

Dr Jan Wallcraft

Stephen Jeffreys writes:

Jan Wallcraft, who passed away during 2020, played an important role in the development of the Survivor movement and Survivor Research. She was a survivor of the psychiatric system, a researcher and a mental health and political activist.

Jan's chapter in *This is Survivor Research*, traces her personal experience of the psychiatric system including ECT, survivor activism and completing her first degree. This period included participation in Survivors Speak Out and the Channel Four programme *We're Not Mad, We're Angry*. She went on to work for Mind and refers to setting up the Mindlink network and working on the UK Advocacy Network at time when involving service users was a change in culture. Jan then did a PhD on first experiences of mental health crisis whilst working as free-lance researcher with others on two landmark user led research projects, *Strategies for Living* and *On Our Own Terms*. After completing the doctorate there Jan worked in the old National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) advocating for service user and carer perspectives, and then managed SURGE (the involvement organisation in the UK Mental Health Research Network) before resigning on a point of principle.

I first came across Jan in around 2009 as an occasional guest speaker and research skills trainer at the University of Birmingham Centre of Excellence for Interdisciplinary Mental Health. Later, we asked Jan to deliver further research skills training courses for service users and carers for [Suresearch](#), in collaboration with the Central England Mental Health Research Network. The courses were notable for focusing on the different theoretical foundations of positivist medical model research and of Survivor Research as a distinct critical and transformative approach, alongside the technical aspects of research. Getting involved in the research world on our own terms was and remains challenging, but Jan helped provide a solid foundation.

We list, here, some of her many research related publications. Unfortunately, some of these are not available to download or borrow without access to a library:

Jan Wallcraft (1998) *Healing minds : a report on current research, policy and practice concerning the use of complementary and alternative therapies for a wide range of mental health problems*. London, Mental Health Foundation.

Alison Faulkner, Sarah Layzell and others (2000) *Strategies for Living: A report of user-led research into people's strategies for living with mental distress*. The Mental Health Foundation.

Jan Wallcraft and John Michaelson (2001) 'Developing a survivor discourse to replace the 'psychopathology' of breakdown and crisis' in Newnes, Holmes & Dunn (editors), *This is Madness Too*. Ross-on-Wye, PCCS Books.

Jan Wallcraft, Jim Read and Angela Sweeney (2003) *On Our Own Terms: Users and survivors of mental health services working together for support and change*. The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health. Available [here](#).

Jan Wallcraft (2005) 'Recovery from Mental Breakdown' in *Social Perspectives in Mental Health*, Tew (editor). London, Jessica Kingsley.

Jan Wallcraft (2009) 'From Activist to Researcher and Part-Way Back', in Beresford, Sweeney, Faulkner, Nettle, Rose (editors, *This is Survivor Research*. Ross-on-Wye, PCCS Books.

Jan Wallcraft, , Beate Schrank and Michaela Amering (2009) *Handbook of Service User Involvement in Mental Health Research: User Involvement in Mental Health Research*. Chichester, John Willey & Sons.

Bill Fulford and Jan Wallcraft (2009) 'Values-Based Practice and Service User Involvement in Mental Health Research' in Wallcraft, Schrank & Amering (see above book reference).

Jan Wallcraft (2010) 'The service user as a person in health care—service users organising for self empowerment' in *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 10(5). Available [here](#).

Jan Wallcraft (2011) 'Service user's perceptions of quality of life measurement in psychiatry' in *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*, 17(4), pp.266-274. Available [here](#).

Philip Thomas, Patience Seebohm, Jan Wallcraft, Jayasree Kalathil and Suman Fernando (2013) 'Personal consequences of the diagnosis of schizophrenia: a preliminary report from the inquiry into the schizophrenia label' in *Mental Health and Social Inclusion*, 17(3), pp.135-139. Available [here](#).

Jan Wallcraft and Kim Hopper (2015) 'The Capabilities Approach and the Social Model of Mental Health' in *Madness, Distress and the Politics of Disablement*, Spandler, Anderson & Sapey. Bristol, Policy Press.