

Following the warm and convivial launch in June of Our Consumer Place's *Conversation Starters: Mad Studies* (now available online at: <https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/files/ConsumersAtlas-Volume4.pdf>) and the RMIT Mad Studies Network, you are warmly invited to... the first Reading Group!

When & where?

- Second Wednesday of each month (excluding December) - Wednesday 14th August, 11th September, 9th October & 13th November 2019
- 6pm-7:30pm
- RMIT University, 13.3.7 (map attached)

Contribution: \$5-\$15 OR free of charge

RSVP: welcome but not necessary

First topic: Mad people's knowledge in academia (Wednesday 14th August), facilitated by Flick Grey and Chris Maylea.

- Jasna Russo & Peter Beresford (2014). 'Between exclusion and colonisation: Seeking a place for mad people's knowledge in academia.' *Disability & Society* 30(1): 153-157 (available at: <https://www.ryerson.ca/disability-studies/research/mad-positive-in-the-academy/>)
- **Supplementary reading:** School of Disability Studies, Ryerson University (2015). 'Mad Positive in the Academy.' (available at: <https://www.ryerson.ca/ds/madpositive/>)

**** The evening's discussion will assume that you have read at least the Russo and Beresford text BEFORE attending ****

Who can attend?

The RMIT Mad Studies Reading Group is open to anyone who is interested in critical approaches to mental and emotional well-being and distress. The voices of consumers and survivors of the mental health system are valued and privileged, but all are warmly welcome.

About the reading group:

This reading group was established in June 2019, modelled closely on Mad Studies reading groups organised by Foundation Perceval in Amsterdam and Off the Wall in Sydney.

From Off the Wall's website:

"Inspired by the notion of theory as an emancipatory and reparative tool, the group convenors introduce academic, autobiographical and literary texts that challenge the dominant bio-medical, neoliberal and imperialist models of mental distress and highlight the political, cultural and institutional factors at play in maintaining the status quo...

During the group meetings the participants are invited to reflect on the texts, as well as the current Australian mental health system and their own experiences through the prism of the new knowledges.

The focus remains on *learning together, learning from each other. ...*"