



Truth-Seeking and its Discontents

A UCL Psychoanalysis Unit Virtual Conference

Friday 9th – Saturday 10th July 2021 (BST)

Friday 9 July 2021

16.45 - 17.00 **Online Registration**

17.00 - 17.15 **Welcome and Introduction**

David Taylor (British Psychoanalytical Society, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, University College London, UK) and Liz Allison (British Psychoanalytical Society, University College London, UK)

17.15 - 19.15 **Session 1: Truth-Seeking or Truth-Avoiding in Clinical Settings**

Chair: David Taylor (British Psychoanalytical Society, Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust and University College London, UK)

What we learn from child psychotherapy about a drive to seek understanding of ourselves and our world. What impedes it or facilitates it?

Margaret Rustin (British Psychoanalytical Society, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, UK) and Alex Datnow (Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, UK)

Thoughts on an adolescent's lockdown state of mind

Catalina Bronstein (British Psychoanalytical Society and University College London, UK)

Deception or Dissociation in Forensic Cases?

Carine Minne (British Psychoanalytical Society and Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK)

19.15 - 19.45 **Virtual drinks reception**

Saturday 10 July 2021

11.00 - 13.00

Film Screening: Chasing the Revolution: Marie Langer, Psychoanalysis and Society

Marie Langer was a refugee from Anschluss Austria who went on to become a foundational figure in the Latin American psychoanalytic establishment and a critic of what she saw as self-deception in the relationship of psychoanalysis with societal and political conditions and injustices. This film focuses on Langer in the early 1970s. It raises the question of how such social conditions impact on the practice of psychoanalysis with its necessary basis in the values of freedom of thought, of speech, and of open debate

The film will be followed by a panel discussion between Virginia Ungar (Buenos Aires Psychoanalytic Association, Argentina), Jeanne Wolff-Bernstein (Wiener Arbeitskreis für Psychoanalyse, Austria) and the film's maker Lily Ford (The Derek Jarman Lab, Birkbeck University of London, UK).

13.00 - 13.30

Lunch break

13.30 - 15.00

Session 2: Have We Evolved to Seek the Truth? Perspectives from Developmental Science

Chair: Chloe Campbell (Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, UK and University College London, UK)

How the internet created an epistemic crisis: A developmental evolutionary perspective on the epistemic crisis of the present day

Peter Fonagy (University College London, UK and Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, UK)

Are humans seekers of truth or seekers of shared beliefs? An evolutionary and developmental perspective

György Gergely (Central European University, Vienna and Budapest and Hungarian Psychoanalytical Society, Hungary)

Chaos: Destruction or creation?

Ronald Britton (British Psychoanalytical Society, UK)

15.00 - 15.45

Break

15.45 - 17.15

Session 3: Reflections on Truth in Politics

Chair: Liz Allison (British Psychoanalytical Society and University College London, UK)

Mass Psychology Today

Eli Zaretsky (New School for Social Research, New York, USA)

Truth, Lies and Captive Minds: Lessons from the Cold War
Daniel Pick (British Psychoanalytical Society and Birkbeck College, UK)

17.15 - 18.00 **Final Plenary and Closing Reflections**

18.00 - 19.00 **Virtual drinks reception**