

Story Ideas for Journalists

writethewriter@deadinsaneorinjail.com / DeadInsaneOrInJail.com

- children's rights / human rights
- social isolation during adolescence
- decisions for institutional placement
- healthy attachment and trauma bonding
- institutionalized persuasion (coercion)
- milieu control (brainwashing)
- making art from trauma
- art as the antidote to abuse

Connections, Events, and Advocacy Groups:

Survivors of Institutional Abuse

March 2015, Los Angeles, CA • Met with SIA leader **Jodi Hobbs** (sia-now.org), and featured speaker, the author and attorney **Paul Morantz**. Independent filmmaker **Adam Forgash** conducted documentary interviews of Morantz on the history of Synanon and its founder, Charles Dederich. Also met with **Nick Gaglia**, director of *Over the GW*, and **Kate Logan** (director) and **David Wernsman** (subject) of the documentary, *Kidnapped for Christ*.

Dallas

May 2015, Dallas, TX • With author-scholar **Marcus M. Chatfield IV** and documentarian **Paul Yanez**, Zack met with **Prof. Rick Halperin**, Director of the Embrey Human Rights Program at Southern Methodist University's Dedman College of Human Rights to discuss rights deprivations at US-based residential teen programs.

Stockholm

June 2015, Stockholm, Sweden • While attending the annual conference of the **International Cultic Studies Association** (icsahome.com), Zack met with attorney, children's rights advocate, and ICSA past President **Phil Elberg**, cult recovery expert **Steven Hassan**, and many other leaders in the field. By now, Zack had become aware of the scope and impact of institutionalized persuasion worldwide, and the many voices now being raised to advocate for change.

Daedalus Books Debut Event

November 2015, Charlottesville, VA • Iconic used-bookseller Daedalus Books introduced *Dead, Insane, or in Jail: A CEDU Memoir* to local friends, fans, and supporters in Zack's inaugural book event. Zack's book is the first newly published book ever sold at Daedalus.

Virginia Festival of the Book

March 2016, Charlottesville, VA • Book One in the series, *Dead, Insane, or in Jail: A CEDU Memoir*, was selected for the 2016 Virginia Festival of the Book, and was featured in the local paper. To a packed house, Zack engaged in a public discussion with other experts about consent and coercion in mental health treatment policy. (VaBook.org)

International Cultic Studies Association

July 2016, Dallas, TX • After attending the ICSA conference in Stockholm in 2015, Zack was invited to present the following year in Dallas, with his session, "The Lack of Research in Adolescent Group Settings: Psychological Pressures as Part of the Milieu in Controlling Institutions and Systems - Making Art out of the Inexpressible."

While there, at a **Phoenix Project** session on the role of the arts in resistance and recovery, Zack read from Book One and made the case that art is the antidote to authoritarianism. (icsahome.com)