



## **The Observing Relationship**

### ***Shared Perspectives from Observational Documentary Film-making and Psychoanalytic Observation***

**Saturday 9th November 2019 at The Watershed, Bristol.**

#### **Conference Chair:**

**Rachel Pardoe** Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist, and Parent-Infant Psychotherapist

#### **Conference Speakers:**

**Margaret Rustin**, Consultant Child Psychotherapist; **Paddy Wivell**, BAFTA and RTS Award winning documentary film-maker; **Gail Walker**, Senior Child Psychotherapist, Bridge Foundation; **Hen Otley**, Trainee Child Psychotherapist, Marlborough CAMHS; **Sara Tibbetts**, Documentary filmmaker.

#### **Tickets**

Trainees/Students £65

Standard: £80

*All rates include admittance to the conference with lunch and refreshments included. [Book your place at the event here](#)*

*This event will be of interest to psychotherapists, film-makers, film students, anthropologists, psychologists, allied mental health practitioners and all those who work with or care for children.*



## About the Event

As part of the ACP's 70th Anniversary events the ACP and The Bridge Foundation will be hosting a one-day conference in Bristol.

The conference seeks to examine the commonalities – and differences between the psychoanalytic process of reflective observation and the role of the documentary film-maker, paying particular attention to the relationships that are formed within both our disciplines and the potential for transformation.

We have major figures from the world of infant observation and documentary film making and a presentation from closer to home in Bristol to develop our theme.

**Paddy Wivell** is a BAFTA and RTS award winning documentary film-maker, and director of the highly acclaimed Channel 4 series *Prison*, documenting life in HMP Durham broadcast in 2018 and 2019. Other credits include *Boys and Girls* 2001, *Compulsion. The Trouble with Jonny* 2005, *Bedlam – Crisis* 2013, and *The Tribe* 2015.

**Margaret Rustin** has pioneered and supported the extension of training in psychoanalytic observational approaches to training across the United Kingdom and in a number of other countries. She has documented the process of infant observation through the film 'Observation Observed' and is a respected author and commentator on children's literature and theatre.

The conference promises to be an exciting inter-disciplinary event, with ideas shared and possibly new relationships formed as we seek to understand something more about our respective approaches to 'The Observing Relationship'.



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## Programme

9.30am	Registration Opens	
10.00-10.05	Welcome	Fiona Brodie and Rachel Pardoe
10.05-10.20	Extracts from ' <b>Observation Observed</b> '.  An Introduction to the Practice of Infant Observation	Margaret Rustin
10.20 – 10.45	<b>Baby Jacob: An Infant Observation</b>	Gail Walker and Hen Otley
10.45 – 11.00	<b>Documenting Infant Observation</b>	Paddy Wivell, Margaret Rustin and Rachel Pardoe
11.00 – 11.30	Refreshment Break	
11.30 – 12.30	<b>Entering, Representing and Leaving the Field.</b>  Presentation to include footage from RTS award winning documentary series Prison and from the series Boys and Girls.	Paddy Wivell
12.30 -12.45	<b>Technique and Relationship with Subject</b> - A conversation	Paddy Wivell, Margaret Rustin and Rachel Pardoe
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch	
13.45 – 14.45	<b>The Process and Power of Infant Observation</b> - Paper	Margaret Rustin
14.45 – 15.00	<b>The Observing Relationship</b> - A conversation	Paddy Wivell, Margaret Rustin and Rachel Pardoe
15.00 – 15.30	Refreshment Break	
15.30 – 16.30	Panel Discussion	Paddy Wivell, Margaret Rustin, Gail Walker, Hen Otley and joined by Sara Tibbetts - with Rachel Pardoe.
16.30	Closing Remarks	



## **The Process and Power of Infant Observation.**

**Abstract by Margaret Rustin.**

What are we doing when we do Infant Observation? An observer is trying to draw on all his/her perceptual resources to note inwardly what is taking place in the life of this baby, in this family, at this moment. But the observer is also part of a group learning context, the seminar in which the observational notes will be read and discussed, and in the seminar the conceptual maps of psychoanalysis are in place.

This makes psychoanalytic infant observation a quite particular way of observing a baby: what we see is not the same as what any observer of the scene might see, because our attention is particularly focussed on the emotional lives of baby and family members, and we also attend to the feelings evoked in us as observers. This is because we believe that such feelings can function as something like the countertransference in clinical psychoanalysis, giving us access to unconscious aspects of the emotional forcefield we become part of as observers. Our feelings may also, of course, be evidence of our own personal response to encountering the emotionally intense world of babies and their mothers and fathers. Sorting out what feelings belong to whom is one of the complex sometimes problematic tasks of the seminar.

I shall present examples which explore some dimensions of the processes of unconscious identification in observers and the problem for the observer in being an outsider observing a passionate intimate relationship. Some similar issues clearly arise for documentary film-makers, and today we have an interesting opportunity to look in detail at what we share and the ways we diverge in understanding what we see.



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## Biographies

**Margaret Rustin** is a child, adolescent and adult psychotherapist and a child analyst at the British Psychoanalytic Society. She was head of child psychotherapy at the Tavistock Clinic from 1985 – 2009 and has taught extensively in Europe and elsewhere, most recently in China and Taiwan.

Since retirement from the NHS she continues to teach and supervise and has a private clinical practice. Margaret convenes a research workshop on Inter-generational trauma.

Margaret has written and edited many books and papers about aspects of psychoanalytic observation, child psychotherapy and psychoanalysis, to include 1989 Rustin, M.E. (co-ed and contrib.). *Closely Observed Infants*. Duckworth. 2013 Rustin, M.E. (co-ed and contrib.). *Young Child Observation: A Development in the Theory and Method of Infant Observation*. Karnac..And *Observation Observed* with Beth Miller (2003) available both on DVD and to stream.

**Paddy Wivell** is a BAFTA & RTS award-winning documentary film-maker, and director of the highly acclaimed Channel 4 series *Prison*, documenting life in HMP Durham, and broadcast in 2018 and 2019. Other credits include *Boys and Girls* 2001, *Compulsion. The Trouble with Jonny* 2005, *Bedlam – Crisis* 2013, and *The Tribe* 2015. [www.justsofilms.com/paddy-wivell](http://www.justsofilms.com/paddy-wivell)

*“I’ve been making documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4 for nearly fifteen years. The people who’ve taken part in my films have come from all walks of life; from Rent boys to Eton scholars, Hasidic Jews to night time cruisers, from wayward kids to rebellious pensioners, reforming addicts and notorious conmen. But they all shared something – a desire to speak and be heard, a glint in the eye and a spirit for adventure. There’s always a moment after we’ve first met when, despite the risks, they decide to throw in their lot and choose to conspire with me to make a film together. It’s a heady moment, a rush and a thrill and a little bit like falling in love. I’ll always be grateful to them for it.”*

**Gail Walker** is a Senior Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist at The Bridge Foundation. She has a background in teaching and has worked in CAMHS and Bristol Children’s Hospital in Liaison, the Paediatric Chronic Pain Clinic and Haematology and Oncology. She teaches on the Tavistock Course: Working with children, young people and families: a psychoanalytic observational approach.

**Hen Otley** is a second year Child Psychotherapy trainee at the Tavistock Clinic in London. Her background is in television and radio, as a producer and broadcaster. After her children were born, she retrained as a midwife and worked first in hospital midwifery and subsequently in the Family Nurse Partnership, which is a home visit programme for pregnant teenagers and their children up to two years of age. She now works as a Child Psychotherapist in Training in CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service).



**Sara Tibbetts** is a documentary Producer & Director. She has been making films for over 25 years developing a reputation for sensitive yet un sentimental handling of difficult and painful subjects. Previously, Sara worked in mental health for 10 years, as a social worker.

From social work, Sara went on to study anthropology after which she joined the BBC. She made several programmes for the BBC's award winning series "*Trouble at the Top*" and for Channel 4's flagship documentary series "*Cutting Edge*" which included "*Sleeping With My Sister*" about incest and "*Life After Death*" about a group of people widowed young as they grappled with their loss. Also for Channel 4 she made "*Wanted New Mum & Dad*" about the adoption of older children from the child's point of view, and worked on their BAFTA winning "*One Born Every Minute*". Most recently, Sara was Executive Producer on "*A Love That Never Dies*" a feature length documentary about parents who have lost a child.

**Fiona Brodie** is a Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist and worked for 32 years in the NHS. Initially as an Occupational Therapist working in acute adult, and child and adolescent mental health services. She has also worked with mentally ill offenders in South Australia. She trained as Child Psychotherapist at the Tavistock Clinic and qualified in 2001. She worked for many years in Gloucestershire CAMHS, and latterly as Clinical Lead in The Family Assessment & Safeguarding Service (FASS) in BANES and Wiltshire, working with families on the edge of, or in Care Proceedings and with mothers at risk of losing children to repeat sets of Care Proceedings.

Since retiring from clinical work in the NHS, Fiona now teaches on post graduate trainings run by The Tavistock Clinic and University of Essex in conjunction with Gloucestershire Counselling Service (GCS). She has an interest in using clinical skills in applied ways in other settings and sits as a magistrate on the criminal bench in Cornwall. She is a member of The ACP 70th anniversary events planning group.

**Rachel Pardoe** qualified as a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist at the Tavistock Clinic, London in 1996. From 1991-2018, Rachel worked within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). From 2018-2019, she set up the Parent-Infant service within the Specialist Community Perinatal Service in Bristol. She has extensive experience of working therapeutically with infants, children and adolescents, and their families. Rachel has particular expertise in working with the complexities of parent-infant relationships, the intergenerational impact of trauma, and attachment difficulties.

Rachel qualified in Video Interaction Guidance (VIG) in 2016, pioneering the use of VIG in Bristol CAMHS. She accredited as a VIG Supervisor in 2017, and trained CAMHS infant mental health specialists.

Rachel is Director of *Early Years Emotional Security (EarlyYES) Limited*, offering clinical supervision, consultation, and training in infant/children's mental health to professionals in Health, Social Care, Early Years and schools. She works with families using VIG, and supervises VIG trainees. Rachel has taught on the Tavistock Clinic/University of Essex postgraduate programme. [www.earlyyes.co.uk](http://www.earlyyes.co.uk)