THE 17TH INTERNATIONAL

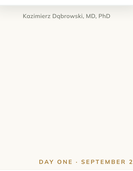
Dąbrowski Congress

Calgary, Alberta, Canada ✦ September 25–27, 2026

CONGRESS THEME

In Search of Mental Health: Exploring Multilevel Development in Dąbrowski's Theory.

The theme underscores the theory's unique approach to mental health — one reflected in the multilevel development of an authentic, autonomous personality guided by higher values.



Kazimierz Dąbrowski, MD, PhD

"Personality is not a ready gift but an achievement."

KAZIMIERZ DĄBROWSKI

Friday

DAY ONE · SEPTEMBER 25

2:30 – 5:30 PM — **Registration Open**
FOYER

3:00 – 5:30 PM — WORKSHOP
"Dąbrowski 101"
Introduction to the Theory of Positive Disintegration

If you are a relative newcomer to Dąbrowski's work, or would like a refresher experience, this pre-congress workshop will be a helpful precursor to the more in-depth and diverse work to be discussed during the congress.

Linda Silverman, PhD
AUBURN ROOM

5:30 – 6:00 PM — **Registration Open**
FOYER

6:00 – 7:00 PM — **Reception · Canapés with Cash Bar**
Introduction of Speakers and Presenters
AUBURN ROOM

7:00 – 9:30 PM — **Two Short Films**
"Dąbrowski the Man: The Life Behind the Theory" & *"Be Greeted, Psychoneurotics"*

The Theory of Positive Disintegration resonates with many who have experienced some of the 'disintegration' described in Dąbrowski's complex work. The first short film was created with the belief that the life and times during which Dąbrowski developed his theory adds depth and understanding to those who engage with it. The second film allows the audience to see Dąbrowski himself work with a patient, and will be followed by commentary from psychologist Paul McGaffey, who worked with Dąbrowski, sharing what can be learned about the man and his theory from observing this interaction.

Susan Picard, PhD & Paul McGaffey, PhD
AUBURN ROOM

Saturday

DAY TWO · SEPTEMBER 26

8:15 AM — **Registration**
FOYER

8:45 AM — **Welcome & Announcements**
Janneke & Joe Frank · Co-Chairs
AUBURN ROOM

9:00 – 9:35 AM — SIGNATURE SESSION I
Thoughts on Positive Disintegration
Dexter Amend, PhD · USA · Auburn Room

BREAK · 9:35

9:45 – 10:20 AM — SIGNATURE SESSION II
Inner Conflict and the Role of "The Other": TPD Relationships
Michele Kane, EdD · USA · Auburn Room

A STRAND	B STRAND	C STRAND
Understanding the Theory: Dialogue Across Perspectives AUBURN ROOM	Living the Theory: Development, Transformation, and Growth SETON ROOM	Applying the Theory: Individual Pathways and Practice SETON ROOM
10:30 – 11:00 AM		
1A **Enes Cakir** · United States A Neurological Approach to the Theory of Positive Disintegration	**1B** **Christine Ayling** · Canada Multilevelness, the Virtues Project, and Growing Empathy in the Healthcare Profession	**1C** **Sandra A. Ham** · United States Considerations for Using Dąbrowski's Theory in Catholic Mental Health Ministries
11:10 – 11:40 AM · AFTER 11:00 BREAK		
2A **Lexie Gya** · United States The Alchemy of Inner Conflict: Bridging Positive Disintegration and Buddhist Mind Training	**2B** **Chris Van Camp** · Belgium Dąbrowski in the 21st Century: Positive Disintegration as a Framework for Understanding the Future — and Protecting Our Humanity	**2C** **Sabrina Menasria** · France From Overexcitability to M.A.D. Skills: Transforming Intensity into Organizational and Societal Value for Innovation and Change

11:40 – 12:40 — *Lunch*

12:40 – 1:15 PM — SIGNATURE SESSION III
Rethinking Self-Concept in Light of Dąbrowskian Development
Sal Mendaglio, PhD · Canada · Auburn Room

A Understanding the Theory	B Living the Theory	C Applying the Theory
AUBURN ROOM	SETON ROOM	SETON ROOM
1:25 – 1:55 PM		
3A **Amanda Harper, PhD** · Australia Through the Dąbrowski Lens: Parallels between Multilevel Development, Sternberg's T-ACCEL Model of Giftedness, and his Trilogy of Moral Intelligence	**3B** **Peri Henderson** · Canada Dąbrowski's TPD from a Tenth Grader's Perspective	**3C** **Lisa Mazza, MA/MSc** · United States "Molding and Shaping with Plato: An Educator's Journey with Gifted Students"

2:05 – 2:40 PM — SIGNATURE SESSION IV
The Theory of Positive Disintegration: Looking Back, Looking Forward
Bill Tillier, MSc · Canada · Auburn Room

2:50 – 3:50 PM — **Table Talk**
Presenters circulate among table groups to answer questions.
AUBURN ROOM

The Marriott Hotel includes a restaurant and other venues for meals. There are also restaurants nearby — please check with the front desk.

Dinner on your own

Sunday

DAY THREE · SEPTEMBER 27

9:00 – 9:15 AM — **Announcements**
Janneke & Joe Frank · Co-Chairs
AUBURN ROOM

A STRAND	B STRAND	C STRAND
Understanding the Theory: Dialogue Across Perspectives AUBURN ROOM	Living the Theory: Development, Transformation, and Growth SETON ROOM	Applying the Theory: Individual Pathways and Practice SETON ROOM
9:15 – 9:45 AM		
4A **Agnieszka Muchacka-Cymerman, PhD** · Poland From Crisis to Transformation: Applying Positive Disintegration Theory to Narrative Research on Teacher Development	**4B** **Carlyn Neek** · Canada Toward a Life Worth Living: Occupation, Values, and the Path of Becoming	**4C** **Paul McGaffey, PhD** · Canada Wired Weird®: Reshaping Overexcitabilities
9:55 – 10:25 AM · AFTER 9:45 BREAK		
5A **Susan Picard, PhD** · Canada What the Theory of Positive Disintegration Can Teach Us About Inclusion	**5B** **Glenn Groulx, MDE** · Canada Using Journaling to Facilitate the Third Factor: Fostering Learner Autonomy in Non-Formal Settings	**5C** **Anita Pindiur, MSc** · United States From Pain to Purpose: Reclaiming Life Through Recovery — Understanding Substance and Gambling Use Disorders

10:35 – 11:35 AM — PANEL PRESENTATION
Kazimierz Dąbrowski: Remembering the Man Behind the Theory
Dexter Amend · Paul McGaffey · Leo Mos · Bill Tillier
AUBURN ROOM

11:35 – 12:00 PM — **Wrap Up & Next Congress**
AUBURN ROOM

Lunch on your own

Thank you, and safe journeys home everyone.

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Please note: Speaker times and schedule details are subject to change. We'll keep this page updated with the latest information.

UPDATED ON AUGUST 20, 2026