

## Maureen Smojkis

Associate Director, Centre of Excellence in Interdisciplinary Mental Health

Applied Social Studies

### Contact details

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### About

Maureen is an Associate Director for the **Centre of Excellence in Interdisciplinary Mental Health (CEIMH)** (<http://www.ceimh.bham.ac.uk>), Welfare Tutor for the Social Work and Post-qualifying programmes and Assessment Tutor for the BA Social Work Programme at the Institute of Applied Social Studies.

### Qualifications

- MPhil Out of the Shadows: Exploring the lives of the Birmingham Polish
- MSc in Counselling and Psychotherapy
- BSc(Hons) Education
- Diploma in Professional Studies in Nursing

### Professional registration Nursing & Midwifery Council

- Registered Nurse Mental Health
- Registered Nurse Adult
- Lecturer Practitioner Educator

### Biography

Maureen is a Nurse and Integrative Counsellor by professional background and gained broad practice experience before joining the University in 1997. Maureen was a lecturer in Mental Health nursing and the programme lead for the Solution Focussed Brief Therapy Masters Programme before taking up the post of Associate Director at the **Centre of Excellence in Interdisciplinary Mental Health (CEIMH)** (<http://www.ceimh.bham.ac.uk>) in 2006.

Maureen maintains strong links with practice and has a particular interest in Continuing Professional Development and the Wellbeing and Resilience of staff and service users. Maureen is in her second term as Stakeholder Governor for the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust.

As a member of the **Suresearch** (<http://www.suresearch.org.uk/>) Inpatient Care Forum Maureen has worked with Service Users to develop a range of Digital Stories about their **experiences of mental health services** (<http://www.ceimh.bham.ac.uk/tv/mental-health-services.shtml>) to be used in the education of health and social care practitioners.

Maureen's research has been connected to the Polish Community in Birmingham, her MPhil is an oral history titled 'Out of the Shadows: Exploring the lives of the Birmingham Polish'. She is a founding member and Chair of the Midlands Polish Community Association who completed a Heritage Lottery funded project in 2011 titled 'Collected Memories of the Birmingham Polish' [www.mpca.eu](http://www.mpca.eu) (<http://www.mpca.eu/>) about the first generation of post Second World War Polish migrants and is in the process of completing a second Heritage Lottery funded project titled 'Fitting in and Getting Along: Integration and Identity for Birmingham's British Poles' about the second generation of post-Second World War Polish migrants.

### Teaching

- Solution Focussed Approaches
- Module Lead: Social Identity, Citizenship and Social Work Practice
- Module Lead: Reflective Practice, Wellbeing and Resilience for Managers
- Module Lead: Interdisciplinary Preceptorship

### Research

- Heritage Lottery funded project titled 'Fitting in and Getting Along: Integration and Identity for Birmingham's British Poles' (2014-2015)
- MPhil an Oral History titled 'Out of the Shadows: Exploring the Lives of the Birmingham Polish' (2014)
- Heritage Lottery funded project titled 'Collected Memories of the Birmingham Polish' (2011)
- Research supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate social work students

## Publications

### Chapters in books

Smojkis M, Nolan P (2004) Experiences in mental health nursing. Chapter in *Getting Research into Practice* by Clifford, C & Clarke J. Elsevier.

Tummev, R & Smojkis M (2004) Chapter: *Primary Mental Health Care: in Planning Care in Mental Health Nursing*. Palgrave.

### Articles in journals

Spector, R, Smojkis, M, Chilton, L and members of Suresearch, (2011) Service-user involvement in a ward staff training project: Participants' experiences of making digital stories. *Clinical Psychology Forum*, No. 220.

Nolan, P Smojkis, M (2003) The mental health of nurses in the UK. *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*, vol.9 374-379.

### Selected Conference contributions

Smojkis, M (2011) University of Birmingham Teaching and Learning Conference 2011. *Developing transferrable skills: Reflective Practice groups in an Interdisciplinary Preceptorship Programme*.

Smojkis, M and Byrne, F (2011), Networking for Education in Healthcare (NET) Conference in collaboration with Frances Byrne the Lead for Professional Development and Quality BSMHFT which will be held in Cambridge in September. *Interdisciplinary Preceptorship: The importance of Partnership Working*.

Smojkis, M and Clark, M (2010) Middlesex University; Centre for Learning and Quality Enhancement. *Digital Stories: Creating Reusable Learning Objects to link theory and practice in health and social care education*.

Chilton, E and Smojkis, M (2009) *Vicarious learning through digital stories: listening to the authentic voice of mental health service users*. Poster presentation (gaining first prize in conference poster competition) at the *Fourth International Blended Learning Conference 'Engaging Students in the Curriculum'*. University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield 17-18 June 2009.

Smojkis, M and Clark, M (2009) Royal College of Nursing Mental Health Conference. Delivering mental health care in the UK today, Edinburgh. March 2009. *Embedding Service User and Carer Voices into the Education of Mental Health Practitioners*.

Smojkis, M and Chilton, E (2009) 6th Annual Teaching and Learning Conference. The University of Birmingham. 4 March 2009. *Digital Stories: Quality multimedia learning and teaching resources produced with minimal technical skills*.

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