



## Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society Soci t  psychanalytique d'Ottawa

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

September 25, 2021 – Saturday – 10:30am to 12:30pm, via Zoom

Please RSVP to [ottawaps@yahoo.com](mailto:ottawaps@yahoo.com) Please note the new e-mail address.

*Title:*

"Gender as an Emotional Situation"

*Abstract:*

With the emergence of new forms of gender variance, developing forms of community accompaniment provide gender non-conforming children with emancipatory possibilities. Medical interventions lean on the approval of a healthcare professional, and it is at this stage that the analyst is called upon to act as gatekeeper, that is, to decide whether the demand for transitioning —the initiation of hormonal treatment or surgery as well as requests for name or pronoun change—should be supported. The transitioning youth's demands for recognition and/or support for initiation of medical intervention may push against the analyst's theories of gender as this challenge traditional understanding of sexual identity, now increasingly understood as overdetermined. In this paper I focus on the emotional situation created by the analyst's confrontation with new subjectivities in the clinic—trans and nonbinary children and adolescents—about which there may be no prior knowledge to lean upon. In addressing concerns regarding the analyst's stance in relation to trans youth's demands to transition, I specifically focus on two papers recently published by the International Journal of Psychoanalysis: David Bell's article "First do no Harm" (2020) as well as Rachel Blass's paper "Can we think psychoanalytically about transgenderism?" With attention to a series of metaphors and signifiers such as contagion, castration/amputation and disruption that recur through the debates, I ask, what do these apparently disparate metaphors and signifiers reveal about the anxieties in the field regarding these new clinical situations? And how do these new situations change the nature of our work?

*Bio:*

Dr. Oren Gozlan is a psychoanalyst in private practice, and is the Chair of the Scientific Committee, and Faculty at the Toronto Institute of Psychoanalysis. He is also faculty at the Toronto Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis and at the Canadian Institute for Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. He is part of the IPA committee for Gender Diversity and Sexuality. His book 'Transsexuality and the Art of Transitioning: A Lacanian Approach' won the American Academy & Board of Psychoanalysis' annual book prize for books published in 2015. He is also the winner of the Symonds Prize (2016). His edited collection titled: "Critical Debates in the Transsexual Studies Field: In Transition" (Routledge) was a runner up for the 2019 Gradiva Award.

Please RSVP to [ottawaps@yahoo.ca](mailto:ottawaps@yahoo.ca)

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 822 3408 1398

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