



CURRICULUM VITAE

Prof. Robert van Voren PhD
FRCPsych (Hon)
(pseudonym of Johannes Bax)

Personal information

Home address: Totoriu 20-6, 21011 Vilnius, Lithuania
tel.: +31-651534123 (mob.)
Postal address: P.O.Box 1956, 1200 BZ Hilversum (NL)
E-mail: rvvoren@gip-global.org
Date/place of birth: July 25, 1959, Montréal (Canada)
Nationality: Canadian, Dutch, Lithuanian
Civil status: married, 3 children

Education

- Marnix Gymnasium, Rotterdam (The Netherlands). Graduation 1979.
- Modern and Theoretical History, University of Amsterdam; specialization in Soviet History, with Russian language. Graduation 1986. Degree: doctorandus (drs), comparable with MSc.
- PhD in political science at Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University, October 2010.

Languages

- Dutch (native)
- English (second native language)
- Russian (fluent)
- German (fluent)
- French (good)
- Lithuanian (mediocre)
- Italian (poor)

Current paid positions:

- Chief Executive, Human Rights in Mental Health – FGIP
- Professor of Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas (LT)
- Executive Director of the Andrei Sakharov Research Center on Democratic Development, Kaunas (LT)
- Professor of Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies, Ilia State University, Tbilisi (GEO)
- Visiting Professor, University of Silesia, Katowice (PL)

Professional activity

- 1978-1987: Secretary of the Podrabinek Fund in The Netherlands.
- 1978-1989: Associate of the Bukovsky Foundation in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 1980: Founding member of the International Association on the Political use of Psychiatry (IAPUP)
- 1980-1990: Traveled on average four times per year to the USSR to meet with dissidents and relatives of political prisoners. The goals of these trips were to deliver humanitarian aid, to collect evidence on human rights violations and smuggle this and samizdat out of the country. In spite of an arrest in 1983 managed to continue to travel until the USSR disintegrated.
- 1986 - present: Appointed General-Secretary of the International Association on the Political Use of Psychiatry (renamed in 1991 into Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry, in 2005 into Global Initiative on Psychiatry and in 2014 into **Human Rights in Mental Health-FGIP**) of which I am now the Chief Executive.
- 1988-1989: Board-member of the Bukovsky Foundation.
- 1989-1995: Director of the Second World Center in Amsterdam, the successor organization to the Bukovsky Foundation. The Second World Center continued to support the democratic movement in the USSR and the states that were established after its disintegration, supported the development of an independent press and a civil rights movement.
- 1991-1997: Coordinator of Western Aid to Psychiatry of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health
- 1994-1997: Permanent Representative of Ukraine in the Benelux for Humanitarian Affairs
- 1994 - present: Board-member of the Kiev Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Totalitarianism and Civil War
- 1994 Founder of the Ukrainian Information Center in the Netherlands
- 1996-1997: Board-member of the Second World Center
- 1997-1998: Board-member of the Foundation Ukrainian Information Center

1996-1999:	Member of the Committee on Mental Health of the Netherlands International Health Platform
1996-2010:	Secretary/Treasurer of the Publishing house “Sphere” in Kiev, Ukraine
2010-present	Patron of the Gladys School for Community Health Work and Development, Gampaha District, Sri Lanka
2011- 2013:	Chairman of the board of the Themis Foundation for Prison Reform
2013-2017:	Director of the Themis Foundation for Prison Reform
2013-2015:	Member of the Board of the Netwerk International Mental Health, Netherlands
2013-2015:	Vice-President for Europe of the World Federation for Mental Health
2013-present:	Member of the Board of Advisors of the Charity “Rights in Russia”, United Kingdom
2014-present	Chairman of the Board of the “Foundation to Preserve the History of Maidan”, Kyiv, Ukraine
2015- present	Patron of BEARR Trust, United Kingdom
2015-2017	Vice President of the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) for constituency development; Chairman of the Human Rights and Ethics Committee of the WFMH.
2016-present	Board member of Penal Reform International (PRI), United Kingdom
2017-2020	Board member of the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)

Scientific/teaching activity

- 1980-1989: Was in charge of organizing eight Sakharov Congresses in Amsterdam, which took place every year in May to commemorate the birthday of Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov (May 21) and which gradually turned into internationally renowned scientific conferences on Soviet issues involving top experts in the field of Eastern Europe and Soviet studies, such as Yuri Afanasyev, Anthony Blane, Robert Conquest, Andrew Dewhurst, Peter Duncan, Michael Ellman, Kristian Gerner, Paul Goble, Jens Hacker, Philip Hanson, Ronald Hill, Adam Michnik, Peter Reddaway, and Jean-Francois Revel.
- 1993-2008: co-organized over thirty seminars and conferences for the Network of Reformers in Psychiatry for participants from Central & Eastern Europe and the former USSR in The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Spain and Ukraine, and organized more than a dozen symposia at Regional Congresses and World Congresses of the World Psychiatric Association
- 1996-2000: Member of the Scientific Council of the Institute for Human Relations at the New Bulgarian University, Sofia
- 1996-2000: Board member of the Academy for Mental Health Reforms, a training center linked to several universities (e.g. New Bulgarian University, Kiev Mohyla Academy) focusing on training mental health professionals in Central & Eastern Europe and the former USSR in modern approaches to mental health service delivery.
- 1997- 2000: Board-member of the Institute for Social Policy in Kiev, Ukraine
- 2008 - present: Member of the International Advisory Board, Maudsley Institute, Institute of Psychiatry, London (UK)
- 2008-2018: Lecturer at the International Solomon University, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2009-2010: Guest researcher and extern PhD student at Vytautas Magnus University Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2010 – 2024: Director of the Center for Cold War Studies at Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2011- 2017: Director of the Center for Soviet, post-Soviet and European Studies at the Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania

- 2010 - 2024: Professor of Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies at Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2011: Associate Professor in political science at Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
- 2012 – present: Professor of Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies at Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
- 2014-2016: Visiting Professor at the Boris Grinchenko University, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2017- 2019: Visiting Professor of Soviet- and Post-Soviet Studies, Crimean Tavrida University (in exile), Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2017-present Executive Director, Andrei Sakharov Research Center on Democratic Development, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas (LT). The Andrei Sakharov Research Center does research in issues related to human rights and deocratization in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, organizes public lectures and conferences, e.g. the Sakharov Conference on Sakharov’s birthday May 21, and a Leonidas Donskis Memorial Conference on September 21, the day Leonidas Donskis passed away.
- 2021-2023 Visiting Professor at the University of Silezia, Katowice (Poland)

Prizes/awards:

- 1994: Recipient of the Human Rights Award of the American Psychiatric Association on behalf of Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry
- 1997: Elected Honorary Fellow of the British Royal College of Psychiatrists
- 2001: Recipient of the Geneva Prize on Human Rights in Psychiatry on behalf of Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry
- 2003: Received citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania in recognition of his contribution to Lithuanian prosperity
- 2004: Elected Honorary Member of the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association
- 2005: Knighted by Queen Beatrix in the Order of Oranje-Nassau on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of GIP
- 2017: Presidential Commendation, World Psychiatric Association

2022: Pardes Humanitarian Award in Mental Health

Publications

work as a free-lance journalist since 1979:

Publication of hundreds of articles in dozens of newspapers and journals in Europe and North America, including respected newspapers such as *Le Monde* and the *International Herald Tribune*, as well as a variety of scientific journals in The Netherlands and abroad. I worked actively as a free lance journals from 1979 until 1991, publishing several articles per week; in the period 1991-2005 much less was written, die to work pressure, but starting 2005 my production has increased again and the first book reappeared in 2009, after a gap of twenty years.

In 2015-2019 I was columnist for *Novoe Vremya* (New Times) in Ukraine, and *Valstieciu Laikrastis* in Lithuania, publishing on average twice a month. In 2019-2021 I was a regular contributor to *Rakurs* (Ukraine) and several Lithuanian outlets e.g. *LRT*, *15Min* and *Delfi*.

Books authored:

1. Political Psychiatry (Dutch, English, Polish) 1983
2. Schaakmatch tegen de KGB (Dutch; “*Chess-match against the KGB*”) 1986
3. Op Zoek naar Robert van Voren; a biographical sketch of ir.S.K.Luitse 1917-1945 (Dutch; “*In Search of Robert van Voren*”) 1987
4. Gorbatsjov: tussen Hoop en Illusie (Dutch; “*Gorbachev: between Hope and Illusion*”) 1988
5. Perestroika of Destroika (Dutch) 1988
6. Levenslang – Tussen dissidenten en waanzin (Dutch) 2009
7. On Dissidents and Madness (English) 2009
8. Cold War in Psychiatry (English) 2010
9. Undigested Past; The Holocaust in Lithuania (English) 2011
10. Neisisavinta Praeitis; Holokaustas Lietuvoje (Lithuanian) 2011
11. Dissidenty i Bezumii (Russian) 2013
12. Kholodnaya Voyna v Psikhiiatrii (Russian), 2017

Books edited:

1. Koryagin: a Man struggling for Human Dignity (English) 1987
2. Nationalism in the USSR (English) 1988
3. Soviet Psychiatric Abuse in the Gorbachev Era (English) 1989
4. Five Years Gorbachev (English) 1990
5. Duel – Notes of an Anti-Communist – Viktor Krasin (introduced, annotated and edited) Russian edition April 2012, Georgian edition November 2012
6. Patterns in Soviet Policies towards Dissent: 1953-1986 – Peter Reddaway (introduced and edited) English-Georgian bilingual edition, 2012

7. 70 Rokiv Slavi – Liber Americum Semyon Gluman. With Julia Pievskaya and Mykola Klimchuk. Laurus, Kyiv, 2016 (Ukrainian and Russian).
8. Andrei Sakharov – “Geroi Sovetskogo Soyuza”. With Olga Kozyrenko. Kyiv, 2017
9. Nam Nuzhen Sakharov (We Need Sakharov). With Olga Kozyrenko. Kyiv, 2018

Chapters in books:

- Snezjinevskiisme, sovjetpsychiatrie en glasnost (Snezhnevskiism, Soviet psychiatry and glasnost); in: Van Goedoever, P. and Naarden, B.: *Gorbatsjov en Stalin's erfenis*, H&S Publishers, 1989
- Mental health policy in former Eastern Bloc countries; with Toma Tomov, Danius Puras and Rob Keukens; in: Knapp, M., et.al.: *Mental health policy and practice across Europe*, Mc Graw/Hill, New York, 2007
- De ontwikkeling van de geestelijke gezondheidszorg in Oosteuropa en de voormalige Sovjetunie (mental health in Eastern Europe and the former USSR), with Rob Keukens; in: Oosterbaan, D. et.al: *Psychiatrie over de Grens*, Free Musketeers, Zoetermeer (NL), 2008
- Most probably the best professor of forensic psychiatry; in: *Liber Americum Prof. Dr. Dick Raes*, Wolf Legal Publishers, 2009
- Lost history: memories of pre-war Podbrodz-Pabrade in Lithuania. In Donskis, L. (ed.): *A Litmus Test*. Baltic volume of the Eastern Europe Studies series by Peter Lang, 2009
- Abuse of psychiatry for political purposes in the USSR: a case-study and personal account of the efforts to bring them to an end, in Helmchen, H. and Sartorius, N. (eds): ***Ethics in Psychiatry – European contributions***, Springer, November 2010
- Political abuse of psychiatry, in Dudley, M.(ed), ***Oxford Textbook on Mental Health and Human Rights***, Oxford University Press, April 2012
- The Role of NGO's in Mental Health; with Rob Keukens. In Okpaku, Samuel: ***Global Mental Health: Essential Concepts***, Cambridge University Press, May 2013
- Political Abuse of Psychiatry; with Rob Keukens. In Fulford, B., Sadler, J. and Saden, C.: ***The Oxford Handbook of Psychiatric Ethics, Volume 1***, Oxford University Press, 2015
- Political Abuse of Psychiatry; with Rob Keukens. In Bloch, S. and Green, S.A. : ***Psychiatric Ethics, Fifth Edition***. Oxford University Press, 2020

Reports:

- Psychiatry as a Tool for Coercion in Post-Soviet Countries. Policy Department, Directorate-General for External Policies, European Parliament, July 2013
- Co-author of the Report Review of forensic psychiatric and prison mental health services in Ukraine and the development of a Plan of Action. Report written under auspices of the Ombudsman for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine, December 2015
- Co-author of the Report Review of social care homes in Ukraine and the development of a Plan of Action. Report written under auspices of the Ombudsman for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine, February 2017
- Co-author of the Report Psychiatry as a tool of coercion in post-Soviet countries. FGIP, April 2017
- Co-author of the report Privatization of Mental Health Care Facilities in Georgia - Assessment, Conclusions and Recommendations
- Co-author of the Report Assessment of the Svyatoshinsky social care home. Report written under auspices of the Ombudsman for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine, February 2018
- Co-author of the Report Transforming social care homes in Ukraine; Proposals regarding the Slavyansk and Svyatoshinsky social care homes. May-September 2018
- Co-author of the report Reforming prison mental health services in Ukraine. FGIP, October 2019
- Co-author of the Report Long-stay mental health care institutions and the COVID-19 crisis: identifying and addressing the challenges for better response and preparedness. World Health Organization, 2020
- Co-author of the report Implementing Alternatives to Coercion: A key Component of Improving Mental Health Care. World Psychiatric Association, 2020
- Co-author of the Report Rapid response to member association requests - Expert Committee on the Ukrainian mental health crisis. FGIP/WPA, 2020
- Co-author of the Commentary on the Strategy for Wellbeing and Mental Health in Georgia by 2030; International Expert Committee, April 2021

- Co-author of the report Hidden Wounds of War – Trauma, Healing and Recovery among Ukrainian Veterans. Conference report, May 2024
- Co-author of the [The Lancet Psychiatry Commission on mental health in Ukraine](#) Pinchuk, Irina et al. The Lancet Psychiatry, Volume 11, Issue 11, 910 - 933

A selection of articles in scientific journals:

- [Duitsers in de Sovjetunie](#) (Germans in the Soviet Union); in: Spiegel Historiae, volume 21, issue 5, May 1986
- [Vrijlatingen in de Sovjetunie](#) (Releases in the Soviet Union); in: Internationale Spectator, July 1987
- [Sovjetpsychiatrie: einde aan politiek misbruik?](#) (Soviet psychiatry: an end to political abuse?); in Internationale Spectator, April 1988
- [Wat is er met de sovjetdissidenten gebeurd?](#) (What happened to Soviet dissidents?); in: International Spectator, July 1991
- [Nieuwe psychiatrische verenigingen in de voormalige USSR](#) (New psychiatric associations in the former USSR); in: Maandblad Geestelijke Volksgezondheid, September 1992
- [Ukrainian psychiatry: back to basics](#); in: RFE/RL Research Report, volume 2, number 3, 15 January 1993
- [Hervormingen in de Oekraïense psychiatrie: een zeldzaam lichtpuntje](#) (Reforms in Ukrainian psychiatry: a rare feat); in: Maandblad Geestelijke Volksgezondheid, February 1995
- [Konzentrationslager Mittelbau](#). In: Spiegel Historiae, volume 24, issue 4, April 1999
- [Reform of mental health in Eastern Europe](#); with Whiteford, H., in: Eurohealth, Vol. 6, Number 2, Spring 2000
- [Comparing Soviet and Chinese Political Psychiatry](#); in: The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, volume 30, number 1, 2002
- [Vilnius en St Petersburg: een wereld van verschil](#) (Vilnius and St. Petersburg, a world of difference); in Maandblad Geestelijke Volksgezondheid, July-August 2002

- The WPA World Congress in Yokohama and the issue of political abuse of psychiatry in China; in Psychiatric Bulletin, Royal College of Psychiatrists, December 2002
- Keukens, R., Rogers, P. & Voren, R. van. (2006) Reforming the delivery of forensic mental health and prison health in the Republic of Georgia. Mental Health Practice 9(5), 38-40.
- Westerse psychiatrische literatuur in Oost-Europa (Western psychiatric literature in Eastern Europe); in: Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde (Dutch Medical Journal), volume 15, issue 3, 21 January 2006
- Reforming forensic psychiatry and prison mental health in the former Soviet Union; in: Psychiatric Bulletin, Vol. 30, No. 4, April 2006
- Istorija kartojasi; in Istorijos, Spalis 2007
- Opnieuw politiek misbruik van de psychiatrie in Rusland? (Again political abuse of psychiatry in Russia?); in: Maandblad Geestelijke Volksgezondheid, February 2008
- Politiek misbruik van de psychiatrie in de Volksrepubliek China (Political Abuse of psychiatry in the People's Republic of China); in: Maandblad Geestelijke Volksgezondheid, April 2008
- Geestelijke gezondheidszorg in Oosteuropa en de voormalige Sovjetunie (Mental health in Eastern Europe and the former USSR), with Rob Keukens; in: Elsa, volume 9, issue 1, February 2009
- Political abuse of psychiatry – a historical overview; in: Schizophrenia Bulletin, November 2009
- La Defensa de la salud mental. La iniciativa global en psiquiatria; in Atopos, issue 11, June 2011
- Psychiatry as a Tool of Repression against Dissidents in the USSR; in Darbai ir Dienos, 55, 2011
- Het onbespreekbare bespreekbaar maken; in Vredesspiraal, December 2011, volume 7, issue 4
- Issues of Rememberance and Forgetting; in Sessija issue 2, Spring 2012, Kaunas. Also reprinted on www.bernardinai.lt/straipsnis/2012-03-01
- Украинская Психиатрия: Уроки Прошлого и Настоящего; in **Новости Медицины и Фармации в Мире**, No. 13-14 (423-424), August 2012

- Balancing Community and Hospital Care: A Case Study of Reforming Mental Health Services in Georgia; ; with Dr. Nino Makhashvili. PloS Medicine, January 2013
- От политических Жлоупотреблений Психиатрией до Реформы Психиатрической Службы; in **Вестник Ассоциации Психиатров Украины**, 2-2013
- Роберт ван Ворен о Георгии Морозове; in **Вестник Ассоциации Психиатров Украины**, 2-2013
- Психиатрия как Стредство Репрессии в Постсоветских Странах; in **Вестник Ассоциации Психиатров Украины**, 5-2013
- Is there a Resumption on Political Psychiatry in Russia?; in International Psychiatry, Vol 11, Number 3, August 2014
- Fifty Years of Political Abuse of Psychiatry – no End in Sight; in Ethics, Medicine and Public Health (2015), Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 44-51
- Ending Political Abuse of Psychiatry: where we are at and what needs to be done; in Psychiatric Bulletin (2016), vol. 40, issue 1
- A blind spot on the global mental health map: a scoping review of 25 years' development of mental health care for people with severe mental illnesses in central and eastern Europe. With Winkler, P. et.al.. The Lancet Psychiatry, [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(17\)30135-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(17)30135-9)
- Mental health and human rights in Russia – a flawed relationship; in The Lancet, 2017, 380: 1615-1616
- Inside Ukrainian Social Care Homes; in The Lancet,-D-19-06393, S0140-6736(19)32528-0
- Ukrainian mental health services and World Psychiatric Association Expert Committee recommendations; in Lancet Psychiatry, 2020 Sep;7(9):738-740. doi: 10.1016/S2215-0366(20)30344-8 With Skokauskas N, Chonia E, van Voren R, Delespaul P, Germanavicius A, Keukens R, Pinchuk I, Schulze M, Koutsenok I, Herrman H, Javed A, Sartorius N, Thornicroft G.
- Analysis of the impact of confinement in eating disorders and obesity COVID Isolation Eating Scale (CIES)-A collaborative international study. With Fernández-Aranda F, Munguía L, Mestre-Bach G, Steward T, Etxandi M, Baenas I, Granero R, Sánchez I, Ortega E, Andreu A, Moize VL, Fernández-Real JM, Tinahones FJ, Dieguez C, Frühbeck G, Le Grange D, Tchanturia K, Karwautz A,

Zeiler M, Favaro A, Claes L, Luyckx K, Shekriladze I, Serrano-Troncoso E, Rangil T, Meler MEL, Soriano-Pacheco J, Carceller-Sindreu M, Bujalance-Arguijo S, Lozano M, Linares R, Gudiol C, Carratala J, Sanchez-Gonzalez J, Machado PP, Håkansson A, Túry F, Pászthy B, Stein D, Papezová H, Bax B, Borisenkov MF, Popov SV, Kim YR, Nakazato M, Godart N, van Voren R, Ilnytska T, Chen J, Rowlands K, Treasure J, Jiménez-Murcia S. COVID Isolation Eating Scale (CIES): Eur Eat Disord Rev. 2020 Nov;28(6):871-883. doi: 10.1002/erv.2784. Epub 2020 Sep 20. PMID: 32954595; PMCID: PMC7537123.

- The WPA responds rapidly to a mental health crisis: the Ukrainian example. With Herrman H, Chkonia E, Pinchuk I, Javed A, Sartorius N, Skokauskas N. World Psychiatry. 2021 Feb;20(1):147-148. doi: 10.1002/wps.20833. PMID: 33432767; PMCID: PMC7801850.
- Committed to Create Value for Researchers A Need for Coordinated Mental Health and Psychosocial Care for Addressing Consequences of the Brutal War in Ukraine. With Makhshvili, Nino & Jd, Javakhishvili. Mental Health & Human Resilience International Journal 10.23880/mhrij-16000190.
- The dangers of using diagnoses outside of established psychiatric nosology in the courtroom: Analysis and discussion of current Swiss legal precedent from a medical perspective. With Schleifer R, Wyler H, Smith A, Heer M, Liebreuz M. Int J Law Psychiatry. 2022 Sep-Oct;84:101829. doi: 10.1016/j.ijlp.2022.101829. Epub 2022 Aug 26. PMID: 36037643.
- Nierozliczeni oprawcy i ich stronnicy. In: Psychiatria – Pismo del Praktykow - Kwartalnik Psychiatria 37, 2/2022
- Mental health and welfare of prisoners of war and people living in detention in the Ukrainian conflict. With Liebreuz M, Bhugra D, Buadze A, Schleifer R, Smith A. Lancet Psychiatry. 2022 May;9(5):344-345. doi: 10.1016/S2215-0366(22)00106-7. Epub 2022 Mar 25. PMID: 35344707.
- Society and the Individual: From Soviet Psychiatric Terror to COVID-19. Darbo ir Dienes 77/2022
- Die ständig wachsende Krise der psychischen Gesundheit in der Ukraine. Kerbe, 1/2023
- Providing immediate digital mental health interventions and psychotrauma support during political crises. With Jana Javakhishvili, Nino Makhshvili, Petr Winkler, Nicole Votruba. Lancet Psychiatry, 2023 June; [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(23\)00120-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(23)00120-7)
- Balancing History in the Course of Time. Memory as a Journal, 5-2023

- Mental health of political figures – ethics of commentary and psychiatric assessment related to the death of Vladimir Bekhterev (1857-1927). With Alexanderv Smith, Dinesh Bhugra and Michael Liebreuz. Indian Journal of Psychiatry, 2023;65:482-3