Madness has been a fruitful and at the same time difficult subject matter to think about. Since antiquity, attempts have been made to put some order into this proteiform ‘entity’, this untamed ‘animal’ which menaces disciplinary boundaries. It has been viewed as a supernatural force or no more than a social label; it has been regarded as consequence of humoral imbalances or destructive neuropsychological processes. These may well have been presented as theoretical models, but they always carried (and carry) with them strong moral and folk beliefs. In consequence, we are dealing with a discipline with a bewildering variety of factors that make near impossible any kind of consensus in the academic and clinical fields. This notwithstanding, it is still a good matière à penser.

The aim of this colloquium is to inquire into how madness has been thought of in both ancient Greco-Roman and Contemporary civilizations. Simultaneously, it intends to discuss how modern-age researchers are interpreting ancient texts, and to discuss psychiatry’s contemporary discourses as well as its practices, that is, ways it deals with insanity. This conference hopes to bring to both experts and a wide audience some understanding of the origins of how we conceptualise and respond to mental illness.
ancient and contemporary approaches to madness

June 3rd 2013  Faculty of Science of the University of Lisbon

10h  Welcome - Olga Pombo  Head of CFCUL.

10h 15  Zbigniew Kotowicz  CFCUL
        Foucault’s idea of dialogue with unreason revisited

10h 45  Nuno Nabais  FLUL / CFCUL
        Madness, fiction and efabulation

11h 30  coffee break

11h 45  António Bracinha Vieira  CFCUL
        La folie comme disproportion anthropologique

12h 30  discussion

13h - 14h15  lunch

14h 30  Ricardo Julião  CFCUL
        "All fools are mad". Chrysippus on insanity

15h 15  José Pedro Serra  FLUL / CEC
        Images de la folie dans la tragédie grecque

16h  coffee break

16h 15  Robert James Hankinson  University of Texas at Austin
        Diseases of the Body; Diseases of the Soul

17h  discussion

17h 30  concluding remarks

organized by:
Ricardo Julião  Centre for Philosophy of Science of the University of Lisbon