

**44<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF THE CANADIAN PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY**

**PAPER AND PANEL ABSTRACTS**

**Thursday, May 30, 2019**

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**Outreach Lecture:**

**“Obsessionality: modulating the encounter with emotional truth and the aesthetic object”**

**Presenter: Avner Bergstein**

Experiences with autistic and primitive mental states have significant implications for our understanding of obsessionality. Seen as an attempt at a massive simplification of experience, obsessionality deals with the pain inherent in the encounter with intense emotional experience and with the separateness of an enigmatic object that eludes one's omnipotent control. Early loss and a precocious awareness of separateness often play roles in the withdrawal to obsessional thinking and verbosity. Interpretations focusing on conflicting desires or linking repressed parts of the personality with defenses against them do not reach these patients. An alternative approach is to work at primitive, nonsymbolic levels of mental functioning, where experiences cannot be verbally communicated and dynamically interpreted, but must first be lived in the here and now of the session. This is illustrated through the analysis of a person trying to cope with the experience of early loss by deadening emotion and finding shelter in obsessionality.

**Learning Objectives / Objectifs d'apprentissage**

After attending this workshop, participants will:

- Be able to formulate a psychoanalytic understanding of the origins of obsessionality;
- Begin to recognize the role played by primitive psychotic and autistic aspects of the personality in obsessional patients;
- Appreciate the necessity of working with nonsymbolic, unmentalized levels of mental functioning and how to do so to facilitate psychic change.

**Avner Bergstein, M.A.** is a member, Training Analyst and supervisor at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society. He works in private practice with adults, children and adolescents, in addition to working in daycare with autistic children. He is the author of numerous articles and book chapters addressing the clinical implications of the writings of Bion and Meltzer. His original contributions have been translated into German, French, Spanish and Portuguese. He is the author of *Bion and Meltzer's Expeditions into Unmapped Mental Life: Beyond the Spectrum in Psychoanalysis* (Routledge, 2018).

**Friday, May 31, 2019**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Block A)**

### **1. “Day’s residues: one vertex among multiple vertices”**

Presenter: Cecilia Taiana

The post-Bion paradigm in psychoanalysis invites us to listen to the session as a dream where unconscious-thinking-in progress is continuous. The purpose of this article is to draw attention to a new proposed use of an old psychoanalytic concept — day’s residues—as one more vertex through which we can think the analytic session.

The hypothesis put forward here, and illustrated using clinical material, is that we can use the notion of day’s residues as a metaphor to refer to the incoming narrative of the patient. No matter what the patient brings to the session, it can be conceived as “day’s residues” in the sense that they are the potential instigators of the dream of the session. This metaphor helps the analyst to place in brackets the “other outside” of the session; to deconcretize what apparently are hard facts and restrained in this manner from searching to and giving meaning to causality, instead an immediate contact is made that endeavours to create a shared perspective in the hope of producing in “this” session “food” for the mind.

The reason to propose that the analyst receives the incoming narrative as a metaphor of “day’s residues” is to create a better observation theory of the psychoanalytic session as a situational and dramatic setting. “Day’s residues” is a point of transfer, an opportunity to carry over the incoming narrative to the intersubjective field of the session.

The author offers a reading of Freud’s concept of day’s residues in night dreams in the light of the of the analyst’s reverie and the function of the analytic field as places for transformation of the patient’s account, which carry ‘in transit’ the undigested fragments of emotions. This account should be listening to as offerings; she illustrates the way she listens and works with these offerings as the potential entrepreneurs of the session and the potential instigators of the dream of the session.

#### **Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will:

- Become familiar with the notion and the functioning of ‘day’s residues’ in the dream of the session;
- Expand their ability to visualize and infer from clinical material the importance of the intersubjective functioning of the field of the session, following contemporary psychoanalytic conceptualization of intersubjectivity;
- Be able to recognize, analyze and expand their understanding and use of the patient’s account as instigators of the dream of the session.

**Cecilia Taiana, Ph.D. FIPA** is the 2014 and 2017 recipient of the *Dr. Douglas Levin Prize* and the *Dr. Miguel Prados Prize* respectively awarded by the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society for two of her articles: “Mourning the Dead, Mourning the Disappeared: The Enigma of the Absent-presence,” and “Memory of the Process I: The role of day’s residues in the field of the session.” The first article was published in the *IJP* (December 2014) and the second has been recently submitted to the same journal for publication.

**Friday, May 31, 2019**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Block A)**

## **2. “Unreliable: Ferenczi’s confusion of tongues and hallucinatory testimony”**

Presenter: Erin Soros (OISE)

“Perhaps there are no hallucinations, but only an illusionary working through of real events.”  
Sándor Ferenczi, *Clinical Diary*, 140

Last June I read that my friend—former colleague at Cambridge University, endowed professor, beloved and trusted confidant—was convicted of possessing almost two-thousand images of child pornography. He did more than view images: he corresponded and therefore colluded with those who create and supply them. The factual barb of this news, complete with the offender’s confession of guilt and identification with a monster, deranged me. By the end of the summer I entered an acute psychotic state in which I recalled—in hallucination—sexual abuse by my grandfather. And yet in this same psychotic state I rescued my colleague from his criminal admission: I believed that the reports of his possessing child pornography were false.

My paper reads Sándor Ferenczi’s *Clinical Diary* and his “Confusion of Tongues Between Adults and the Child,” together with my experience of madness. In essence, Ferenczi explores how abused children cope with the violation by identifying with their abuser. I’ll suggest that hallucination can be understood as a form of testimony that betrays such psychic collusion—and here I mean ‘betrayal’ in the sense of breaking a trust and in revealing a secret. Addressing two forms of subjectivity that our society can define as monstrous—pedophilia and psychosis—I will risk an intimate analysis, examining both complicity and response. My presentation considers how one heals from abuse that can only be remembered within hallucination and dares to imagine the demanding forms of living-with that an experience of madness requires and inspires. Psychosis here is not pathology, but a form of witnessing at the very cusp of what can be witnessed, a crisis of psychic holding that can ultimately lead to individual and collective transformation.

### **Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Grasp how psychosis offers both an escape from trauma and a way to testify to it;
- Describe how Ferenczi’s work illuminates childhood sexual abuse and adulthood reckoning with its effect;
- Extend their view about the formal possibilities for psychoanalytic writing, specifically how to weave textual analysis together with autobiographical narrative.

**Erin Soros Ph.D.** is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto. She published articles in *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, *The Journal of Intercultural Studies*, *The Journal of Curriculum Theorizing*, *The Canadian Journal of Women and the Law* and in *Literatures of Madness* and *Women and the Psychosocial Construction of Madness*. She was writer-in-residence at Cambridge University and her fiction received the CBC Literary Award and the Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

**Friday, May 31, 2019**  
**9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**WORK/STUDY GROUP: PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF SIBLING RELATIONS**

**Presenters: Gabriela Legorreta, Margaret Ann Fitzpatrick Hanly, Jorge Palacios-Boix**

The objective of this workshop is to explore the growing awareness among psychoanalysts of the importance of sibling relationships in psychic development. This lateral axis of psychic life is contrasted with the vertical axis, concerned with parent-child relations. We will explore the sibling complex through a close reading of three of the most influential recent contributors to the psychoanalytic understanding of sibling relationships, Luis Kancyper, Rene Kaës, and Juliet Mitchell. These authors have shown that the sibling complex serves, along with the oedipal complex, to structure all levels of the psyche: emotions, attitudes, and adaptive behaviour. The sibling triangular complex is an intrapsychic structure of both narcissistic and object love, hate, and aggression, directed by the individual at another, recognized as 'brother' or 'sister'. This triangle is completed by those elements that link and oppose the individual in conflicts specific to the complex. In addition, we will present clinical material that will highlight the importance of siblings in psychoanalytic treatment, especially on transference-countertransference relationships.

**Learning Objectives / Objectifs d'apprentissage**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance of sibling relationships for psychic development;
- Grasp the significance of recent psychoanalytic contributions to an understanding of sibling relationships and their intrapsychic manifestations, for psychoanalytic theory and technique;
- Define the sibling complex as an important intrapsychic element that serves to structure all levels of the psyche: emotions, attitude and adaptive behaviour;
- Learn through clinical presentations the value of the sibling complex for understanding the complexity of transference-countertransference manifestations linked to sibling relations in analytic treatment.

**Gabriela Legorreta Ph.D. FIPA** completed her graduate studies and received a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Montreal. She has been a practicing psychologist for over twenty five years. She is a member of the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society and is an associate, teacher and supervisor at the Argyle Institute of Human Relations.

**Margaret Ann Fitzpatrick Hanly Ph.D. FIPA** is a Training and Supervising psychoanalyst, Toronto Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, Canadian Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, International Psychoanalytic Association. She is a member, 'End of Training Evaluation/Mind of the Supervisor' Working Party, and the past Chair of the North American Working Party Steering Committee. She is treasurer on the Executive Editorial Board of the *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, member, Editorial Board *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* and member, Editorial Board *Canadian Journal of Psychoanalysis*.

**Jorge Palacios-Boix, M.D.** is training and supervising psychoanalyst, Canadian Institute of Psychoanalysis, and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at McGill University. He is the director of the Addictions Unit at the McGill University Health Centre and has a private practice in psychoanalysis in Montreal. He is the president of the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society.

**Friday, May 31, 2019**

**10:50 a.m. -12:20 p.m. (Block B)**

### **3. “Navigating the paradox in the language of achievement and the language of substitution”**

Presenter: Afsaneh Kiany Alisobhani

In his book *Attention and Interpretation* (1970), Bion suggests the term “Language of Achievement” as a presymbolic lexicon approaching the truth of an emotional experience in analysis. Additionally, Language of Achievement highlights the importance of the analyst as the observer of the human experience. Bion believed that analysts must possess the capacity to tolerate half-truths, the unknown without the need to reach certainty. Only interpretations informed by such emotional experiences are transformative; its truthfulness permeates the domain of time and space. Contrast that with the Language of Substitution which is already saturated and comes from memory and desire, based on lies and certainty.

Bion presented the idea of Transformations and invariants to shift the psychoanalytic perspective from a positivistic stance to one that reflects real life, in a constant state of flux. He was interested in the process by which in the immediacy of life experience, we navigate the storm of emotional turbulence in face of emerging uncertainties. The object of this transformational process is what Bion calls ‘O’. Among other forms of transformation, Bion described the transformation where the psychotic part of the mind dominates as the Transformation in Hallucinosi; he viewed it as the “manifestation of psychosis of everyday life.” (Sandler, 2005, P.782). To approach the Language of Achievement, the analyst, a participant observer, must allow him/herself to experience the state of hallucinosi as the “O” of the moment in the analytic session.

In this paper, the author draws on the significance of observation in Bion’s theory of thinking. The importance of transformation in hallucinosi and Language of Substitution in approximating the Language of Achievement will be illustrated through a clinical example.

#### **Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe the function of Language of Achievement in Bion’s theory;
- Identify the differences in Language of Achievement and Language of Substitution in a clinical situation;
- Enhance their awareness of the significance of observation in analysis.

**Afsaneh K. Alisobhani, Psy.D., FIPA** is a training and supervising psychoanalyst, a faculty member, and past Vice President of Newport Psychoanalytic Institute (NPI). She is a faculty at the University of California, Irvine, School of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and a member of University of California/NCP Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium. She is the founding member, faculty and clinical supervisor at Tehran Center for Psychoanalytic Studies ((TCPS) in Tehran, Iran and a lecturer and supervisor in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy fellowship program at Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) and Ruzbeh Hospital in Tehran, Iran. She is also a supervisor and lecturer at China American Psychoanalytic Alliance (CAPA). She was the co-chair of the International Bion conference in Los Angeles in 2014. She served on the scientific committee for The International Bion Conference in 2016 in Italy and 2018 in Brazil. She has presented several workshops and papers internationally. She is the co-editor of upcoming books *Exploration in Bion's 'O': Everything We Know Nothing About* and *Experiences with Wild Thoughts: Studies on W.R. Bion's Writing* by Arnaldo Chuster, both to be published by Routledge in 2019.

**Friday, May 31, 2019**  
**10:50 a.m. -12:20 p.m. (Block B)**

#### **4. “A tale of mortality: part 1 & II”**

Presenter: Clark Falconer

Part I is divided in four sections. The first section is an introduction to a “Tale of Mortality”. The second instalment involves a review of pertinent psychoanalytic themes: Freud’s Analysis Terminable and Interminable, Totem and Taboo; The Future of an Illusion; Steiner’s *Psychic Retreats*, and Winnicott’s *Fear of Breakdown*. The third segment is a summary of writings and relevant modern philosophical ideas that focus on Time and Aging. Here the focus is on Marcos Aurelius’ *Meditations*, and the work of Roberto Mangabeira Unger: *The Singular Universe and the Reality of Time*, along with *The Self Awakened*. The final section is the ending of the “Tale of Mortality”. Part II involves a case presentation of a man who began a ten year psychodynamically-informed supportive therapy at age 67.

#### **Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Enrich an understanding of the impact and place of aging on a therapist’s work and professional life;
- Understand transference and counter-transference issues arising from the connections between a patient’s and the therapist’s aging;
- Summarize the impact of Time and newer metaphysical ideas on present and future religious beliefs and ideas, and how they enrich the first two points.

**Clark Falconer M.D.** (1968) is a psychiatrist and psychodynamic therapist who did his postgraduate training at McMaster University and the Tavistock Clinic. A former Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba, there, among other clinical duties, he practiced, taught and supervised psychodynamic psychotherapy. In private practice in Vancouver for the past 14 years, 8 as a Guest of the WBCPS, he arrived at his keen interest in his and his patients’ aging process honestly.

**Friday, May 31, 2019**  
**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**PANEL: “Tuning the wavelength in and beyond the spectrum”**

**Presenters:** Philippe Valon, Christopher Lovett

Freud recommended that the analyst use his/her unconscious ‘as an instrument of the analysis’ (Freud, 1912). How does one unconscious communicate with another?

Today we might say an analyst’s listening instrument is the frame through which the analyst hears the ‘other’ and selects what is ‘heard’. The frame is multidimensional. It includes the interaction between the way the analyst’s ongoing theoretical reading and training experiences interact with the specifics of who the analyst is as an individual; that is, how his/her conscious, preconscious, and unconscious are recruited into receiving and communicating with the patient’s mind and body, providing a particular emotional colouring to what is encountered. The patient also comes with a frame - an emotional history, a psychic reality, a body which occupies internal and external space in a particular way; expectations of life within the plot outlines defined by tragedy, melodrama, and so on; and possibly a theory of his own and the analyst’s mind—that contribute to making up his/her ‘preformed’ ear.

In the analytic session, whatever form the emotional exchange takes depends on the communicating and receiving functions of both patient and analyst, as broadened or limited by the wavelength attunement or selection processes at conscious, preconscious, and unconscious levels and how they weave together as they have experiences together. There are some commonalities and differences across various analytic schools of thought with respect to identifying the spectrum of data available to be received as experience and the qualities of the ‘tuning in’ device which translates emotional experience into words, as well as a theory of how the listening device gets recalibrated. *Evenly hovering attention* (Freud), *projective identification* (Klein), *dreaming/alpha function* (Bion), *listening to listening* (Faimberg), *somatic reverie* (Civitarese) are examples of theories that address the panel theme.

**Learning Objectives**

After attending this panel, participants will:

- Be able to appreciate how a conceptualization of the unconscious in terms of repression is not sufficient to work with patients whose thinking and dreaming capacities are defective;
- Be able to distinguish different aspects of the experience of psychoanalytic listening;
- Identify some commonalities and differences between various psychoanalytic approaches to models of unconscious to unconscious communication.

**Philippe Valon M.D.** is a psychiatrist and a psychoanalyst, and a full training member of the French Psychoanalytic Association (APF). He is a senior practitioner of psychoanalytic psychodrama at ETAP in Paris, the Association for Analytic Study and Treatment via Psychodrama where he also trains health professionals in the practice of psychoanalytic psychodrama.

**Christopher G. Lovett Ph.D. FIPA** is a senior candidate member of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society & Institute. He is on the faculty of the Explorations in Mind program of BPSI, with a particular interest in teaching field theory and its origins in phenomenology and South American psychoanalysis. He is an Associate Member of the Editorial Board of The International Journal of Psychoanalysis, and has published and presented papers on identification mechanisms, the psychoanalytic frame, and Green’s concept of ‘The Dead Mother’. He has a private practice in Newton, MA.



**Friday, May 31, 2019**

**4:15 p.m. - 5:45 (Block C)**

### **5. “Psychoanalytic supervision: traditional views and contemporary experience”**

Presenters: Mary Kay O’Neil, Kristine Klement

Although supervision is an essential component of the formation of psychoanalysts/psychotherapists there is a paucity of critical discussion on the topic. This paper considers the relevance of traditional principles of psychoanalytic supervision to today’s supervisors and candidates. A supervising analyst will present some views of earlier, now lesser known psychoanalytic supervisors (Otto Isakower, Lillian Malcove, Ruth Easser, Joan Fleming, Stanley Weiss). Isakower coined the still-in-use phrase “analyzing instrument” which adds to the understanding of Freud’s concepts of free association and free-floating attention. Malcove, a much sought-after supervisor, was highly influenced by Isakower. Easser, in supervisions over 50 years ago, presaged the two-person, transference-countertransference interaction accepted today. Fleming and Weiss’s work on the evaluation component of analytic supervision and on teaching supervisors how to supervise continues to be read. Interviews of supervisees’ experience, especially with Malcove and Easser, will be used to illustrate the contemporary effect of earlier supervisors’ principles and methods of supervision. These earlier views will be articulated and compared with representatives of current viewpoints (e.g. Otto Kernberg, Thomas Ogden, and Virginia Unger).

The second presenter, a Candidate, will reflect on the role of supervision in the candidate’s growth as psychotherapist and psychoanalyst. A key aspect of growth in training is the development of one’s own confidence and sense of agency as an analyst. The role that the supervisory relationship plays in a candidate’s development of autonomy will be discussed as a key aspect of supervision. The controversy over teaching vs treating will be discussed to reach a less dichotomous view. That is, candidates as well as learning the psychoanalytic method of treatment, also grow internally in their capacity to use themselves therapeutically. Such growth is an illustration of the development of Isakower’s “analyzing instrument.

#### **Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe the views and methods of supervision of several early analysts such as Isakower, Malcove, Easser, Fleming and Weiss;
- Assess the contemporary relevance of these earlier views and methods;
- Explain those aspects of supervision which are currently most helpful to candidates.

**Mary Kay O’Neil Ph.D. FIPA** is a supervising and training psychoanalyst in private practice. She is a former, Director of the CIP(QE), served as NA Representative on the Board of the IPA and currently is a member of the TPS Board. She is also on the TIP faculty and a member of several committees (curriculum, student progress, institute membership). Dr. O’Neil authored “The Unsung Psychoanalyst: The Quiet Influence of Ruth Easser” and has co-authored/edited 7 books, has presented widely and contributed articles as well as chapters and book reviews. Her research projects on psychoanalytic ethics, young adult development, psychosocial factors and depression in young adults, and sole support mothers have been funded by foundations in Toronto and Montreal.

**Kristine Klement Ph.D.** is a fourth year Candidate in the Psychoanalytic Training Program at the Toronto Institute of Psychoanalysis. She teaches in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies at York University and is on the board of the Canadian Network for Psychoanalysis and Culture. She has published and presented widely on the intersections of psychoanalysis, feminist theory, and aesthetics.



**Friday, May 31, 2019**  
**4:15 p.m. - 5:45 (Block C)**

**6. “The zen of ‘O’: Bion’s reverie and Buddhist meditation”**

Presenter: Jeanne Even

This paper will examine the interdisciplinary connection between Zen Buddhism and Bion’s theoretical idea of the “unknown”, absolute truth, or “O”. Bion describes ‘O’ as a state of being-in-the-present-moment. It is the truth of what is happening. It is specific to a particular analyst and a particular patient at a particular time in the analysis. In Zen Buddhism, the practitioner is aware of the rising and falling of all physical, sensory, and mental perceptions in the present moment, and is comfortable with not knowing. This allows the mind to detach and develop a reflective capacity. In this paper I will present the clinical case of Ms. A, which illustrates how I was able to use meditation as an instrument for applying Bion’s concept of the unknown or O. Bion describes the theoretical concept of relinquishing memory, understanding, and desire in a clinical session. He believes that it is not the memory as such that blocks understanding but rather the attachment to it. The task for the analyst is to overcome what he knows in order to be one with what is, the O of the analytic experience. Similarly, Zen Buddhism warns against the tendency to over-emphasize intellectual understanding and memory at the expense of using one’s intuitive capacities. In my clinical work with Ms. A, I found myself thinking too much, trying to figure out what was happening in her mind. Meditation allowed me to relinquish my mind and get comfortable with not knowing or remembering. Ultimately, I developed a more profound sense of the meaning of her words, as opposed to my intellectual interpretation of them. I was able to understand what she was thinking rather than what I thought she was thinking, acknowledging the unknown of each present moment.

**Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Compare and contrast Bion’s concept of “O” and Zen Buddhism;
- Comprehend how these two concepts can impact clinical interventions;
- Deepen their clinical understanding of how the analyst can eschew intellectual understanding to allow a more basic experience of absolute truth or “O”.

**Jeanne Even L.C.S.W. IPTAR** is a licensed clinical social worker, licensed addiction counselor, and member of the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, IPTAR. She teaches at IPTAR, and she served as a psychological consultant for the Cunningham Dance Company. Her papers include: “Eating Disorders and Dancers”, “Ambition, Competition and Envy: Enemies or Allies?”, “Internet Video Gaming: Passion or Addiction?” Her paper “Bion’s ‘O’ and Zen Buddhism” links her interest in Bion’s theoretical concepts and Buddhist philosophy.

**Friday, May 31, 2019**  
**4:15 p.m. - 5:45 (Block C)**

## **7. “Primitive identifications and confusional mental states”**

Presenter: Judy Eekhoff

Experience on the borders of consciousness, as well as unmentalized experience, nevertheless appears in the analytic hour. These experiences especially appear with patients whose boundaries between conscious and unconscious processes are porous. Often these same patients have difficulty differentiating themselves from others. They suffer without knowing why. Being unable to repress well, their defenses are inadequate against the overwhelming perceptions of their own psychic and physical realities. They tell us something is missing in them.

Often they are confused. To escape their confusion, they latch on to others, identifying with them to the point of losing themselves. Even though they are articulate about their process, they seem not to learn from their self-observations. They re-present in relationship what has never been thought or verbalized. Sometimes these patients have a traumatic history, but not always. Sometimes there seems to have been a mismatch between them and their mothers and fathers. Sometimes their suffering remains a mystery until it is enacted between the patient and the analyst and so brought into the analysis. Frequently they say they do not understand or they do not know what to do. Such patients are difficult to reach and difficult to treat, partly because they evoke confusional states in their analysts.

The paper will present a clinical example of a patient who can neither dream nor think. In spite of her high intelligence, keen observational skills, and articulate speech, she seems to be unable to use her psyche soma to process her experience. Her words seem to be about words rather than a symbolic expression of her emotional experience. Her actions appear to be “going through the motions” and not grounded in her emotional desires. She is always in a state of confusion.

### **Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Learn to identify unconscious processes that evoke confusion;
- Recognize speech that is borrowed and ungrounded by emotional experience;
- Consider their own confusion about a patient as information coming from the patient’s deep unconscious.

**Judy K. Eekhoff, Ph.D. FIPA** is an IPA certified training and supervising psychoanalyst and a licensed child psychologist. She is a full faculty member of the Northwestern Psychoanalytic Society & Institute and Seattle Psychoanalytic Society & Institute. She has a private practice in Seattle, Washington where she teaches, writes, and consults. Her writing interests include the somatic manifestation of preverbal trauma in the transference and counter-transference. She has a book in press with Routledge entitled *Trauma and Primitive Mental States: An Object Relations Perspective*. Dr. Eekhoff is on the editorial board of the American Journal of Psychoanalysis.

**Friday, May 31, 2019**  
**7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.**

**FILM SCREENING AND ANALYTIC DISCUSSION**

**“ARRIVAL” (2016)**

Discussants: Elizabeth Wallace and Coleen Gold

Linguistics professor Louise Banks is recruited by the military to communicate with alien life forms after twelve mysterious spacecraft land around the world. Banks and her crew must find a way to communicate with the extraterrestrial visitors. Hoping to unravel the mystery, she takes a chance that could threaten her life and quite possibly all of mankind.

Director: Denis Villeneuve

Writers: Eric Heisserer (screenplay), Ted Chiang (author of “The Story of Your Life”)

With: Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker

**Discussion**

**Elizabeth Wallace M.D., FRCP(C)** is a psychiatrist, training and supervising analyst, and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Calgary where she teaches and supervises residents. She is a consultant and group therapist in a public psychotherapy program in Calgary, and has a private practice specializing in psychotherapy and psychoanalysis. She is a member of the Western Branch of the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society.

**Coleen Gold, MA, BCATR, FIPA**, is a training and supervising analyst in private practice in Vancouver with a background in fine art and an interest in aesthetics and unconscious process.

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

“Violent Emotions and the Violence of Life”

Presenter: Avner Bergstein

"Between birth and death", says Francis Bacon, the British painter, "it's always been the same thing ... it is the violence of life". This paper contemplates our capacity to get in touch with irrepresentable, unthinkable layers of psychic life threatening the individual with an unbearable, *excessive* emotional flooding. This overstimulation, when accrued, is often evacuated *outward* through violence, perversions, addictions, etc., or *inward* into the body. Violence then, amounts to the psyche's attempt at surviving an unbearable emotional excess beyond its capacity to digest. Approaching this indigestible psychic reality, which is often sensuously invisible, calls for an expansion of analytic technique. Hence, transference attains further significance. One might say that the patient's unbound elements of the emotional experience collide with a receptive mind and so do not continue their flight into infinite space and get lost into oblivion. The patient's unmentalized experience may thus be transferred from one mind to another, contingent upon the latter's receptive intuition. The patient's formless and meaningless experience may be captured by the analyst's mind, initiating a process whereby unbound particles of the emotional experience reverberate in the analyst's mind until they fleetingly cohere into a momentary meaning. These conjoin with more and more ephemeral moments of meaning, accumulating, enriching and elaborating the emotional experience, generating a *cumulative catastrophic change*. This is illustrated through clinical material.

### **Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Acquire further understanding of some of W.R. Bion's crucial concepts;
- Expand their capacity to get in touch with unrepresentable states of mind;
- Acquire further understanding of the relationship between unmentalized, indigestible emotional experience and psycho-somatic complaints;
- Acquire psychoanalytic tools for thinking and working with violence.

### **Objectifs d'apprentissage**

- Acquérir une meilleure compréhension de certains des concepts cruciaux de W.R. Bion;
- Élargir leur capacité à entrer en contact avec des états d'esprit non représentables;
- Acquérir une meilleure compréhension de la relation entre l'expérience émotionnelle inmentalisée et non digestible et les plaintes psychosomatiques;
- Acquérir des outils psychanalytiques pour penser et travailler avec la violence.

**Avner Bergstein** is a member, Training Analyst and supervisor at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society. He works in private practice with adults, children and adolescents, in addition to working in daycare with autistic children. He is the author of numerous articles and book chapters addressing the clinical implications of the writings of Bion and Meltzer, which offers an original contribution with regards to the dissemination of analytical knowledge. His contributions have been translated into several languages, notably German, French, Spanish and Portuguese. His forthcoming book, *Bion and Meltzer's Expeditions into Unmapped Mental Life* (Routledge, 2019) will be the first to compare the work of Bion and Meltzer.

**Saturday, June 1, 2019  
3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. (Block D)**

**8. “They say goldfish have no memory: learning to swim with an autistic and traumatized patient”**

Presenter: Samantha Good

This paper examines the clinical challenges in working with a patient whose autistic features and traumatic infantile experiences led her to view others as things, and often things without an interior. Instead of memory, thought, or relationship, this patient utilized routines, scripts, and the placement of objects to orient herself to the world. Her idiosyncratic and non-symbolic use of language required me to expand my imagination of the concrete and limit my own defensive hallucinatory process, expressed through my persistent thought (and mistake) that the patient’s words and actions had latent meaning. I will discuss countertransference obstacles to joining the patient in her “fishbowl”, an essentially non-human space characterized by sensory experience and repetition. Finally, I will address how a concurrent experience in infant observation facilitated a shift in the therapeutic work with this patient away from concepts such as mind and relationship and toward a focused observation of the body, parts of the body, and the objects and environments surrounding the body.

**Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Consider the potential countertransference obstacles in psychotherapy with autistic patients;
- Observe and listen to non-symbolic forms of communication;
- Engage with the process of describing clinical phenomena that are not yet formed into thoughts and language by the patient;
- Understand the clinical utility of infant observation.

**Samantha Good, LICSW** is a clinical social worker with a psychoanalytic psychotherapy practice in Seattle Washington, where she treats adults and children. Her training includes a certificate in British Object Relations Psychotherapy from the Center for Object Relations in Seattle. Prior to her work in psychoanalytic psychotherapy, she studied and practiced family systems therapy.

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**  
**3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. (Block D)**

**9. “Finding Sophie, losing Sophie: will anybody ever see me?”**

Presenter: Judy Setton-Markus

Sophie considers herself to be an ‘odd duck’ who does not live by conventional rules. While her quirkiness can be rather endearing, her tendency to retreat from facing the day to day matters of life prevents her from living in real time. On the surface her behavior gives the impression of an obstinate and entitled child, battling with internal and external frustrating and controlling objects, pressuring her to take charge of her life. Explosive blow-ups with parents, on whom she is financially dependent, seem inevitable. Misunderstandings and impasse reign. The paper intends to illustrate the analyst’s efforts to establish and maintain emotional contact with a patient prone to retreat into a mindless state of separateness and disconnection at any semblance of feeling misunderstood. Understanding the patient’s retreat as a defensive measure to protect the tender core from the longstanding wound of not being seen and/or being deemed a failure, the analyst endeavors to navigate the fine balance between holding back and speaking what cannot be spoken. Winnicott’s concept of aggression as a secondary defensive structure when there has been severe impingement is discussed. The analyst dilemma, experienced in the countertransference as a hesitance to speak her mind, guides her toward the use of humor and working in the metaphor (Civitaresse) as an alternative approach toward speaking what cannot be spoken. Minor shifts in the patient’s ability to be more present in her body and self-experience will be mentioned as a potential, but not as yet stable gain, in the still early days of the analysis.

**Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Reflect on the work of making contact with a patient in a fluctuating state of retreat;
- Understand the patient’s retreat as a protecting defense against exposing the wounded core self;
- Recognize the value in struggling to find creative ways to reach such patients, together with environmental holding and containment.

**Judy Setton-Markus, M.Ed. R.Psych** is a psychologist and psychoanalyst in private practice in Vancouver. She is a member of the Western Branch of the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society and a faculty member of the Western Branch course program. She is an assistant clinical professor in postgraduate education in psychiatry at the University of British Columbia. Judy facilitates infant observation seminar groups and considers the experience of infant observation to be one of the fundamental building blocks in the formation of the psychoanalyst and psychoanalytic psychotherapist.

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**  
**3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. (Block D)**

**10. “There’s something undead under my bed: the psychoanalysis of a latency age boy”**

Presenter: Susan Moore

CGPCA Group Presentation / Présentation du groupe (GCPEA)

This presentation describes the psychoanalysis of a latency age boy who presented with difficulty going to sleep at night due to his fear of zombies. It describes the patient’s pre-oedipal fears of devouring and being devoured as well as his unconscious destructive attacks on his loved objects and, at times, a dark internal world. The analyst discusses working through the patient’s castration anxiety, his difficulty with loss and mourning, and his infantile theories of sexuality and reproduction prior to the onset of preadolescence.

**Learning Objectives**

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Illustrate how unconscious pre-oedipal and oedipal developmental conflicts are symbolised through play in child psychoanalysis;
- Understand key theoretical and child psychoanalytic concepts through the discussion of clinical case material;
- Understand how early developmental patterns and conflicts are still operant in our work with adult psychoanalytic patients.

**Susan Moore, RP, Ph.D., FIPA** is psychoanalyst and member of the Toronto Psychoanalytic Society and Institute and is a child psychoanalyst candidate in the Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Training Programme, CPS-QE.