



Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society Société psychanalytique d'Ottawa

Scientific Meeting Saturday, January 20 2018

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society, 223 Main Street (St Paul University), LaFramboise building room **L133 Salon Gervais**, Ottawa.

«Projective Identification in the Intergenerational Transmission of Unsymbolized Parental Trauma: An Adoptee's Search for Truth »

Though it remains controversial, projective identification is now widely accepted as a concept related to the basic communication of emotional experience in psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic therapy. As such, it has become established as a clinical tool related to transference and countertransference. Nevertheless, a review of the literature indicates that projective identification in the analytic relationship has not been linked clearly enough to the analytic reconstruction of intergenerational transmission of trauma, where the patient has been the passive receptacle of parental displacements of unmourned trauma and loss. In such cases, the process of internalization has occurred transpersonally over more than one lifetime. The author will show the value of using the intersubjective model of projective identification as a probe to further understanding of unconscious intergenerational dynamics related to unsymbolized trauma. Details of the analysis of an adoptee woman's mission to uncover the secrets of her origins will illustrate this hypothesis.

Dr. Mercedes Muhlegg

Quebec English Branch of the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society

Learning Objectives

- The author will demonstrate that the rise and refinement of projective identification is a way of understanding aspects of intrapsychic and/or two person processes; and the emergence of the concept of transgenerational transmission.
- The author wishes to show that the shift from the purely intrapsychic to the intersubjective model of projective identification illuminates longer-term internalizing processes such as can be seen in the intergenerational transmission of unsymbolized parental trauma.
- The author will outline the analysis of an adoptee to illustrate this hypothesis.

“This event is a self-approved group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.”

Confidential material will be presented and discussed.

Scientific Program Chair

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