) - a forum for mental health practitioners.



Dr. Scott Giacomucci

DSW, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAAETS, TEP.

Dr. Scott Giacomucci is the Founder of the Phoenix Center for Experiential Trauma Therapy in Pennsylvania and the Director of Trauma Services at Mirmont Treatment Center. He teaches trauma-focused psychodrama as an Adjunct Professor & Research Associate at Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work. He is the author of "Social Work, Sociometry, & Psychodrama: Trauma-Informed Principles in Group Therapy, Psychodrama, and Organizations," along with multiple research studies, articles, and book chapters. He serves on the Executive Council of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy & Psychodrama (ASGPP) and co-chairs the Research Committee. He is the Co-Chief Editor of the Journal of Psychodrama, Sociometry, and Group Psychotherapy, the book series Co-Editor of "Psychodrama in Counselling, Coaching, and Education," and the co-editor of "Autobiography of a Genius" (2019) by Jacob Moreno. Scott regularly presents at local and global events and has received various awards and recognition for his work.

**Umang Seth****LGBTQ ACTIVIST**

Umang Sheth is a renowned speaker, counselor, and change enabler dedicated to empowering the LGBTQ+ community in India.

As the co-founder of "Mr n Mr," a gay matchmaking initiative, Umang strives to foster meaningful connections for individuals seeking life partners.

With the establishment of "The Hugging Club Of India" in 2017, Umang has provided vital support to those dealing with mental illness, saving over 36 lives from suicide. Having addressed esteemed institutions and organizations on topics such as LGBTQIA+ empowerment and creating safe spaces, Umang's impact dates back to 1998 when he founded "Gay Bombay," India's first social support group for the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Dr. Lakshmi Prasanna****DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICIAN AND EDUCATOR**

Dr. Lakshmi Prasanna is a pediatrician (neonatologist) with 25 years of experience. Prior to starting her private practice, she served as the Head of the Department of the Child Development Unit at Apollo Hospitals in Chennai. In 1997, she founded Little Hearts Children's Hospital in Hyderabad, India. Additionally, Dr. Lakshmi established the Saandeevani Centre for Healing and Curative Education in 2004, based in Hyderabad, to cater to children with special needs and developmental delays.

Dr. Lakshmi adopts an integrated approach to child development and treatment. Her approach encompasses consultation, conducting teacher training workshops for schools, organizing child development workshops for parents, and facilitating family meetings. She has extensively worked in various countries including India, Nepal, Singapore, Australia, and more recently, the US. Her primary focus has been collaborating with Steiner schools in Australia as a school doctor. Dr. Lakshmi has also held the position of President at the Anthroposophical Medical Society in India. She is highly respected across multiple geographical locations for her integrated approach to health and well-being.



Dr. Aparna Kapoor

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Dr. Aparna Kapoor is a mental health professional, Waldorf early childhood educator, and parenting coach rooted in Anthroposophy. With over 15 years of experience in different areas of the human psyche, she offers personal consultations for therapy and counseling for both children and adults. Additionally, she conducts group sessions on mental health and parenting for parents, teacher groups, and corporates.

Dr. Kapoor holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, specializing in health, social, and cognitive psychology. During her Ph.D., she worked with cancer patients, both during and after their treatment.

Introduced to Waldorf education, Dr. Kapoor received training as an early childhood educator. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, she initiated a holistic non-screen home learning program for children and provided coaching to parents globally. Her training in Anthroposophic Psychotherapy (AP) has deepened and widened her knowledge of psychology, which she skillfully integrates into her work. This philosophy has enabled her to understand mental health and illnesses from a new and holistic perspective. She incorporates various creative and art modalities into her practice.



Mimansa Popat

PSYCHOTHERAPIST AND SPECIAL EDUCATOR

Mimansa Popat heads the Integrated Education Department at Prafula. She is a teacher trainer with over 20 years of experience and has designed training modules for developing mental health professionals for schools. Mimansa has also supported schools in developing resource rooms in their institutes. She continues to train teachers and counselors in remedial education.

Mimansa is qualified as a practitioner in Gestalt Therapy and NLP. She has pursued studies in Freudian Psychoanalysis, Transactional Analysis, and Buddhist Psychology. She has been oriented in AMR and Kinesiology. Additionally, she is A.P.A accredited to conduct MBTI Personality Tests and utilizes this tool to enable clients to understand their strengths and weaknesses, as well as their learning, working, and communicating styles.

She has completed the Somatic Experiencing Practitioners course offered by the Federation of Human Enrichment in the US and assists in Somatic Experiencing training in India and overseas. Mimansa is a teacher of Integral Somatic Psychology (ISP) and conducts group work and basic trainings in India.

Furthermore, she is a faculty member of the William Glasser Institute in the US, which offers a therapeutic approach using Choice Theory and Reality Therapy. As a practitioner for the last 15 years, Mimansa has used both the mind and body in counseling, helping clients make correct choices, overcome phobias, and deal with trauma, fear, anxiety, and other related issues.

Mimansa's expertise lies in group and personal work, training, and mentoring in special education as well as in psychotherapy.



Suchitra Inamdar

DIRECTOR, APARA AND PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Suchitra Inamdar is a psychotherapist practicing for more than 20 years in Mumbai. She has therapeutically worked with varied populations, ranging from psychopathology, special needs, family & couples, to the LGBTQ population. She works with various modalities that include both Western and Indian models of psychotherapy. Additionally, she conducts trainings in Anthroposophic Psychotherapy and has been a visiting faculty at the University of Mumbai, teaching Positive Psychology. Currently, along with her private practice, Suchitra is also the Director of APARA and an ex-board member of the International Federation of Anthroposophic Psychotherapy Associations, Switzerland (IFAPA).



Parimal Pandit

DIRECTOR, APARA AND PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Parimal Pandit is a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist from Chennai with 25 years of experience practicing in various settings, including multidisciplinary hospitals, schools, and institutions in Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai. She was the director of Counselling and Assessment at V-Excel Educational Trust in Chennai. Parimal is internationally certified as an Anthroposophic Psychotherapist and Trainer. She has worked extensively in supporting teacher training programs and developing a play therapy unit in a special needs organization. Additionally, she has authored papers as a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist. Currently, Parimal serves as the Director at APARA.



Dr. Sanjay Ranade

DIRECTOR, APARA

Dr. Sanjay Ranade has a Masters in Psychology with a specialisation in counseling. He has a Ph.D. in Politics. Dr. Ranade worked as a journalist with various news organisations for a decade before he founded the Department of Communication and Journalism at The University of Mumbai. Dr. Ranade pursues research on Indian communities, Indian Communication Design, and Indian psychology. He has published several papers in peer-reviewed journals. He has also written and published books as well as chapters in international publications. Dr. Ranade trained to be a therapeutic musician with Pandit Shashank Katti.



Leena Kasat

PSYCHOLOGIST

Leena Kasat is a commerce graduate with a PG Diploma in computer management from Pune University. She has wide and rich experience of almost 15 years in the insurance sector. Subsequently, she is professionally qualified as a psychologist from Mumbai. Her excellent human relations skills, along with her association with NGOs, have contributed to many community development programs to her credit.