



Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society Soci t  psychanalytique d'Ottawa

The Scientific Program presentation for December 2021-2022 will take place on:

December 11, 2021 – Saturday – 10:30am to 12:30pm, via Zoom

Please RSVP to ottawaps@yahoo.com. Please note the new e-mail address.

Title:

"What Does Poetry Offer Psychoanalysis?"

Abstract:

Interest in poetry's applicability to psychoanalysis is long-standing, with Freud (1928) writing that he learned his language from the poets and philosophers: "The poets and philosophers before me discovered the unconscious. What I discovered was the scientific method by which the unconscious can be studied" (p.177). Like the unconscious, because it has many different readings a poem cannot be read in one way and be given a definitive interpretation, momentarily the poem ends the tyranny of the intellect. In one of his 1973 seminars in New York, Bion (1980) asked, "what kind of poets and artists can we [psychoanalysts] be?" (p. 73).

In responding to this question, the author leans on three very different poets from the Modern period (1900–1950), focusing primarily on the construction of their art. It is by necessity a very narrow and selective window and includes a consideration of Robert Frost's theory of sense, T.S. Eliot's concept of tradition, and Wallace Stevens' poem "Connoisseur of Chaos," as well as his notion of motion. It posits that if a session has value, we could call it a poem because sound sense has been heard (Frost), the non-linearity of time has been made apparent (Eliot), and the field of chaos has been transformed (Stevens).

Bio:

Cecilia Taiana, (PhD Psychology), is the 2014 and 2017 recipient of the *Dr. Douglas Levin Prize* and the *Dr. Miguel Prados Prize*, respectively awarded by the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society for two of her articles: "Mourning the Dead, Mourning the Disappeared: The Enigma of the Absent-presence," and "Memory of the Process I: The role of day's residues in the field of the session." The first article was published in the *IJP* (December 2014), and the second will be published in the winter of 2022 by JAPA under the title "Day's Residues: One Vertex among Multiple Vertices." She is currently finishing two manuscripts, "Our Proto-Mental *We*" and "What does Poetry offer Psychoanalysis?"

Dr. Taiana teaches candidates at the Toronto Psychoanalytic Society and residents in psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa. She is a member of the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society, Quebec-English Branch, and has a full-time practice in Ottawa, Canada.

Please RSVP to ottawaps@yahoo.com.

Information regarding the Zoom meeting will be sent later.