Relating to the Other

Provisional Programme

ACP Annual Conference
Manchester Metropolitan University
6 – 8 July 2018

Our ACP conference this year is an opportunity to examine our collective and individual ways of relating to the otherness of others, and the otherness we find within ourselves.

This manifests itself in multiple domains and relationships. As with wider society and all organisations, as a professional group, colleagues, and clinicians we participate in, and are subject to, the dynamics of otherness.

In his writing about ethnic hatred within the body of psychoanalysis, and the historical context this may relate to, Narendra Keval describes how, "Instead of the inner experience of the ethnic other being contained, it risks becoming marginalised and thwarted within a body of knowledge and a practice which should, one might say, know better. In this way it is given only refugee status, without a home or a receptive container that accommodates and speaks to experience across ethnicities. Having been a historical object of denigration and segregation, might this failure of understanding of the ethnic other within its own domain be a repetition of an unconscious cleansing of the subject matter?"

Keval, N. 2016. Racist States of Mind

We hope our conference weekend will create a setting in which we can collectively provide a home for thinking about such complex matters.

We anticipate that this will be engaging, relevant, and challenging. It's an opportunity to develop and progress our thinking together. We look forward to welcoming you to Manchester.

Simon Cregeen
Chair, Northern Organising Group
Conference Chairs

Lydia Hartland-Rowe

Lydia Hartland-Rowe is a Portfolio Manager (Psychological Therapies), at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, managing a range of clinical and applied courses. She has a particular interest in Group Relations, and is the Director for the Tavistock 5-day GRC from December 2018. Between 2015-2017 she was a Cohort Director on the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Programme, NHS Leadership Academy, and is an Associate Member of the Organisation for Promoting Understanding of Society (OPUS). Her clinical work is based in the Fostering, Adoption and Kinship Care at the Tavistock.

Rajni Sharma

Rajni Sharma is the Lead for Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy in Manchester and Salford CAMHS. She is also the programme lead for the Psychoanalytic Observational Studies programme at NSCAP and teaches on the Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy clinical training.

Conference Presenters

Rachel Abedi, Louise Allnutt, Katie Argent, Faye Brierley, Sarina Campbell, Christine Chester, Jay Dhillon, Sarah Fielding, David Hadley, Sarah Hartley, Ann Horne, Anne Hurley, Hillel Mirvis, Valérie Mortin, Anthony Ogoe, Akin Ojumi, Isobel Pick, Kate Purdy, Katie Reid, Coretta Samms, Sonia Stephenson, Julie Trice, Jane Turner and Rosie Winter.

Northern Organising Group

Nigel Barrow, Faye Brierley, Simon Cregeen, Louise Hursey, Paula Land, Katie Reid, Leanne Stelmaszczyk, Jane Turner and Nick Waggett.
Friday 6 July

15.45-16.45 Arrival and registration
16.45-17.00 Welcome to the conference
17.00-18.00 Main Paper
   Fearing the worst: Primitive anxieties in the face of a returning enemy
   Presenter: Louise Allnutt
18.00-Late Wine Reception

Saturday 7 July

09.00-10.00 Arrival and registration
10.00-10.15 Opening remarks
10.15-11.15 Main Paper
   Exploration of my work with a parent and infant highlighting the themes of fundamentalist thinking and difference
   Presenter: Jane Turner
11.15-11.45 Refreshment break
11.45-12.45 Parallel Papers
   - Finding the words to say it: our realisation of how difficult it is to be curious about difference.
     Presenters: Faye Brierley, Christine Chester, Sarah Fielding, Katie Reid, Sonia Stephenson and Julie Trice.
   - So I’m a Muslim – What’s it to you?
     Presenter: Rachel Abedi
   - Under the skin: Interpreting race in the transference
     Presenter: Anthony Ogoe
   - ‘Him and I. An account of relating to the other in an intensive psychotherapy treatment with a nine year old boy.’
     Presenter: Kate Purdy
   - Under the Skin (2013): A Psychoanalytic Film Commentary
     Presenter: Rosemary Winter
12.45-13.45 Lunch
13.45-15.00 Main Paper
   Can we talk about race and identity in Child Psychotherapy culture?
   Presenters: Katie Argent, Sarina Campbell, Anne Hurley, Anthony Ogoe and Rachel Abedi
15.00-15.30  
**Main Session**  
*Past, present and future: diversity in child psychotherapy?*  
Presenter: **Isobel Pick**

15.30-15.50  
**Comfort break**

15.50-17.20  
**ACP – Annual General Meeting**

17.20-17.40  
**Refreshment break**

17.40-18.40  
**Reflection groups**  
*Opportunity to discuss the themes of the day in small groups*

18.40-19.00  
**Move to evening reception**

19.30-Late  
**Evening reception and dinner**

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**Sunday 8 July**

10.00-10.15  
**Opening remarks**

10.25-11.25  
**Parallel Papers**

- **A Complicated Landscape:**  
  *Relating to the Other in psychoanalytic psychotherapy with Race in mind*  
  Presenters: **Jay Dhillon and Coretta Samms**

- **Varifocal supervision in a rainbow world**  
  Presenter: **David Hadley**

- **Some reflections on being locked out of the consulting room**  
  Presenter: **Hillel Mirvis**

- **Sartre described relating to the other as hell - Clinical illustration of disgust & repulsion.**  
  Presenter: **Valérie Mortin and Sarah Hartley**

- **Lost in Translation – learning to speak a shared language in the therapy room**  
  Presenter: **Akin Ojumi**

11.25-11.55  
**Refreshment break**

11.55-12.55  
**Main Paper**  
*The space between us: transformational potential or defence against otherness*  
Presenter: **Ann Horne**

12.55-13.40  
**Plenary and thanks**

13.40  
**Close of the conference**
So I’m a Muslim – What’s it to you?

Rachel Abedi

About the session

This presentation explores how Muslims, a faith group often viewed as ‘other’, view their faith identity in the context of mental health and CAMHS treatment, and the potential implications for clinical practice.

My current research explores how child and adolescent psychotherapists respond to the faith identity of Muslim patients and their families. To ensure that the eventual research interview questions reflect issues relevant to Muslim service users, I arranged to meet small groups of young Muslims from the local area, to discuss their faith identity, how it relates to their mental health, and to their treatment in CAMHS.

I will present what these young people had to say, and hope that it will stimulate discussion that will help us to think further about these issues.

The research focuses on Muslims because there is some evidence that Muslims already underutilise mental health services, particularly psychotherapy, and that many young Muslims want mental health services to appreciate the significance of faith in their lives.

Furthermore, amid a frequently negative public discourse concerning Muslims, fueled by media coverage of radicalisation and terrorism, refugees and immigration, it is relevant to question how the resulting anxiety might affect the therapeutic relationship.

Biography

Rachel is a child psychotherapy trainee in her third year at the Tavistock and Portman and works at Hammersmith & Fulham CAMHS. Previously, she worked for the Brent Centre for Young People and Place2Be.
Fearing the worst:
Primitive anxieties in the face of a returning enemy

Louise Allnutt

About the session

This presentation will explore the emerging problem faced by local authorities nationally of adults, adolescents and children returning from the ISIS Caliphate.

It will explore with case examples the potential in these organisations for the arousal of primitive anxieties in response to the horror of extreme violence and the fear of potential terrorism by those returning and the impact this can have on the ability to respond appropriately and effectively.

I will introduce some of the work we have started within the Returning Families Unit which aims at addressing both the trauma in the families and children as well as the profound impact their return is having on the professional networks that surround them.

Themes from Kamila Shamsie’s recent novel, ‘Home Fires,’ will also be drawn upon to explore problems of identity and the systemic struggle to recognise and perceive the true complexity of personal history when under the sway of primitive phantasy and social prejudice.

Biography

Louise Allnutt is a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist working at the Tavistock Centre. Louise works clinically in the newly formed, ‘Returning Families Unit.’ This team have been commissioned by central government to respond to the unique circumstances of the families who are returning from Syria to the UK. The team are primarily focussed on the assessment and treatment of traumatised children and parents. Louise also teaches theory and supervises on the Child Psychotherapy training.
Can we talk about race and identity in child psychotherapy culture?

Katie Argent, Sarina Campbell, Anne Hurley, Anthony Ogoe and Rachel Abedi

About the session

The aim is to generate discussion about how we as child psychotherapists approach race and cultural identity. What difference do issues and questions of identity make to us as patients, clinicians, trainees and trainers? What difference does it make whether we see group as well as individual identity as intrinsic to emotional life? What anxieties do we find ourselves managing or defending against when these questions arise? Can a psychoanalytic framework for thinking help us with understanding how we have developed as a child psychotherapy culture?

We are taking race/culture as our starting point; discussions may also consider class, sexuality, gender and other aspects of identity.

The presenters are trainee and qualified child psychotherapists working as clinicians, tutors and seminar leaders. We will each speak for about 5 minutes drawing on our individual personal and working experience and pointing to questions, issues and dilemmas that are alive for us and may be alive for us as a conference and as a profession.

The conference will then work in small groups to think about the questions raised and their application to our work and to the dynamics of Child Psychotherapy culture before coming back together as a large group to continue the discussion.
Biographies

**Rachel Abedi** is a child psychotherapy trainee in her third year at the Tavistock and Portman and works at Hammersmith & Fulham CAMHS. Previously, Rachel worked for the Brent Centre for Young People and Place2Be.

**Katie Argent** is Head of Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. She is a consultant child and adolescent psychotherapist in the Fostering, Adoption and Kinship Care Team and manages a portfolio of psychoanalytic applied training courses at the Tavistock. Katie has a special interest in the usefulness of psychoanalytic thinking outside the clinic and in school-based psychotherapeutic work and has a background in housing and homelessness policy and research.

**Sarina Nyechoray Campbell** is Course Lead for Psychological Therapies with Children, Young People and Families at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. She is a child and adolescent psychotherapist and service supervisor in the Family Mental Health Team at the Tavistock.

Sarina also manages a Training Skills Escalator there to promote the development of students from diverse backgrounds. She has particular interest in working with adolescents and with groups and an extensive background of setting up and running therapeutic projects in schools.

**Anne Hurley** is Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust in London where she leads the portfolio of psychoanalytic clinical training programmes. She is also Consultant Lead Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist at Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust. Anne was previously the Co-Editor of the Journal of Child Psychotherapy (2009-2013).

**Anthony Ogoe** is a third-year trainee child and adolescent psychotherapist working in North London Tavistock CAMHS Team and Simmons House Tier 4 adolescent unit and has previous career experience working as a family practitioner in a local authority setting and as therapeutic staff in inpatient, hospital, nursery and school settings.
Finding the words to say it:
Our realisation of how difficult it is to be curious about difference

Faye Brierley, Christine Chester, Sarah Fielding, Katie Reid, Sonia Stephenson and Julie Trice

About the session

Are ‘we’ equipped to think about and grapple with the area of otherness? As a group and individually we have experienced disappointment about not being able to do a ‘better job’ at being curious about difference – we are child and adolescents psychotherapists - how hard can it be to be curious?

In our presentation we will share with the members our honest struggle in thinking about difference, and the uncomfortable feeling that it has brought about in us.

As a group we have had various experiences of working with ‘difference and otherness’ in the consulting room and in our own lives. Some of us have been able to work ‘face on’ with this and some of us have felt paralysed by it.

We have become interested in our personal reactions to otherness and the temptation to obliterate difference in favour of sameness. From behind the ‘safety’ of a recording we will expose our struggle in the hope of opening a discussion with the members in order for us to ‘struggle’ together.
Biographies

Faye Brierley is a Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist who works in Stockport Healthy Young Minds (formerly CAMHS) and Salford CAMHS for Looked After and Adopted Children. Faye qualified from NSCAP in 2016 and worked as a nursery nurse and youth worker prior to training.

Christine Chester is a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist working in Stockport's Infant Parent Service. Her previous experience is in Manchester's CAMHS Looked After Children team and in Generic CAMHS. Christine has a keen interest in early infant parent mental health, promoting early social and emotional development and helping young children and their parents/carers prepare for nursery and school. She is passionate about group work and multi-disciplinary and multi-agency working.

Sarah Fielding works as a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist at Healthy Young Minds (formerly CAMHS) in Oldham and in private practice. Sarah trained at the Tavistock Centre in London. She previously worked as a music therapist in Bristol and Bath.

Katie Reid is a Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist who has worked with parents and infants in Tameside and Glossop Early Attachment Service since 2014. Katie has 25 years’ experience of working in the NHS in both adult and child mental health services and has previously taught on the Tavistock Centre M.A. in Psychoanalytic Observational Studies in Liverpool.

Sonia Stephenson currently works at Healthy Young Minds in Rochdale. She qualified as a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist at BTPP in 2010. Prior to this, Sonia spent several years working at a senior level as a Social Worker. She is passionate about working with children and their parents, especially infant mental health.

Julie Trice is a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist working with Tameside and Glossop's Early Attachment Service. She has previously worked in Tier 3 CAMHS for 10 years, including the 4 years clinical training there. Prior to training, Julie worked as a primary school teacher for 8 years and became interested in the impact of early trauma and prior to this, she worked as a children's nurse on a burns and plastics ward, dealing with families' trauma as well as more practical issues. She is a mother of two grown up sons.
A Complicated Landscape: Relating to the Other in psychoanalytic psychotherapy with Race in mind

Jay Dhillon and Coretta Samms

About the session

Both therapists are second generation immigrants to the UK. They will share professional experiences of being ‘other’ in their clinical work.

Coretta Samms will present a PIP case with video material (permission has been given by the mother), in which the mother explores her issues about identity and bonding with her baby through her relationship with a therapist. Both look similar due to skin colour, and this supported the therapeutic alliance which in turn created a safe space to explore differences and the challenges this vulnerable mother was facing.

Jay Dhillon will explore the complexity around identity for mixed race children. In particular, where the white identity is dominant, and they suffer a loss of understanding their ethnicity fully and being understood. JD will explore the child’s confusion and pain in not looking like her mother and how this makes her feel ‘other’ in an isolated way. The mother has a very difficult relationship with her black ex-partners. Thinking about what relational dynamics emerge with the parent, with the child and within the therapy.

Biographies

Jay Dhillon is entering year three of the IPCAPA training. She is training at City and Hackney CAMHS. Jay previously trained as a Social Worker and Person-Centred therapist working in Scotland, after completing the Psychoanalytic Observations course at Northumbria University. She moved to London to train at IPCAPA as she had a special interest in learning about the Independent and Anna Freudian traditions.

Coretta Samms is working at Newham CAMHS and qualified three years ago at IPCAPA. She is currently developing the Parent-Infant Psychotherapy Service in Newham and is completing the Psychoanalytic Parent-Infant Psychotherapy training at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. Coretta is a tutor and Infant Observation Seminar Leader on the BPF/ Birkbeck College MSc Psychodynamics of Human Development course.
**Varifocal supervision in a rainbow world**

David Hadley

**About the session**

The paper explores the impact upon supervision of psychotherapeutic interventions when working within another culture and across racial and economic divides.

A model is developed which is felt to have relevance to practice wherever difference is encountered.

**Biography**

David Hadley was an educational psychologist for ten years before training as a child and adolescent psychotherapist at the Tavistock Clinc and moving to work in the NHS. There he worked as a Consultant, Head of Profession and Manager in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services until his retirement. David continues to train, advise on training, supervise and consult with a range of institutions in health, education, social care and the voluntary sector in the UK and South Africa.
The space between us:
Transformational potential or defence against otherness

Ann Horne

About the session

There are times when we do and when we do not bear to engage fully with our counter-transference. Where difference or otherness is felt to be too great, threatening or incomprehensible, I think we temper our use of the counter-transference and try to keep our own integrity in the face of drowning in the ‘other’, losing the self.

We also do this when we feel vulnerable ourselves as we often are in today’s NHS, and are aware of not quite being able to listen with our usual alert resilience because our survival becomes part of the equation. The paper will venture into clinical work, training, shame and the ego ideal in looking at the making of otherness on the micro level of child psychotherapy.

Biography

Ann Horne trained at the BAP (now IPCAPA at the bpf); retired from clinical work but retains an interest in children who are compelled to act rather than reflect. Selected Papers (*On Children Who Privilege the Body – reflections of an Independent psychotherapist*) due to be published by Routledge this year.
Some reflections on being locked out of the consulting room

Hillel Mirvis

About the session

This paper focusses on long-term once weekly work with ‘David’, an eleven-year-old boy raised in a European orphanage and adopted at 18 months by a British couple.

David’s extremely limited ways of ‘relating to the other’ vexed me for most of our work together, and sorely tested my capacity for hopefulness. The idea that it was initially as difficult for me to relate to the unbearable ‘otherness’ of his early experience of institutional neglect, as it was for David to relate to me, is explored.

The walls and defences, both literal and figurative, which developed between us, are therefore considered as convenient for us both. Ironically, it was when the walls around us were dramatically changed, that is when I abruptly had to see David in another building, that, oddly enough, his defences immediately became unfrozen, and he has developed steadily in his capacity to relate to me ever since.

Some attempt is made to understand how this is possible, given the weight we give to the consistency of the analytic frame, as well as how highly we value the importance of more sensitive transitions for looked after children.

Biography

Hillel Mirvis is a child psychotherapist at Barnet CAMHS (West), and until recently was child psychotherapist for the Barnet CAMHS Looked After Children team. Hillel qualified at IPCAPA at the BPF in 2015 and has since been particularly drawn to working with disturbed adolescents. This has been reflected in his articles in the JCP (the second of which is due to be published), which have focussed on psychosis, and adolescent overdose, respectively.
Sartre described relating to the other as hell
- Clinical illustration of disgust & repulsion

Valérie Mortin and Sarah Hartley

About the session
Details to follow shortly.

Biographies

Valérie Mortin is a child and adolescent psychotherapist trained at the BPF, graduating in 2007. She works with PAIRS (Parent and Infant Relationship Service) for the Maudsley NHS Trust & LEAP (Lambeth Early Action Partnership) as a child and adolescent psychotherapist/parent infant psychotherapist. She undertook the Oxpip training as a parent infant therapist.

Sarah Hartley is also a child and adolescent psychotherapist. Sarah trained in the Tavistock Clinic and from 2011 to 2015, lived and worked in Kazakhstan, from where she has recently returned.

In Kazakhstan Sarah worked in various orphanages, hospitals, schools and a newly developed group of mother and baby houses. She also trained local care workers, psychologists and psychotherapists and introduced and ran infant observation groups.

She currently works privately from home and continues to run infant observation groups and supervision in Kazakhstan via Skype.

Valerie and Sarah both share a passionate interest in parenthood, infancy and early years and their impact on future development. This shared interest brought Valerie to Kazakhstan where they are both involved in a charity project developing lectures and a training program connected to the introduction of fostering and adoption and with helping to train the staff in the mother and baby houses.

Sarah and Valérie met at the Cassel hospital just before embarking on their respective child and adolescent trainings over a decade ago.
Under the skin: Interpreting race in the transference
Anthony Ogoe

About the session

I am a third year, black male trainee psychotherapist. My presentation is born out of a chapter of my research dissertation provisionally entitled, “What is the experience of being a black child and adolescent psychotherapist in clinical practice?”

My research focuses on skin colour, a component of race, as a consideration of sameness and difference. My choice of research topic is born out of trying to grapple with colleagues about how one thinks about socially defining difference and diversity psychoanalytically. One aspect of this qualitative project will use a psychoanalytic lens to explore how race may be experienced in the clinical transference.

I will briefly inform the audience of the details of my research project before presenting an experience of a short-term psychoanalytic psychotherapy case with a seventeen-year-old mixed-race Afro-Caribbean adolescent girl presenting with depression and suicidal ideation.

Race as a socially defining characteristic of difference is intersectional with other widely defining divisions of people, such as class, gender and sexuality. I believe it is important to understand more of how we experience encounters of ‘otherness’ and how we relate to these principles within ourselves and with our patients.

Currently, racial discourse more often than not can become stuck in a black/white dichotomy. Psychoanalytic thinking believes in finding a third space, a thinking space and I hope this presentation and later research facilitates reflection.

I am interested in such dialogues as how race as sameness/otherness is created and related to between therapist and patient, in supervision and in clinical/theoretical thought e.g. does an external relating of race transmit with an internal relating to objects?

Biography

Anthony Ogoe is a third-year trainee child and adolescent psychotherapist working in North London Tavistock CAMHS Team and Simmons House Tier 4 adolescent unit and has previous career experience working as a family practitioner in a local authority setting and as therapeutic staff in inpatient, hospital, nursery and school settings.
Lost in Translation – learning to speak a shared language in the therapy room

Akin Ojumi

About the session

Lost in Translation is a clinical presentation of a long-term intensive therapy that looks at how differences in race, religion and culture between therapist and patient can have a profound effect on the development of a therapeutic relationship.

In this account of a therapy between a mixed-race Muslim girl and a black male psychotherapist the patient initially retreated into a defensive fantasy world using an indecipherable imaginary language.

The sense of disconnect was characterised by negative transference and a powerful feeling of non-attunement – at times it felt as if we were watching each other from behind a screen. But these apparent barriers to creating a therapeutic alliance eventually became a way of exploring her internal world together.

This paper aims to address some contemporary issues and technical challenges relevant to child psychotherapists working in a multi-cultural setting.

What happens when a therapist and patient initially view each other as ‘the Other’, defined by their differences? How much should a therapist talk about their own difference in the therapy room?

I hope this paper will be a useful addition to the ongoing discussion of how issues of race and culture are revealed in the consulting room.

Biography

Akin Ojumu trained as a child and adolescent psychotherapist at IPCAPA after working as a school counsellor and a journalist. He currently works in a CAMHS team for the NHS Oxleas Foundation Trust.
Past, present and future: diversity in child psychotherapy?

Isobel Pick

About the session

This presentation will share the headline results from the ACP Diversity Survey of April 2018.

The survey aimed to give a snapshot of the makeup of our membership at the present time, as well as whether the intake to the training has changed over the years.

It also asked members for their views about training to work with difference, and what they would like the ACP as the professional body to be doing in relation to diversity.

Biography

Isobel is the current Chair of the ACP and was Chair of the ACP’s Training Council from 2014-17. She has worked at the Tavistock and in private practice with children and young people and as a psychoanalyst with adults.
Him and I.
An account of relating to the other in an intensive psychotherapy treatment with a nine-year-old boy

Kate Purdy

About the session
This is a clinical paper exploring the intensive psychotherapeutic work I undertook over a two-year period, while training, with a fostered boy aged nine originally from the traveller community.

He was a very disturbed boy whose experience of a bizarre and terrifying parent led to an identification with the aggressor which showed itself in strange, terrifying and sexualised behaviour at home and school. Consequently, he struggled to have friends and was seen as ‘other-wordly’, ‘different’, ‘weird’ and ‘scary’ by adults and children alike. His sense was of a bewildering world to which he did not belong.

The main theme of this paper will be the exploration of how in the transference I had to absolutely relate to and experience the other in my patient, who was truly terrifying at times. I would like the conference to consider how often in our work we need to ‘relate to the other’, and whether this is only possible if we can see our own prejudices and preconceptions and find the part in ourselves which is ‘the other’ too. This could particularly be so when we are working with young people who might feel so different to ourselves because of their cultural heritage and/or lived experiences.

Biography
Kate Purdy is a newly qualified child and adolescent psychotherapist, having finished her training at NSCAP in 2017. Kate works for the Newcastle Parent Infant Partnership (NEWPIP) as a parent infant therapist. Before re-training, she had a long career as an English teacher in secondary schools, having studied literature at graduate and post-graduate level. Kate maintains her passionate interest in fiction, drama and poetry.
Exploration of my work with a parent and infant highlighting the themes of fundamentalist thinking and difference

Jane Turner

About the session

I explore my work with a Parent and Infant which I carried out within a perinatal project at a Women’s only therapy service. I consider a mother’s own early traumatic life history, her experience of being groomed and trafficked and how this impacts on her relationship with her infant.

I am interested in exploring the origins of fundamentalist thinking and how this influences women’s relationships and their mothering.

The work involved took place over a period of 18 months and I will discuss some of the challenges I faced in learning different techniques in working with parents and infants, for example in the use of video, and in working on the floor.

I will reflect on my experience of the difference between myself and this mother and think about issues of power, which had potential to be denied in the context of us both being female and because the work took place in a female only organisation. I would also like to link this with wider cultural and institutional dynamics where i found the infant would often become invisible.

Biography

Jane Turner is a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist and Parent Infant Psychotherapist and currently works 3 days a week as a Parent Infant Psychotherapist in a perinatal project in Bradford.

Jane also work at a Parent Infant Partnership project called NewPIP with Children North East in Newcastle, teaching on the Infant Mental Health course and running a group for parents and infants.

Jane also provides consultation to a Mother and Baby Unit, together with a colleague, and supports a Perinatal interest group in her role as an associate with NSCAP.

She has 25 years’ experience of working in public services, including the NHS, Social Care, and including charities and community projects both as a therapist and Manager and works privately with adults, children and young people, and as a supervisor.
Under the Skin (2013) A Psychoanalytic Film Commentary

Rosie Winter

About the session

This psychoanalytically informed film commentary explores themes of alienation and gender and considers how they are presented in the film *Under the Skin* (2013) by Jonathan Glaser. The film follows the murderous exploits of a nameless Alien (Johansson) as she prowls the streets of Glasgow for lone male victims. The expression of primitive anxiety, alienation and of psychic privation are keenly and brilliantly crafted in this film in my view.

Whilst remaining outlandish, strange and at times very beautiful, this film also works to present a vision of the brutality and psychic poverty that is both knowable and disturbing.

I was also struck by the use of the female body and it’s place in the film; the absence of female character and how female internal spaces are represented as places of desire and horror. I am interested in how this links to the alienation of male characters in the film and what this says about the development of psychic life.

From its gaze, to its characterisations, the film deliberately excludes a female world view. It is a hellish vision of a landscape without women, without psychic birth and without parental objects.

I do not claim a definitive interpretation of the film, I am an interested audience member only and I hope to open up some questions and topics for further discussion.

Biography

Rosemary Winter is a Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist working in Sheffield CAMHS and LAC Service. Prior to clinical training she has a first degree in English Literature from Lancaster University and trained as a Secondary English Teacher at Goldsmiths College London.

She spent 8 years in the Education sector, primarily as a Secondary English and Media teacher and then as a Further Education College Lecturer. Her long held interest is in Literature, Film and the Arts and the relationship between the Arts and psychoanalytic ideas and experience.