

Dear Mad Reading folk,

Apologies for the delay in sending out this month's readings. Some options are provided for those who don't have time to read a lot prior to the next session.

For May, we'll be exploring the topic *Challenges to Mad Activism*.

Some possible questions to think about are:

Do you think Madness is grounds for culture and identity?

What does Mad culture mean to you, and how do you cultivate it?

How do you feel about the claim made by Jost that "no matter how destigmatized our society becomes, mental illnesses will always cause suffering" and that it therefore doesn't make sense to take pride in Madness?

**\*\*\*The last half hour of Reading Group will be devoted to planning topics/sessions for the rest of the year. Please have a think about whether there is a topic you'd be interested in facilitating, and a date that works for you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of any month\*\*\***

**Readings:**

Chapter 1 of *Madness and the demand for recognition: A philosophical inquiry into identity and mental health activism* by Mohammed Abouelleil Rashed (the introduction is also attached for those who are interested in an overview of the book). For those not in a position to read the full chapter, [a review of the book](#) *Madness and the demand for recognition* by Alise de Bie is available at the above link.

Mad Pride and the Medical Model, by Alison Jost (attached here).

**Date:**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May

**Time:**

7pm AEST

**Zoom link:**

<https://vla-vic-gov-au.zoom.us/j/64360828128>

Meeting ID: 643 6082 8128

Password: 330033

**Calendar invite:**

[Please find attached here should you wish to add to your calendar](#)

**Finally, a few general announcements:**

The organisers of the [International Mad Studies Journal](#) are meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 6-7.30pm AEST. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you'd like us if you'd like to

get involved and we can forward the Zoom link, or contact the organisers directly on [madstudiesjournal@gmail.com](mailto:madstudiesjournal@gmail.com) or [via Twitter](#).



We'd also like to share this call for participants for some research currently being conducted by Chris Maylea, into Recommendation 56 of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. Please get in touch via the link if you have used IMHA or been to the MHT in Victoria and are interested in getting involved:

**Have you used IMHA or a lawyer at the Mental Health Tribunal?**

**We want your help to design a service model for how advocacy and legal services should be provided in mental health.**

**A team from La Trobe University, in collaboration with RMIT University, are looking for people to be involved in service design on behalf of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Branch of the Victorian Department of Health.**

**This consultation process will be used to develop a model for opt-out non-legal mental health advocacy, and co-design a best practice service model for legal services at the Victorian Mental Health Tribunal.**

**This is the link: <https://sway.office.com/f2sxfukuDkuMPSDv>**

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Antonia and Zara