

Introduction to Psychoanalysis 2023/4

The evening starts promptly at 7pm with an experiential group that runs until 8.15pm. The seminar starts at 8.30pm and finishes at 9.15pm. The venue is Westminster Quakers Meeting House in Covent Garden.

12, 19, 26 October

Reflections of race, identity and power: Peter Nevins

We will be looking specifically at black women writers. Session one will be an experiential exercise; session two on Toni Morrison and three on bell hooks.

2, 9, 16 November

Brexit: what's psychoanalysis got to do with it? Madhu Nandi

23, 30 November & 7 December

Theatres of the Mind: Jim O'Neill

Christmas break

18, 25 January & 1 February

Are You Out Of Your Mind? Nick Blackburn

Is your mind really your own? Is it possible to lose it, or have it stolen? We will be looking at the kinds of experiences commonly brought about by drugs, hypnosis and things going wrong in the brain. Along the way we also encounter the ways in which such territories have been mapped by Oliver Sacks, R. D. Laing, W. R. Bion and Adam Phillips.

1. Hallucinations (with Sacks)
2. Groupthink, Wild Thoughts (with Bion, Laing)

3. Conversion Therapy, Dark Arts (with Phillips)

8, 15, 22 February

Curiosity, depression and the meaning of madness: Luisa Pretolani & Shireen Noor

How do we find the strength to be curious? States of depression are often described as feeling flattened, buried, with no spark, not able to care for ourselves or anyone else. Depression eats away curiosity. How can it be revived? At the same time, what happens when curiosity becomes a compulsion, a blind passion, a letting go of all of that is familiar, and sparks fear in those around us. Curiosity makes us afraid of our own desires. It can make us feel 'mad' because of the inability to make ourselves heard and to participate in the reality of those around us. These seminars will draw on the work of Julia Kristeva; *The Canterbury Tales: The Miller's Tale*; Freud, *Analysis of a Phobia in a Five-year-old Boy*

29 February & 7, 14 March

Contemporary Intersubjective and Relational Psychoanalysis: Anastasios Gaitanidis

These sessions will incorporate ideas from Robert Stolorow's book *Trauma and Human Existence* on how to work with emotional trauma and Jessica Benjamin's notion of 'mutual recognition' and the intersubjective 'third'.

Spring break

25 April & 2, 9 May

Psychoanalysis – Limits & Liberation: Andie Newman

16, 23, 30 May

Why Perversion? Rob Weiss

Why is psychoanalysis interested in talking about perversion? Does it have anything interesting to say? Among others we will be thinking about Krafft-Ebing, Havelock Ellis, Freud and Lacan with Bataille, Sally Rooney and Vladimir Nabokov

6, 13, 20 June

Dreams: Yael Pilowsky Bankirer

Weekly experiential group

This group offers an opportunity to reflect on the experience of being in a group.