INVITED LECTURE by SUSAN MINTZBERG

Weaving together Experiences: the Story of Family

Susan Mintzberg is a PhD candidate in the School of Social Work at McGill University. Her doctoral research, funded by FRQSC, explores the role of families in psychiatry with a focus on collaboration between family members and mental health care professionals. This work evolved from ten years of clinical practice with individuals and families in community mental health. In an earlier career, Susan was a photojournalist with published work in newspapers and magazines.

Susan has always been drawn to interdisciplinary collaboration. Merging diverse backgrounds leads to fresh ideas and new insights, which she believes is particularly pertinent for social work. Together with colleagues, she has presented and published work on mental health care, aging, family systems, co-teaching in higher education, and shaking up the academic establishment. She has taught (and co-taught) at McGill in the School of Social Work and the Faculty of Management, including courses on social care and family practice. She is a member (family representative) of the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee in psychiatry at the MUHC.

Susan’s focus on families has been consistent throughout her career. This presentation, Weaving together experiences: the story of family, will highlight key elements of her work. Using examples, she will discuss the connections between her clinical, research, teaching and interdisciplinary experiences, and address how the story of family has influenced her thinking about social work practice and pedagogy.