Assessment of ICD-11 Personality Disorders
and Related Traits in Clinical Practice

World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP), Stockholm, Sweden

23 September 2026; Wednesday 09.00-13.00

Teaching faculty

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Prof. Bo Bach (Course co-director), Central- and West Zealand Hospital and University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Co-chair of the WPA Personality Disorder Section.

Dr. Mats Adler, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Centre for Psychiatry Research at CNS, Karolinska Institute (Medical University), Stockholm, Sweden.

Dr. Jacob King, Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford, UK; Secretary of the WPA Personality Disorder Section.

Course abstract

This course will provide a practical introduction to the *Clinical Descriptions and Diagnostic Requirements for ICD-11 Personality Disorders and Related Traits* with emphasis on semi-structured clinical assessment using the *Diagnostic Interview for Personality Pathology based on ICD-11* (DIPP-11; Bach & Sellbom, 2026). This fundamentally new approach to the classification of personality disturbances relies on assessment of aspects of personality functioning followed by a global classification of severity (i.e., subthreshold personality difficulty, mild personality disorder, moderate personality disorder, and severe personality disorder) along with the option of assigning up to five trait domain specifiers (i.e., negative affectivity, detachment, dissociality, disinhibiton, and anankastia). After completing all components of the assessment, the clinician is also allowed to assign a familiar borderline pattern specifier when applicable.

The course will not be dealing with the traditional ICD-10/DSM-5 personality disorder types per se, as the field is currently leaving them. However, specific cases will be used to illustrate how familiar personality disorder patterns may be portrayed and classified within the ICD-11.

The course seeks to stimulate active participation through application of the new diagnostic framework, including the formal use of the DIPP-11 instrument accompanied by tentative suggestions for treatment

planning, allocation of clinical resources, level of treatment intensity, risk assessment, psychoeducation, and treatment evaluation. The utility of recognizing both healthy/intact and impaired aspects of personality functioning will also be considered.

Tentative course outline

09.00-09.15: Brief intro and course agenda: *prof. Kim and prof. Bach*

09.15-09.30: Development of the ICD-11 personality disorder classification: *prof. Kim*

09.30-10.00: Presenting the full classification using DIPP-11 interview as framework: *prof. Bach*

10.00-10.30: Aspects of personality functioning and determination of severity: *prof. Bach*

10.30-11.00: Assessment and interpretation of trait domain specifiers: *prof. Bach*

11.00-11.30: Break

11.30-12.00: A Case of Personality Disorder assessment from Sweden: *dr. Adler*

12.00-12.30: Participants trying modules of the DIPP-11 with case material: *dr. King and prof. Bach*

12.30-13.00: Rounding up with discussion and implications: *dr. King, prof. Bach, and prof. Kim*

Learning Objectives

Participants will be given the chance to try out designated parts of the DIPP-11 interview using pre-prepared clinical vignettes or own clinical material, which will be discussed in the plenary.

As a result of participating in the course, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the novel features in the structure and content of the ICD-11 classification of personality disorder severity including the clinical significance of aspects of the self and interpersonal functioning.

2. Describe the essential meaning of trait domain specifiers including their different combinations and utility for characterizing individual and stylistic expressions of personality dysfunction.

3. At an introductory level demonstrate preparation to apply the DIPP-11 interview for characterizing aspects of personality functioning, determining global severity, and specifying prominent trait domains.

4. More effectively support the implementation of ICD-11 classification of personality disorders in mental health service settings.

Target audience

The course content should be informative for all professionals in WHO member states working in general mental health services as well as forensic practice, including psychiatrists and clinical psychologists.

Suggested references

Books and chapters

Bach, B. (2025). *ICD-11 Personality Disorders: Assessment and Treatment*. Oxford University Press.

Bach, B., & Simonsen, S. (2025). *ICD-11 Personality Disorders: A Clinician's Guide*. Göttingen (Germany), Hogrefe Publishing Corp.

Sellbom, M. & Bach, B. (2026). User's Guide for *Diagnostic Interview for Personality Pathology in ICD-11 (DIPP-11)*. Hogrefe Publishing Group.

Mulder, R. T., & Bach, B. (2022). Assessment and treatment of personality disorders within the ICD-11 framework. In S. K. Huprich (Ed.), *Personality disorders and pathology: Integrating clinical assessment and practice in the DSM-5 and ICD-11 era.* (2nd ed., pp. 183–208). American Psychological Association.

Tyrer, P. (2026). *Adaptive Solutions to Personality Disorders: Treating Patients with Nidotherapy* (1st ed.). Routledge.

Articles on clinical utility and user preferences

Tracy, M., Tiliopoulos, N., Sharpe, L., & Bach, B. (2021). The clinical utility of the ICD-11 classification of personality disorders and related traits: A preliminary scoping review. *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, *55*(9), 849–862.

Hansen, S. J., Christensen, S., Kongerslev, M. T., First, M. B., Widiger, T. A., Simonsen, E., & Bach, B. (2019). Mental health professionals' perceived clinical utility of the ICD-10 vs. ICD-11 classification of personality disorders. *Personality and Mental Health*, *13*(2), 84–95.

Brown, T. A., Sellbom, M., Bach, B., & Newton-Howes, G. (2023). New Zealand (Aotearoa) clinicians' perspectives on the utility of the ICD-11 Personality Disorder diagnosis. *Personality and Mental Health*.

Articles on clinical implementation and preparation

Tyrer, P., Mulder, R. T., Kim, Y.-R., & Crawford, M. J. (2019). The Development of the ICD-11 Classification of Personality Disorders: An Amalgam of Science, Pragmatism, and Politics. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, *15*(1), 481–502.

Mulder, R., Kim, Y., & Tyrer, P. (2025). Personality in the spotlight: activities of the WPA Section on Personality Disorders. *World Psychiatry*, *24*(1), 149–150.

Bach, B., Kramer, U., Doering, S., di Giacomo, E., Hutsebaut, J., Kaera, A., De Panfilis, C., Schmahl, C., Swales, M., Taubner, S., & Renneberg, B. (2022). The ICD-11 classification of personality disorders: a European perspective on challenges and opportunities. *Borderline Personality Disorder and Emotion Dysregulation*, *9*(1), 12.

Articles related to clinical aspects in general

Bach, B., & First, M. B. (2018). Application of the ICD-11 classification of personality disorders. *BMC Psychiatry*, *18*(1), 351.

Stricker, J., Hasenburg, L., Jakob, L., Weigl, T., & Pietrowsky, R. (2024). Public Stigma and Continuum Beliefs Across Personality Disorder Severity Levels. *Journal of Personality Disorders*, *38*(1), 75–86.

Day, N. J. S., Green, A., Denmeade, G., Bach, B., & Grenyer, B. F. S. (2024). Narcissistic personality disorder in the ICD-11: Severity and trait profiles of grandiosity and vulnerability. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*.

Bach, B., & Simonsen, S. (2021). How does level of personality functioning inform clinical management and treatment? Implications for ICD-11 classification of personality disorder severity. *Current Opinion in Psychiatry*, *34*(1), 54–63.

Lambrecht, B., Simon, J., & Bach, B. (2023). Clinician-rated ICD-11 trait domains and personality disorder types. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment*.