



Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society Société psychanalytique d'Ottawa

OPS SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Presenter: Dr. Mary Eleanor Yack

Feb. 22, 2025 – Saturday – 10:30am to 12:30pm (Ottawa time)
via Zoom (please RSVP to ottawaps@yahoo.com)

Title: Expressions of Psychopathy in the Films of Patricia Highsmith: How Social Media Contributes to the Modern Expression of Psychopathic Traits.

Presentation type: Clinical paper and film discussion

Abstract: Patricia Highsmith was a novelist who was fascinated by amoral characters who were willing to manipulate and even kill people to achieve their goals. She wrote the thriller *The Talented Mr. Ripley* in 1955. Its film and television adaptations include *Purple Noon* (1960), *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999) and *Ripley* 2024 (Netflix).

Dr. Yack's paper will review recent psychoanalytic theories of psychopathy. A brief biographical sketch of Patricia Highsmith will illustrate how her own psychopathic traits were sublimated in her work. Comparing the three film adaptations of *Ripley*, it will be argued that the most recent depiction of the character, who is the most empty and irredeemable of all, seems to be the perfect *Ripley* for the Instagram era.

It will be demonstrated how Instagram works in a predatory manner, manipulating and exploiting vulnerable participants for profit. A discussion will ensue about how social media can contribute to the expression of antisocial traits such as callousness, lack of empathy, and detachment in relationships.

Required preparation:

In preparation for the presentation the participants are encouraged to watch some of these films:

Purple Noon (1960) directed by Rene Clement
(<https://archive.org/details/purple-noon-1960>)

The Talented Mr. Ripley (1999) directed by Anthony Minghella
(<https://www.justwatch.com/ca/movie/the-talented-mr-ripley>)

Ripley (2024) directed by Steven Zaillian
(Netflix)

Loving Highsmith (2022) directed by Eva Vitija
(<https://tv.apple.com/ca/movie/loving-highsmith/umc.cmc.5wz1d7gbbeg94znwxcjhcs0ev>)

Learning objectives:

After attending this presentation:

1. The participants will become familiar with modern psychoanalytic theories of psychopathy
2. The participants will become aware of the impact that social media platforms such as Instagram have on mental health issues and as well as on the inhibition or expression of antisocial traits.
3. Participants will reflect on the role the influence such as social media play in the definition of human values.

Bio:

Dr. Mary Eleanor Yack is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in private practice. She was actively involved in the Film and Psychoanalysis program at the Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society. She has an active interest in how film and literature can enrich the understanding of the unconscious.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/4844761127?pwd=MG8zVVNyRVFIWEZ1emlMN2RzTXhwZz09>

Meeting ID: 484 476 1127

Passcode: 485239

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Scientific Chair of the Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society.

If you would like to receive participation confirmation, please fill out the feedback form and email it to ottawaps@yahoo.com

Please note that there is a \$40 fee and a \$20 student fee for participants who are not CPS members or candidates, or OPS guests:

By cheque:

Send a cheque made out to "Ottawa Psychoanalytic Society" to:

The Treasurer, OPS

c/o Louise Morel

2089 Orient Park Drive

Gloucester ON K1B 4W1

By online purchase:

Make payment by following the links: <https://ottawaps.ca/scientific-program/>

By e-transfer:

We deal with RBC. The e-mail address associated with our account is ottawaps@yahoo.com. Your payment will be automatically deposited into our bank account; there is no need for a security question / answer.



SCIENTIFIC MEETING EVALUATION FORM

DATE: _____ **# Credits (Hours):** _____

Please rate the quality of the activity on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)

This activity

<i>Met the stated objectives</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Enhanced my knowledge</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Satisfied my expectations</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Conveyed information that applied to my practice</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Allocated ≥ 25% for interaction</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Was free from commercial bias?</i>	1	2	3	4	5

What did you learn or how will this event impact on your practice?

Please indicate which CanMEDS roles you felt were addressed?

- Medical Expert Scholar Collaborator Communicator
- Manager Professional Health Advocate

Evaluation of Presenter(s) *Overall Effectiveness* *Content Relevance* *Teaching Methods*

1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/ SUGGESTIONS: (please use verso if needed)