Peter Lehmann

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Publisher, author, social scientist,
medical journalist, and independent activist of humanistic antipsychiatry

Biographical Data

Born on September 3, 1950 in Calw (Black Forest), Germany.

1955, move of the family to Fellbach near Stuttgart.

1957-1961, primary school in Fellbach.

1961-1969, secondary school in Fellbach. In 1969, university-entrance diploma.

1970, move to Berlin (West).

1962-1977, working during school holidays and simultaneously at academic studies sporadically as a bicycle seller, book packer, bookseller, miniature golf groundskeeper, storekeeper, and tool packer, among other jobs.

1971-1978, academic studies in pedagogy at the College of Education of Berlin, the Technical University of Berlin, and the Free University of Berlin. In 1978, degree as graduated pedagogue. Diploma thesis: *Möglichkeiten und Grenzen von Betroffenenbeteiligung (Chances and limits of user involvement)*, part D (together with Ursula Behler, Brigitte Deister, Ute Düring & Gunthart Gude): *Determinanten und Kriterien sozialpädagogischer Strategiefindung bei Stadtsanierungsprojekten (Determinants and criteria of social pedagogic strategy finding in urban redevelopment projects),* advisor: Prof. Dr. Christina Thürmer-Rohr, second advisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel, both College of Education, Faculty of Educational Science – Social Work & Social Pedagogy.

Biographic break: Displacement to the madhouse in 1977 without a court's decision. The human rights violations I experienced there (massive offence against the right to bodily integrity and the right to protection of human dignity) as well as the degrading measures experienced after discharge (administration of toxic psychiatric drugs by community psychiatry, refusal of the informal right of self-determination in form of refusal of the right to have access to my own psychiatry records) led to my continuing individual and collective resistance against psychiatric arbitrariness since 1979.

Work and commitment

1980, co-founder of the *Irren-Offensive (Lunatics Offensive)*, a self-help group of (ex-) users and survivors of psychiatry. 1984-1990, employed as a certified social-pedagogue with this group and advised about psychiatric drugs and withdrawal. 1990/91, termination of membership.

1980-1982, assistant lecturer for Prof. Hellmut Lessing at the Technical University of Berlin, Faculty of Education Sciences (Issue: Psychiatry, social-pedagogics and assistance beyond psychiatry).

1986, foundation of Peter Lehmann Publishing and Mail-order Bookstore (Germany – www.peter-lehmann.de/info/antipsychiatrieverlag.htm), in 2003, founding of a branch in UK (www.peter-lehmann.de/info/peter-lehmann-publishing.htm), 2004 in USA.

1987, co-founder of *PSYCHEX* (alliance of lawyers, doctors and survivors of psychiatry to support people who are incarcerated in psychiatric institutions in Switzerland), since then, serve as a board-member – www.psychex.ch.

1989, co-founder of the *Organisation for the Protection from Psychiatric Violence* (running the Runaway-house: house for people who seek shelter from psychiatric violence, opened in 1996 in Berlin); 2001, termination of the membership – www.weglaufhaus.de/verein.

Since 1990, co-editor of the *Journal of Critical Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy* (United Kingdom) – www.egalitarianpublishing.com/jcpcp.html.

1991, co-founder of the *European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP)*. 1997-1999, Chair of ENUSP, later webmaster, desk secretary and newsletter editor. Until 2010, board member of the North-East European region (Austria, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia). Since 2014, individual member of ENUSP – https://enusp.org.

1994-2000, board member of the Bundesverband Psychiatrie-Erfahrener (BPE – *Federal German Organisation of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry*), 1999-2020, webmaster. 2020, termination of membership.

1996-1999, board member of joint WFMH-MHE (Mental Health Europe – www.mhe-sme.org, then independent European section of [and combined with] World Federation for Mental Health – www.wfmh.org).

Since 2000, co-editor of the *Journal of Critical Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy* (Lancaster) – www.egalitarianpublishing.com/jcpcp.html.

2002, co-founder of Für alle Fälle *(In Any Case)* Berlin, from 2002-2012, board member, webmaster and training course leader – www.peter-lehmann.de/artikel/selbsthilfe/faf.htm#english.

2005, co-founder of the Berliner Organisation Psychiatrie-Erfahrener und Psychiatrie-Betroffener e.V. (BOP&P; *Organisation of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry in Berlin*), 2013-2019, Patron for BOP&P. 2020, termination of membership.

2007, representative of MindFreedom, ENUSP and BPE in the Organizing Committee of the conference on Coercive Treatment in Psychiatry, run by the World Psychiatric Association in Dresden.

2013-2021, course instructor at the advanced specialized training in psychiatry for the PMG GmbH – Pflege Management Gesundheit *(PMG LLC. – Care Management Health)*, Berlin – www.pmg-pflege.de.

Since 2013, blogger at *Mad in America – Science, Psychiatry & Social Justice* – www.madinamerica.com.

2015, founding member of PSYCHEXODUS *(Out of the Madhouse)*, Switzerland, and since then board member – www.psychexodus.ch.

2016-2017, member of the International Council of Associations for Service Users and Family Carers of the WPA (World Psychiatric Association) XVII World Congress of Psychiatry 2017 in Berlin.

Since 2020, Associate of the IIPDW – International Institute for Psychiatric Drug Withdrawal – https://iipdw.org/board-associates.

2022-2026, member of the Fachausschuss Psychopharmaka der Deutschen Gesellschaft für soziale Psychiatrie *(Specialist Committee for Psychiatric Drugs of the German Society for Social Psychiatry)*

Since 2023, scientific assistant at ENTROPIA – Laboratory for Systemic Ideas, Research and Intervention (Thessaloniki) – https://entropia.press

Since 2025, blogger at Mad *in Deutschland – Wissenschaft, Psychiatrie & soziale Gerechtigkeit (Mad in Germany – Science, psychiatry & social justice)* – www.madindeutschland.com.

Current formal individual association memberships

NetzG – Bundesnetzwerk Selbsthilfe seelische Gesundheit *(Federal Network Self-help Mental Health)* – www.netzg.org.

European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP – https://enusp.org.

Awards

In 2010, awarded an Honorary Doctorate in acknowledgment of "exceptional scientific and humanitarian contribution to the rights of the people with psychiatric experience" by the School of Psychology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, Faculty of Philosophy – www.peter-lehmann.de/drhc-e.htm.

In 2011, awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany by the President of Germany "in acknowledgement of service to the community" – www.peter-lehmann.de/bvk.htm.

Appendix

Publications, symposia, trainings and lectures – www.peter-lehmann.de/publications.htm

Memberships – www.peter-lehmann.de/memberships.pdf