

# Understanding Primitive Mental States

Susan Finkelstein, LCSW, Director

## Tomorrow's Patient

Nicola Abel-Hirsch

Fall 2023

2:00-3:30pm EST via Zoom

**This is an ongoing seminar--Fall semester 2023 dates listed here**

**Program Dates:** Fridays, September 8, September 22, October 13, November 10, December 8, 2023, and January 12, and January 26, 2024

Mostly Bion's later papers, including *Emotional Turbulence* (1976), his last paper *Making the Best of a Bad Job* (1979) and his later "cogitations".

In his later work Bion often makes reference to 'tomorrow's patient': to draw attention to the clinical applicability of what he is saying and to encourage people to see today's patient with fresh eyes tomorrow. How can we distinguish the new clinical facts in tomorrow's session and how do we draw these to the attention of the patient? Bion presents his thinking in a more conversational way than in earlier works. To use an analogy, if his work in *Transformations* (1965) and *Attention and Interpretation* (1970) were to be portrayed as like climbing a mountain, these later papers are him going around the villages in the mountain valleys talking to people about the practical applicability of what he has discovered about psychoanalysis.

**Author of *Bion 365 Quotes* (Routledge 2019) Nicola Abel-Hirsch** is a training and supervising analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society. She has given clinical and theoretical papers and seminars on Bion in the UK; Taiwan (annually 2005-2012); the USA, and Europe. From 2013–2015 she was the visiting professor at the Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies, University of Essex. Her publications include *Eros* (2001); 'The Life Instinct' *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.* (2010); 'A Note and a Short Story' in *The Bion Tradition* (2015); Bion, Alpha-Function and the Unconscious Mind. *Brit. J. Psychother.* (2016) 'The Devil is in the Detail' in *The Melanie Klein Tradition* (2017), and 'How Bion's work on thinking throws light on the development of sexuality' *Psychoanalytic Inquiry* (2018). She is the editor of Hanna Segal's last book *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (2007). She works in full-time psychoanalytical practice in North London.

## **Learning Objectives:**

**Upon completion of this seminar, participants will be able to:**

- 1) Participants will define Tomorrow's Patient and the methodology of listening in the here and now of the analytic dyad**
- 2) Participants will be able to list the tools of speaking to the patient in the language of understanding in the moment.**

**Susan N Finkelstein, LCSW, UPMS Director**, is a Fellow at IPTAR and Training and Supervising analyst at the Contemporary Freudian Society. She developed Understanding Primitive Mental States, a study group where she teaches The Internal World and Its Objects, The Claustro-agoraphobic Dilemma, Clinical Klein, Bion and Beckett: The Not-I Patient. At the APsaA she co-chairs an annual winter discussion group with Nasir Ilahi on Schizoid Modes-Spatial Time Continuum. She is in private practice in NYC in psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, couples therapy and clinical supervision. She is an associate editor of the International Journal of Psychoanalysis and has a co-edited book with Professor Heinz Weiss, "The Claustro-agoraphobic Dilemma in Psychoanalysis: The Fear of Madness," Routledge (2022).

**Program Fee:** \$945

## **To Register:**

Please contact Susan Finkelstein to register and make payment arrangements.

Advance Limited Registration Only. No cancellation or refund, except for a medical emergency.

For additional information, please contact Susan Finkelstein, Program Director at 917-838-3266 or [susanfcsw@aol.com](mailto:susanfcsw@aol.com)

## **Continuing Education Credits:**

*Licensed Psychologists:* Susan N. Finkelstein, LCSW, PC is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0020.

*Social Workers:* Susan N. Finkelstein, LCSW, PC is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0262.

CE credits are granted to participants with documented attendance of the entire program. No partial credits will be offered. It is the responsibility of the participants seeking CE credits to comply with these requirements. Upon completion of this programs and evaluation forms, participants will be granted **10.5 CE credits**.