



Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society Société psychanalytique d'Ottawa

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

November 13, 2021 – Saturday – 10:30am to 12:30pm, via Zoom

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

Title:

“When the Presence of Digital Technology in Psychoanalytic Sessions Makes It Possible to Avoid Oneself: Current and Future Challenges in an Era of Ubiquitous Computing”

Abstract:

These days it is commonplace for digital technology to enter into psychoanalytic sessions - from the presence of smartphones and smartwatches to remote sessions conducted through videoconferencing. Technologists predict that computing will become increasingly ubiquitous in the coming years and will merge seamlessly with everyday objects and experiences. In this presentation, I will contrast two ways of understanding what this could mean for psychoanalysis. The first is that characteristically psychoanalytic ways of engaging with oneself are not fundamentally challenged by these changes. Current methods of psychoanalysis will be sufficient, or only require relatively minor modifications, to foster psychoanalytic processes with digitally enmeshed subjects. The second, which we have reason to believe to be likely, is that these technological changes will present more fundamental challenges that psychoanalysis will need to contend with.

Bio:

Bradley Murray, DPhil, MEd, is a psychoanalyst in private practice in Vancouver. He has taught in the philosophy department at the University of British Columbia, the psychology program at the University of Guelph-Humber, and the Advanced Training Program in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at the Toronto Psychoanalytic Society. He is the author of *The Possibility of Culture: Pleasure and Moral Development in Kant's Aesthetics*. His research focuses on the history and philosophy of psychoanalysis, and on psychoanalytic and philosophical approaches to understanding the effects of digital technology on well-being.

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Information regarding the Zoom meeting will be sent later.