

The Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Presents

Wilfred Bion's Legacy to the Psychoanalytic Clinic
A Clinical Seminar with Dr James S. Grotstein
Chaired by Mr Ross M. Skelton



Friday 21 October 2011 @ 6.30-9.30 pm

Shelbourne 1 Room
The Stillorgan Park Hotel
Stillorgan Road, Dublin 4

This seminar will be conducted with Dr Grotstein in his office in Los Angeles via video-link

CPD POINTS

This seminar has been awarded 3 CPD points by the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy section of the Irish Council for Psychotherapy (ICP).

VIDEO-LINK

This seminar will be conducted with Dr Grotstein from his office in Los Angeles via video-link. It will be possible for delegates to communicate with

Dr Grotstein as we have arranged for a webcam, microphone, projector and large screen.

LECTURE

Bion's Legacy to Clinicians

Wilfred R. Bion's views on psychoanalytic theory and practice have 'disturbed the universe' of our discipline in a number of ways. His study of group process launched him early on. Then, following his analytic training and analysis with Melanie Klein, he quickly attracted attention for his analytic work with psychotic patients. From his experience with them he lifted Klein's concept of projective identification to a new level, from an unconscious, intra-psychic, omnipotent mechanism to an intersubjective mode of communication. It is for this reformulation of the aim of projective identification that Bion has become so well known. This idea in turn led to his formulating the concept of container/contained and, along with it, maternal reverie, alpha-function (i.e. thinking), and alpha-elements (thoughts proper), and beta-elements (anti-thoughts). What Bion was trying to formulate was a theory of *transformations* whereby emotional experience becomes mentalised into thoughts that can be stored and thought about and/or rejected. His radical revision of Sigmund Freud's theory of dreaming ('a curtain of illusion') joins his mystical concept of 'O' to become his most far-reaching efforts to revitalise psychoanalysis as a 'mystical' as well as 'aesthetic science'. I shall explicate these ideas and others in my presentation.

SPEAKER

Dr James S. Grotstein MD is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, as well as Training and Supervising Analyst at the New Center for Psychoanalysis and the Psychoanalytic Center of California, Los Angeles. He is past North American Vice-President of the International Psychoanalytic Association. He is the author of 248 published papers and the author, editor, and/or co-editor of many books, including *A Beam of Intense Darkness: Bion's Legacy to Psychoanalysis; '... but at the same time and on another level', vols. 1 and 2: Psychoanalytic Theory and Technique in the Kleinian/Bion Mode and Clinical Applications in the Kleinian/Bionian Mode; Do I Dare Disturb the Universe? A Memorial to W.R. Bion; Splitting and Projective Identification* and *Who is the Dreamer Who Dreams the Dream? A Study of Psychic Presences*; He is working on a book entitled 'The Man of

Achievement: Wilfred Ruprecht Bion and his Legacy to Psychoanalysis', which has been commissioned by Karnac Books. Dr Grotstein is currently in the private practice of psychoanalysis in West Los Angeles.

CHAIR

Mr Ross M. Skelton is Emeritus Senior Lecturer in Logic, Philosophy and Psychoanalysis at Trinity College Dublin where he founded the MPhil in Psychoanalytic Studies (currently based in the School of Psychology). He is also one of the co-founders of the MSc in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy based in the School of Psychiatry. He has published many articles on Freud, Klein, Bion and Lacan in international journals and is currently a referee for the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* and the *International Forum of Psychoanalysis*. In recent years, in conjunction with James Grotstein and others, he produced the acclaimed 1,000-entry *Edinburgh International Encyclopaedia of Psychoanalysis* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2006). This volume, covering all schools of psychoanalysis and also including Jung has recently been incorporated into the Psychoanalytic Electronic Publishing (PEP) disc. At the present time, as well as teaching and private practice, he is writing a memoir about his time in the Royal Air Force.

SCHEDULE

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 6.30-6.45 pm | Welcome and Introductions (Mr Gerry French, Chairperson, Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy) |
| 6.45-.7.45 pm | Lecture: <i>Bion's Legacy to Clinicians</i> (Dr James S. Grotstein, American Psychoanalytic Association) |
| 7.45-8.10 pm | Questions and Discussion (Chaired by Mr Ross M. Skelton, Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy) |
| 8.10-8.30 pm | Tea and Coffee Break |
| 8.30-9.30 pm | Clinical Discussion with Dr Grotstein (facilitated by Mr Skelton) |

9.30-9.45 pm

Thanks and Closing Remarks (Mr Gerry French)

RECOMMENDED READING

Dr Grotstein recommends the following chapters in his book: *A Beam of Intense Darkness: Wilfred Bion's Legacy to Psychoanalysis* (London: Karnac Books, 2007):

- Chapter 4: Bion's Vision, pp. 36-43.
- Chapter 5: Bion's Legacy, pp. 44-64.
- Chapter 6: Bion's Metatheory, pp. 65-81.
- Chapter 7 Bion on Technique, pp. 82-97.

He has also suggested that delegates read Wilfred R. Bion, 'Notes on Memory and Desire' in Elizabeth Bott Spillius (ed.), *Melanie Klein Today: Developments in Theory and Practice*, vol. 2 (London and New York: Routledge 1988 [1967]), pp. 17-21.

These readings are available as pdf files from Ann Daly: amdps@indigo.ie

VENUE

This clinical seminar takes place in the Shelbourne 1 Room in the Stillorgan Park Hotel, Stillorgan Road, Dublin 4. Directions to the venue: <http://www.stillorganparkhotel.com/location.html>

FREE PARKING

There is free parking for up to 250 cars in the hotel car park.

TEA AND COFFEE

Tea and coffee are included in the registration fee.

ORGANISER

This event is organised by the Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (IFPP). Further information about the IFPP can be found here: <http://www.ifpp.org>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The IFPP acknowledges the invaluable work, support and assistance provided by the IFCAPP Education Officer in the organisation of this clinical seminar.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Further information about this and other upcoming events organised by the IFPP can be found at <http://www.ifpp.org>

REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION

To register, delegates should contact Ann Daly: amdps@indigo.ie

The registration fee for this event is:

- * €45 members of ICP
- * €50 non-members
- * €25 students/trainees

Please complete the registration on the next page and send with your payment. Cheques, postal orders or bank drafts should be made payable to 'The Irish Forum Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy' and posted to Ann Daly, 'James Grotstein Seminar', The Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, 73 Quinn's Road, Shankill, County Dublin.

Payment of the registration fee secures a place at the seminar. Include your name and email address as receipt of payment will be confirmed by email.

Please note: there are a limited number of places available so early registration is advised

**BOOKING FORM: CLINICAL SEMINAR
WILFRED BION'S LEGACY TO THE PSYCHOANALYTIC CLINIC**

Please complete this form and return to: Ann Daly, 73 Quinn's Road, Shankill, County Dublin. Tel: 01-2722105, Fax: 01-2722111. ***The appropriate fee must complete this form. Thank you.***

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Organisation: _____ Profession: _____

I enclose a cheque/postal order/bank draft for € _____ to be made payable to 'IFPP' for:

(please tick one)

Member (ICP) €45 _____

Non-Member €50 _____

Reduced Fee (Student/Trainee) €25 _____

Bookings will not be accepted without payment