Tormóður Stórá

Title of keynote: Mental Health and stigmatisation in a small society, where psychiatry is a fairly new field of practice

Summary af keynote: 50 years ago the first Psychiatric ward opened in the Faroe Islands. Prior to this, people in need of psychiatric treatment, were sent to Denmark, where they mostly stayed for a very long time and some for a lifetime. Psychiatry in the Faroe Islands is a fairly new field of practice. In small scale societies like The Faroe Islands, stigma can be an especially harsh experience. One can wonder, whether there are further implications to the stigmaproblem, giving that the field of psychiatry is new? The proces of destigmatisation takes too long, and the work to equal physical and mental illnesses, is not going well at all. Is it the attempt to compare "mental illness" to the non essential concept of "physical illness" as identical concepts, which in itself is a hinder for destigmatisation of mental illness in society? Is the attempt of "step by step" destigmatisation futile? Do we need a destigmarevolution?

Presentaion of speaker: Tormóður Stórá is the chief psychiatrist at the Psychiatric Department at Landssjúkrahúsið, the main hospital of the Faroe Islands. 30 years ago he had his first professional experience in psychiatry and for the past 15 years he has been the chief psychiatris and has remained active in the clinic at the same time. He has been taking part in the work to improve mental health as well as being active in the public debate regarding psychiatry and to work against stigma of psychiatric illnesses.