



The Winnicott Trust

Winnicott: A Present for the Future

A conference to commemorate 50 years since the death of DW Winnicott

Parallel Sessions *

Saturday 25 September 2021

All times are British Summer time.

5:30pm – 7:30pm

1/ Brett Kahr (U.K.)

Chair: Poul Rohleder (U.K.)

Winnicott's Pandemics: Surviving the Spanish Flu of 1918 and the Hong Kong Flu of 1968

In this presentation, Professor Brett Kahr will share his unpublished research, based on much unpublished correspondence and numerous oral history interviews with many people who knew Winnicott personally (including his American cardiologist and his long-term private secretary) and will reconstruct how this great psychoanalyst managed to survive two near-death experiences.

Professor Brett Kahr is Senior Fellow at the Tavistock Institute of Medical Psychology in London and, also, Visiting Professor of Psychoanalysis and Mental Health at Regent's University London. He is also an historian of psychoanalysis and author of sixteen books.

Dr Poul Rohleder is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and clinical psychologist in private practice. He is a member of the British Psychotherapy Foundation where he is Chair of the Scientific and Applied Activities Committee. He is also a board member of the British Psychoanalytic Council.

** Please note the parallel sessions programme is subject to change.*



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2/ **Deborah Luepnitz (U.S.A.)**

Chair: Gabrielle Brown (U.K.)

"I am Alive Because I Do Not Own a House": Winnicott and the Care of Homeless Adults in Philadelphia

The life and work of Donald Winnicott testifies to the fact that psychoanalytic treatments can be useful to poor and marginalized individuals as well as to people of means. This talk will describe a pro bono project in Philadelphia (USA) that connects psychotherapists with unhoused and recently housed adults. Using constructs such as the holding environment, impingement, and fear of breakdown, we will explore some ways that homelessness is not only an expression of breakdown, but a defense against it. Clinical examples will illustrate the healing potential of this work over time.

Deborah Anna Luepnitz, Ph.D. was on the Clinical Faculty of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine for over 30 years. She teaches at the IRPP--Institute for Relational Psychoanalysis of Philadelphia. She is the author of *The Family Interpreted: Psychoanalysis, Feminism and Family Therapy* -- published in 1992-- and *Schopenhauer's Porcupines: Five Stories of Psychotherapy* which has been translated into seven languages. She was a contributing author to the *Cambridge Companion to Lacan*. In 2005, Dr. Luepnitz launched I.F.A. (Insight For All) a pro bono project connecting psychoanalysts with homeless and formerly homeless adults in Philadelphia. In 2013, she received the Distinguished Educator award from the International Forum for Psychoanalytic Education. She maintains a private practice in Philadelphia.

Gabrielle Brown is a Forensic Psychotherapist at the Portman Clinic, Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust, London. She was previously Senior Psychotherapist at St Mungos Housing charity and her *Psychoanalytic Thinking on the Unhoused Mind* was published by Routledge in 2019. gbrown@tavi-port.nhs.uk.



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3/ **Tessa Dalley & Mike Tait, Squiggle Foundation (U.K.)**

Meeting and Matching the moment of hope

'The mother, in her adaptation to the small child's needs enables the child creatively to find objects. She initiates the creative use of the world. When this fails, the child has lost contact with objects, has lost the capacity creatively to find anything. At the moment of hope the child reaches out and steals ... the fountain pen stolen from Woolworths is not satisfactory: it is not the object that was being sought, and in any case the child is looking for the capacity to find, not for an object.'

[D.W. Winnicott, p.93, 'Home is Where We Start From', Penguin, 1987]

D W Winnicott's thoughts remain radical despite the passage of time. An understanding of psychological development, mental health, crime and social processes continue to benefit from the mirror that Winnicott held up 50 years ago. The idea of the capacity to find the object is primary to our existence. Ways in which symptoms need to be understood in relation to what happens between people - rather than within individuals - that delinquency indicates hope - and might be responded to accordingly - are ignored or only tentatively acknowledged within current discourse and policy making. This workshop will explore through role-play and conversation the ways in which 'meeting and matching the moment of hope' might be understood in relation to both human and social development using international contributions from a variety of countries.

Tessa Dalley is an experienced Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist and Art Therapist currently working in Independent Practice with children, young people and families, Chair of the Squiggle Foundation and is passionate about the work of Winnicott which has been so influential in her thinking and understanding over the years.

Mike Tait is a group analyst and drama-therapist who has spent the greater part of four decades developing therapeutic community work with young people in a variety of roles: as a residential member of staff, a teacher, a therapist and a consultant. He is also a Squiggle trustee.



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4/ Michal Rieck (Israel) / Adrian Sutton (U.K.)

Chair: Dodi Goldman (U.S.A.)

The use of therapist's somatic experience: on the importance of not being 'no body'

These two presentations, one from the world of adult psychoanalytic practice and the other from child psychiatric practice, will illustrate how recognising and seeking to understand the practitioner's own somatic experience in the therapeutic process is an essential component of clinical practice.

Michal Rieck: Living an (embodied) experience together or evenly hovering somatic attention'

Winnicott was the first to give full recognition to the fact that somatic experience is the basis of all emotional development: 70 years later there is a growing interest in placing the body at the center of theoretical and clinical psychoanalysis. I will relate to the analyst's 'corporeality', the presence of his actual body and his subjective-corporeal experience and show how working with somatic countertransference/the somatic-sensory aspect of the analyst's reverie creates receptivity to unmentalized materials existing inside the patient in the form of deeply buried body memories, not expressible otherwise. I propose the phrase 'evenly hovering somatic attention' which relates to the sensory-somatic channel within the evenly hovering attention which Freud suggested to us, analysts, as a basic analytic attitude.

Adrian Sutton: Stories only the body can tell

Winnicott's practice as a child psychiatrist and psychoanalyst emerged from his medical training and practice as a Paediatrician. He emphasised the role psychoanalytic understanding could play in alleviating suffering and promoting mental health and development not only through direct psychotherapeutic treatment but also through optimising parental care and shaping professional responses to children and their carers. My presentation will focus on the arena of children with Medically Unexplained Symptoms to illustrate how, through recognising and better understanding the somatic

manifestations of the impact of the patient upon me, it became possible to adapt my therapeutic responses to the children and adolescents, assist parents in caring for their children and support colleagues.

Michal Rieck is a clinical psychologist; training and supervising psychoanalyst at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society; Co-founder of the Israel Winnicott Center, where she is also teacher and supervisor.

Adrian Sutton is Director of the Squiggle Foundation and was previously Consultant in Child and Family Psychiatry & Psychotherapy at the Winnicott Centre, Manchester. He is Honorary Senior Lecturer in Medical Education at Manchester University & Visiting Professor of Psychiatry, Gulu University, Uganda. His publications include 'Paediatrics, Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis: through countertransference to case management' (2013: Routledge).

Dodi Goldman is a Training and Supervising Analyst and Faculty at the William Alanson White Institute in New York. He authored, "In Search of the Real: the origins and originality of D.W. Winnicott" and is the former book review editor of the journal Contemporary Psychoanalysis. His latest book, "A Beholder's Share: essays on Winnicott and the psychoanalytic imagination," won the 2017 Gradiva Award for Best Psychoanalytic Book.



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5/ **Helen Johnston (U.K.)**

Chair: John Keene (U.K.)

Emerging from a cul de sac of relating: Meeting a patient's omnipotence as an essential step towards developing a symbolic function?

Helen Johnston: In this paper, I explore the importance of taking a developmental perspective when working with borderline patients. This approach is informed by Winnicott's ideas on the origin of psychosis in an early environmental failure. The special demand put on the analyst in this context is to adapt to the patient's infantile need. This involves meeting the patient's regression into a very early developmental stage where there is a strong need to depend but no awareness of that need. Meeting the patient's omnipotence in that stage leads to the patient's gradual recognition of the illusory element of the omnipotent fantasy and facilitates the development of the symbolic function.

Dr Helen Johnston is a Fellow of the British Psychoanalytical Society and currently works full-time in private practice. Prior to practicing as a psychoanalyst, she trained as a Psychiatrist and worked in the NHS specialising in Medical Psychotherapy.

John Keene worked in child care, mental health and therapeutic community settings before training at the Tavistock Clinic and at the Institute of Psychoanalysis, where he has been a Training Analyst for 25 years. He is in private practice and teaches and supervises across the UK and abroad. He co-edited *Independent Psychoanalysis Today* (Karnac 2012) and is interested in group, institutional and social issues, contributing 'Unconscious obstacles to caring for the planet: facing up to human nature' to the British Psychoanalytical Society's conference on climate change.



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6/ **Michaela Edwards (U.K.)**
Chair: Chris Brogan (U.K.)

A Winnicottian Approach to the Lack of Care for Educators in the UK Education System: How Creativity, True Self Expression and Hope are being lost.

This session will draw from two research projects, one looking at the working lives of Secondary School Teachers and the other investigating the working lives of Older (50+) Higher Education lecturers. I will synthesise the major findings from these projects to consider the marginalisation of Creativity, True Self Expression, and Hope in the name of managerialism, financialization, and 'Best Practice'. It is my belief that Winnicott offers many lessons on what might be wrong with the way our public institutions are managed, and the effects this can have on the mental wellbeing of those who serve within them.

Dr Michaela Edwards is a Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Business School specialising in Human Resource Management and Organisational Behaviour. Dr Edwards is the Course Leader on the BA (Hons) in Business Management and Human Resources. For two years Dr Edwards was a Director and Trustee of Lancashire Mind. In her research she has used Winnicottian concepts to understand real world situations such as schools.

Dr Chris Brogan is a retired medical psychotherapist working part time in the NHS and private practice. He is a trustee of Squiggle Foundation and convenes the north east of England branch of Squiggle.



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7/ **Lilian Tuane, Gonzalo Lopez & Rodrigo Roja (Chile)**
Chair: Francisco Somarriva (Chile)

Translating Winnicott, a proposal for the use of his work

Translating reveals itself to be an act of its own, like an act of interpretation, which differs from that in clinical practice insofar as it does not interpret the transference, but rather in the transference relationship with Winnicott; a transference which involves not only full emotional commitment but also its emotional turbulence. In this act we perceive the emotional difficulties which entail putting Winnicott into Spanish. Therefore, we would like to develop some of the elements which account for this emotional experience, that is, the use of Winnicott's work:

By use we would like to refer to various dimensions which we wish to distinguish:

- a. Use as an act of destruction of Winnicott's work.
- b. The relation of use with Winnicott's language in which previous translations carried out by professional translators rather than psychologists are destroyed.
- c. Destruction of the "good" translation, including even the possibility of destroying our own "good" translation.
- d. Failure of the "correct" interpretation. We are authors of a translation of a psychologist such as Winnicott, who himself presents a criticism of the correct interpretation

The emotional experience and its turbulence loom over us on translating Winnicott. This emotional experience can sometimes be expressed as a malaise with this colleague and friend with whom we have worked together for years, or an uneasiness with the other colleagues who translate, or even with the actual writing. Thus, the process of translation and writing has been subtle and beautiful in some paragraphs and chapters, turning into a mistake and a horror in other paragraphs and chapters. Yes, the transference experience of translating is intense and far from ingenuous, for the

unconscious is there with its creations to point out the malaise, the anxiety or simply the pain. Omitting lines or paragraphs when writing, literal translations which make no sense in Spanish, linguistic expressions pertaining to the author's culture and time, sometimes even Google translator might have a better knowledge of Winnicott. Therefore, we must redouble the effort of elaboration, reparation, of analysis and interpretation.

Rodrigo Rojas Jerez

Psychologist - Psychoanalyst

Full Member and Professor at the Chilean Psychoanalytic Association (IPA)

Member in didactic function and Professor at the Santiago Psychoanalytic Association (IPA)

Member of the Board of Latin American Encounters on Winnicott's thought.

Founding Member of the Winnicott Association of Chile and of its Diploma at the Diego Portales University.

Board member of the Collected Works of D.Winnicott Translation Committee

Lilian Tuane Saa

Psychologist - Psychoanalyst

Full member, professor, and supervisor at the Chilean Psychoanalytic Society ICHPA

Vice president of Winnicott Chile Association

Professor in Winnicott Diploma at Diego Portales University

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Gonsalo Lopez Musa

Psychologist - Psychoanalyst

Magister in Clinical Psychology and Psychoanalysis Universidad Adolfo Ibañez

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Founding Member of the Winnicott Chile Association and its Diploma at the Diego Portales University.

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8/ **Thanassis Hatzopoulos (Greece)**
Chair: Marianne Parsons (U.K.)

Psychoanalytic setting and mother environment in the analysis with psychotic and autistic children

"Environmental care and mother environment are concepts introduced by D.W. Winnicott which expanded the concept of the object on the basis of others such as holding and containment, inserting in these more than just this one object. Within these two concepts we are able to recognise features of the psychoanalytic setting. A psychoanalytic setting which can be formed accordingly so as to cater to the needs and the difficulties faced in child psychosis and autism, where at times serious gaps of the continuity of being and at others only islets of being prevail and which the analyst attempts to implement in order to bridge the gaps and bring about the emergence of new islets of being. Examples of the therapy of a psychotic and two autistic children allow us to recognise the functioning of the mother environment within the psychoanalytic setting and their structural consequences."

Dr Thanassis Hatzopoulos is a child-psychiatrist, psychoanalyst (full member of Société de Psychanalyse Freudienne, Paris, and responsible for the Greek division of the International Winnicott Association) and a poet. He works with children, adolescents and adults and is the main translator of the works of D.W. Winnicott in Greek.

Marianne Parsons is a child and adult psychoanalyst at the BPAS, trained in child analysis at the Hampstead Clinic (later renamed the Anna Freud Centre) and later became Head of Clinical Training there. She edited the Journal of Child Psychotherapy. She now works in private practice as a psychoanalyst and supervisor, teaches in the UK and abroad and has contributed several papers to psychoanalytic books and journals.



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9/ Noriyuki Masuo (Japan) / The Japanese Winnicott Association
Chair: Jan Abram (U.K.)

Transitional objects and translational phenomena

The transitional object is one of concepts introduced by Winnicott which is widely accepted in many professions, scholars and countries. But how do they accept it? Introducing my presentation at JWA's first symposium, I will suggest some difficulties implicit in translation. I thought the Japanese translations were a misunderstanding at first.

Now I am thinking of them as Japanese's interpretations. A concept depends on the context of the community when it is accepted, used and defined. Translational phenomena would reflect the community's location of cultural experience.

I hope you will join in discussing these ideas to deepen.

Noriyuki Masuo is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist working in private practice and at Hyogo Mental Health Center in Japan. He is one of directors of Japanese Winnicott Association and of Japan Psychoanalytical Association. His recent book is *Psychoanalysis of Culture and Art* (Coauthored, 2021). Also he has engaged in translating several psychoanalytical books.



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10/ Elizabeth Wolf & Ruth McCall (U.K.)

Chair: Renee Danziger (U.K.)

Working with Winnicott, working with adults

Dr D W Winnicott is strongly associated with child psychoanalysis and child development. Ms Elizabeth Wolf and Ms Ruth McCall will present and discuss core Winnicottian concepts in use within contemporary psychoanalytic work with adults. They will consider use of the object, fear of breakdown, holding environment, psyche-soma integration, transitional object, true self and false self, role of environment and through the use of clinical vignettes will demonstrate how their psychoanalytic practices make lively use of Winnicott's important ideas. Participants will have the opportunity to question and to contribute their experiences in adult psychoanalytic work.

Ruth McCall is a psychoanalyst in private practice in London. She is a Trustee of the Winnicott Trust and the Independent Psychoanalysis Trust. She is a training analyst for the Tavistock and IPCAPA child psychotherapy trainings and supervises psychoanalytic psychotherapists. She teaches candidates at the Institute of Psychoanalysis and lectured extensively for the MSc in Theoretical Psychoanalytic Studies at University College, London. Ruth is the British seminar leader for a seminar programme in Chicago discussing British Independent psychoanalysis.

Elizabeth Wolf is a training and supervising analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society working full time in private practice. She is a Trustee of the Winnicott Trust, The Independent Psychoanalysis Trust and has been a member of the BPAS Board and Executive, most recently chairing the Fellowship Committee. She is also a training analyst for the Tavistock and IPCAPA Child Psychotherapy trainings and contributes to the development of the Independent Tradition through teaching analytic candidates and psychotherapy trainees in London and abroad.

Renée Danziger is a psychoanalyst in private practice and a Fellow of the British Psychoanalytical Society. She is a training analyst for the Tavistock and IPCAPA child psychotherapy trainings, and has taught on the Independent tradition to candidates at the Institute of Psychoanalysis and at the British Psychoanalytic Association. Her research focuses on the application of psychoanalytic thought to a range of social and political issues. Her most recent book is *Radical Revenge: Shame, Blame and the Urge for Retaliation*.



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11/ Joel Kanter (U.S.A.)

Chair: Richard Rollinson (U.K.)

Clare and Donald Winnicott's Wartime Collaboration with Evacuees

Clare and Donald Winnicott first met as they began working together in 1940 helping evacuated children with special needs. Donald served as a consultant one day a week to 5 hostels that served over 80 children and Clare, fresh from her social work training, was assigned fulltime to oversee the hostels.

Joel Kanter, MSW is in private practice in Maryland, USA. He completed post-graduate training in psychoanalytic psychotherapy at the Washington School of Psychiatry. He serves on the faculty of the Institute for Clinical Social Work and the China American Psychoanalytic Alliance. He is on the Editorial Boards of the Clinical Social Work Journal and Psychoanalytic Social Work Journal. He has authored over 50 articles and book chapters in a diverse array of journals, including Psychiatric Services, the International Review of Psychoanalysis, the Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic and American Imago. His book Face to Face with Children: The Life and Work of Clare Winnicott was published by Karnac in 2004. His current project is on the life and work of Selma Fraiberg.

Richard Rollinson trained in Social Work at Oxford and Organisational Consultancy at Ashridge. Richard was the Director of the Planned Environment Therapy Trust and remains an Independent Consultant in the fields of Therapeutic Child Care, Education and Mental Health across the voluntary, statutory and private sectors. He worked at the Mulberry Bush for well over 20 years, where from 1991 to 2001 he was its Director. He was also Director, Children and Young People at the Peper Harow Foundation from 2001 to 2005. In 2014 he became Chair of Trustees at the Mulberry Bush, only recently stepping down from that position, while remaining a Trustee. For many years he has worked with the government in Portugal to support the development of Specialist Therapeutic Residential Communities across the country. He is also a Consultant to several organisations in Ireland and in Portugal.