

Hi folks,

Well, the end of the year/decade is nigh (even November is steadily slipping away)!

For November's reading group, we will be focusing on **Thinking differently about suicide**.

****This is the last RMIT Mad Studies Network reading group for 2019. Everyone is welcome to stay back afterwards to discuss plans for 2020 (and beyond!) - topics, structure, hopes & dreams, how folks might like to be part of shaping the network, etc****

There are three (short) references this month:

1. A 2010 interview on *Radio National All in the Mind* with Dr David

Webb: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/allinthemind/thinking-about-suicide-one-survivors-perspective/2960054>

David completed the world's first PhD on suicide (explicitly) by a suicide-attempt survivor. He then turned this PhD into a book (Thinking about Suicide: Contemplating and Comprehending the Urge to Die, 2010 PCCS Books). You can find more of David's work at: <https://thinkingaboutsuicide.org>.

2. An interview with Caroline Mazel-Carlton (and Emily Cutler), on **Alternatives to Suicide**:

<https://www.communitypsychology.com/new-approach-to-suicide/>

Caroline is the Director of Training for the Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community, and a major part of her role includes training groups in Alternatives to Suicide, a non-medical approach to suicide that promotes conversation and connection.

3. Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha (2018) '**Suicidal Ideation 2.0: Queer community leadership and staying alive anyway.**' In *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*. pp.173-179 (attached).

'Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice' is a collection of essays by writer and longtime activist and performance artist, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, exploring the politics and realities of disability justice, a movement that centres the lives and leadership of sick and disabled queer, trans, Black, and brown people, with knowledge and gifts for all.

The details:

When: as always, the date is the second Wednesday of the month (November 13th, 2019), 6-7:30 (some folks stay for chats after the reading group until 8 - this month folks are welcome to stay back and think about the reading group next year - e.g. do you have topics or readings you'd like to suggest? Maybe you have skills to contribute? All most welcome!).

Where: RMIT Building 13, Level 3, room 7. Contribution \$5-\$15 (free if you can't afford to make a financial contribution).