



**IAFP**

International Association  
for Forensic Psychotherapy

**29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**GENDERCIDE – GENDER DIVIDE**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**VIRTUAL EVENT**

<https://www.forensicpsychotherapy.org/book-online>



Judith Beheading Holofernes Artemisia Gentileschi  
(Roma 1593 – Napoli 1652/53)

*The inspiration for this conference title and theme came from a forensic patient who had been violent towards his mother and who in his final session with his female therapist used the parapraxis 'gendercide' when he meant genocide.*

*The word gender has been reinterpreted and reinvented many times in the last few decades and there has been an increasing interest in gender-based violence and gender directed violence across the world. There have recently been landmark changes in the law in various parts of Europe, including Spain, and in this conference, we would like to explore this, and other themes related to violence which can be understood as being directed towards "gender".*

*We invite you to interpret the theme of this conference in the broadest and most analytic sense of the word. The following themes are offered as a guide but are by no means definitive - the body, gender-based violence, the law, race & gender, culture.*

*We are delighted to bring you, in addition to the main conference, a pre-conference day arranged by our Spanish colleagues, led by Elida Grande. This event will be taking place nationally, across seventeen provinces in Spain both on zoom and in person. As changes in Spanish law have opened up new debate and opportunity for Forensic Psychotherapy which is currently in its infancy in Spain and only permitted to be carried out by Psychiatrists and Psychologists, we invite you to join this ground-breaking event and take part in this historic moment.*

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**ANNE AIYEGBUSI**

**ANTONIA CARRASCO**

**CHRISTIE COHO**

**MASSIMO DE MARI**

**RONALD DOCTOR**

**ELIDA GRANDE**

**LEYLA HUSSEIN**

**CABBY LAFFY**

**LESLIE LOTHSTEIN**

**ANNA MOTZ**

**ROXANA PARRA SEPÚLVEDA**

**ESTELA WELLDON**

## **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

Ronald Doctor  
Angela Foster  
Elena Mundici  
Katya Orrell  
Francesco Spadaro  
Celia Taylor  
Emma Went

## **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

Ronald Doctor  
Élida Grande  
Barbara Jacobs  
Carine Minne  
Katya Orrell  
Estela Welldon  
Emma Went

## **GILL MCGAULEY PRIZE COMMITTEE**

Konstantin Nemirovsky  
Francesco Spadaro  
Celia Taylor

## **TECHNICAL IT SUPPORT**

Simon Kear, Sivico Learning

## DAY 1 – THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2021

PRECONFERENCE ORGANISED BY ÉLIDA GRANDE / ISRAEL ALONSO

*\*Please note time difference; Start at 9:00am EU time – 8:00am UK time\**

*\*Sessions will be delivered in Spanish\**

9.00 (EU)	<b>Acto Inaugural</b>	<b>Gorka Moreno.</b> Vicerrector del Campus de Bizkaia. <b>Osakidetza.</b> Por concretar. <b>Federico Ruiz de Hilla.</b> Presidente del IRSE EBI.
9.20 (EU)	<b>Conferencia inaugural</b>  <i>ONLINE</i>	<b>Estela Welldon.</b> Psiquiatra, psicoterapeuta psicoanalítica. Presidenta honoraria de la IAFP.  Título: <i>“Presente, pasado y futuro de la psicoterapia forense. Jugando con dinamita”</i>
10.00 (EU)	<b>Mesa de Diálogo 1</b>  Moderadora: <b>Élida Grande</b>  Psiquiatra Comunitaria RSMB. Bilbao. Comisión Violencia de Género.  <i>Perspectivas nacionales</i>	<b>Ana Abasolo.</b> Jefa del Instituto Forense de Bilbao. Médica Forense experta en Psiquiatría.  Título: <i>“Trabajo Forense a partir de la Ley de Violencia de Género”</i>  <b>Miguel Ángel González-Torres.</b> Psiquiatra Jefe Unidad de Psiquiatría del Hospital de Basurto. Profesor de la Facultad de Medicina (UPV/EHU)  Título: <i>“Síndrome de Narcisismo Maligno. ¿Un límite para la Psicoterapia de pacientes con Trastornos Graves de Personalidad?”</i> .  <b>Marga Sáenz.</b> Psiquiatra, Psicoterapeuta y organizadora de las Jornadas anuales sobre Igualdad en el Hospital de Cruces. Profesora de la Facultad de Medicina (UPV/EHU).  Título: <i>“Intervenciones terapéuticas con perspectiva de género en Psiquiatría”</i> .  <b>Iñaki Madariaga Zamalloa.</b> Psiquiatra. Responsable de la Unidad de Psiquiatría Legal del Hospital Aita Menni- Mondragón. Ex Director Médico del Hospital Psiquiátrico Aita Menni. Ex Presidente Sociedad Española de Psiquiatría Legal.  Título: <i>“Justicia Terapéutica: Unidad de Psiquiatría Legal”</i>
11.00 (EU)	<b>Mesa de Diálogo 2</b>  Moderador: <b>Israel Alonso</b>  Profesor y Vicedecano de la Facultad de Educación de Bilbao. UPV.	<b>Jorge Freudenthal.</b> Psicólogo - Terapeuta experto en Violencia de Género. Gakoa (IRSE-EBI)  Título: <i>“Intervención con hombres en Violencia de Género”</i> .  <b>Olga Rodríguez Ochoa.</b> Psicóloga. Responsable Programa Beinke de Inclusión y Experta en Justicia Juvenil. (IRSE-EBI)

	<i>Perspectivas nacionales</i>	<p><b>Nuria Fabra.</b> Profesora de la Facultad de Educación de la Universidad de Barcelona. Coordinadora de la Mesa de participación social del Departamento de justicia de Cataluña 2010-2021 <i>ONLINE</i></p> <p>Título: <b>“Empoderamiento y rehabilitación, dos perspectivas complementarias para la reducción de la reincidencia delictiva”</b></p> <p><b>Jordi Enjuanes.</b> Educador Social en Centros Penitenciarios de Justicia Juvenil y Centros Penitenciarios. Generalitat de Catalunya. Profesor de la Universitat Ramon Llull. <i>ONLINE</i></p> <p>Título: <b>“Cárceles educadoras, una nueva forma de ver y entender el entorno penitenciario”</b></p>
12.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
12.30 (EU)	<p><b>Mesa de Diálogo 3.</b></p> <p><i>Perspectivas internacionales</i> <i>ONLINE</i></p> <p>Moderador: <b>Iñaki Gómez</b></p> <p>Psicólogo- Psicoterapeuta.</p>	<p><b>Emma Went.</b> Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist. (IAFP)</p> <p><b>Francesco Spadaro</b> Consultant Psychiatrist, London, UK - Presidente Societa' Italiana di Psicoterapia Forense.</p> <p>Título: <b>“El toque ligero: la tradición y el futuro de la Psicoterapia Forense Italiana”</b></p>
13:30	<i>Cierre</i>	

## DAY 2 - FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2021

CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY KATYA ORRELL / EMMA WENT

*\*Please note time difference; Start at 9:45am UK time – 10.45am EU time\**

9.45 (UK)	Welcome	Opening (Katya Orrell, Emma Went)
10.00	<b>PLENARY 1</b>  Chair: <b>David Millar</b>	<b>Estela Welldon</b> Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist. Founder and Honorary Life President of the IAFP (UK)  Title: <i>“Female Violence”</i>  <b>Ronald Doctor</b> Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychotherapy at the West London Mental Health NHS Trust (UK)  Title: <i>“Repudiation of femininity”</i>
12.00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
12.15 (UK)	<b>PLENARY 2</b>  Chair: <b>Élida Grande</b>	<b>"Approach to Forensic Psychotherapy from different perspectives"</b>  <b>Élida Grande.</b> Psychiatrist at a Community Mental Health Center of the Bizkaia Mental Health Network (Spain)  Title: <i>"Attention to Gender Violence in the community"</i> .  <b>Ana Abasolo.</b> Head of the Forensic Institute of Bilbao, Bizkaia. Forensic physician expert in Psychiatry. (Spain)  Title: <i>"Gender violence in the courts: Evaluation of cases in the Forensic Institute"</i>  <b>Margarita Saénz.</b> Psychiatrist at Cruces University Hospital and psychotherapist. Writer and editor of the second edition of the book: "Psychopathology in women". (Spain)  Title: <i>"Attention to Gender Violence in the Hospital Emergency Room"</i> .  <b>Miguel Ángel González-Torres.</b> Head of the Psychiatric Unit of the Basurto Hospital. Psychiatrist/TFP Supervisor and Psychotherapist (Spain)  Title: <i>"Approach to Transference Focused Psychotherapy (TFP) in patients with borderline personality disorders"</i> .
13:30	<b>Lunch</b>	

14.00 (UK)	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
1.	Chair: <b>Katya Orrell</b>	<b>Elena Mundici</b> “A matter of wife and death: Music and gender representation in prison”  <b>Jessica Collier</b> "Behind Closed Doors" Art psychotherapy with female sex offenders in prison
2.	Chair: <b>Celia Taylor</b>	<b>Francesco Spadaro &amp; Marzia Versaggio</b> “Strange case of gendercide”  <b>Alex McGuire, Sarita Bose, Sally Helliwell, Martina Mindang</b> "Life after death"
3.	Chair: <b>Luiza Ziackova</b>	<b>Theodoros Papagathonikou</b> “From Medea to Clytemnestra: The revenge of the beaten child and the murder of the (m)other in psychopathic and sadistic patients”  <b>Alexis Theodorou &amp; Saima Ali</b> “Vagina; Victim or violator”.
4.	Chair: <b>Richard Curen</b> Alan Corbett Memorial Lecture	<b>Emma Went</b> “Learning Disability, intra-familial violence and the politics of shame”
15.30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
15.45 (UK)	<b>PLENARY 3</b>  Chair: <b>Angela Foster</b>	<b>Antonia Maria Carrasco.</b> President of Asociación GenMad: the Association of Victims of the Law and Gender Violence (Spain)  Title: “ <i>Analysis and Social Consequences of Violence against Women in Spanish law</i> ”  <b>Leslie Lothstein.</b> Lecturer in Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine / Connecticut Mental Health Centre (USA)  Title: “ <i>Entering the unconscious mind of an internationally adopted female and finding a dissociated, vicious, paranoid gender-fluid self with a fibroid penis in search of the truth</i> ”
17.30 (UK)	<b>Large Group</b>	Moderator: <b>John Woods</b>
18.30	<b>Close</b>	



## DAY 3 – SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY KATYA ORRELL / EMMA WENT

*\*Please note time difference; Start at 9:45am UK time – 10.45am EU time\**

9.45 (UK)	<b>WELCOME</b>	Opening (Katya Orrell, Emma Went)
10.00 (UK)	<b>PLENARY 1</b>  Chair: <b>Sandra Grant</b>	<p><b>Christie Coho.</b> Senior Psychotherapist, FGM/C specialist Therapist, NHS Sunflower Clinic (UK)</p> <p><b>Cabby Laffy.</b> UKCP registered and NCP accredited psychotherapist, a COSRT accredited psychosexual therapist, a supervisor, a group facilitator, and a member of PCSR.</p> <p><b>Leyla Hussein.</b> Psychotherapist, social activist and founder of the Dahlia Project (UK)</p> <p><b>Roxana Parra Sepúlveda.</b> Psychotherapist and Clinical Supervisor.</p> <p>Title: <i>“Restoring what no longer exists: Working with Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)”</i>.</p>
12.00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
12.15 (UK)	<b>PLENARY 2</b>  Chair: <b>Carine Minne</b>	<p><b>Anna Motz.</b> Consultant Clinical and Forensic Psychologist, Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, Offender Care, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (UK)</p> <p>Title: <i>“Bodies Bought and Sold: The Marginalisation and Criminalisation of Women”</i></p> <p><b>Dr Anne Aiyegbusi.</b> Group Analyst and Forensic Psychotherapist West London NHS Trust</p> <p>Title: <i>“Black women’s burden: Projections, fantasies and tropes”</i></p>
13:30	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:30 (UK)	<b>All welcome</b>	<b>IAFP Annual General Meeting (AGM)</b>

14.00 (UK)	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
1.	Chair: <b>Elena Mundici</b>	<b>Nick Jones</b> “Toxic Seduction: Gender, Play and Disavowal”  <b>Celia Taylor</b> “There is a not single person I loved that I didn’t eventually betray” – Albert Camus
2.	Chair: <b>Leslie Lothstein</b>	<b>James Rymer</b> “Gendercide - Gender Divide and the body; The art of Francis Bacon as a point of reference to Gendercide”  <b>John Adlam</b> "When Janeway met Seven of Nine": 'colonial' and anti-'colonial' practices in the treatment of severe eating distress and starvation”
3.	Chair: <b>Lorna Downing</b>	<b>Lisa Gardiner</b> "Female Bodies and the Law"  <b>Lisa Fischel-Wolovick</b> “The Experiences of Domestic Violence Survivors in the U.S. Family Courts: Gender Bias in the Courts”
4.	Chair: <b>Ronald Doctor</b>	<b>Ibifuro Cookey</b> “The intersection of personality structure and dynamic risk factors in a male offender population: a retrospective study”  <b>Malik Saoudi</b> “Miguel De Unamuno's 'Abel Sanchez: Una Historia de Pasion’ - The role of envy in (gender-based) violence”.
5.	Chair: <b>Alex Maguire</b>	<b>Emma Allen</b> “Some Body Else: Harlequin’s Journey in Forensic Sandplay & Gender Dysphoria”  <b>Hessel Willemsen</b> “Trans, truth and the reinterpreted past: a child’s experience of living in two families”.
15.30	<b><i>Coffee Break</i></b>	

15.45 (UK)	<b>PLENARY 3</b>  Chair: <b>Reena Kapoor</b>	<b>Massimo de Mari.</b> Consultant Psychiatrist in the male prisons of Padua (Italy).  Title: “ <i>The Perfect Man</i> ”  <b>Cleo Van Velsen.</b> Consultant Psychiatrist (UK).  Title: “ <i>The Good, the Bad and the Ugly Psychopath</i> ”
17.30 (UK)	<b>Large Group</b>	Moderator: <b>John Woods</b>
18.30	<b>Break</b>	
19.00	<b>Closing Event</b>	Announcements of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gill McGauley prize winner</li> <li>- Estela Welldon Prize</li> <li>- 2022 IAFP Conference in London: Past, Present and Future of Forensic Psychotherapy</li> </ul> Alternative gala dinner: <a href="https://jewishviennesefood.com">https://jewishviennesefood.com</a> , including the “ <a href="#">Freudian slip</a> ” cocktail Members to come up with the best forensic name for a cocktail

**John Adlam** is a Consultant Adult Forensic Psychotherapist in South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

**Title: "When Janeway met Seven of Nine": 'colonial' and anti-'colonial' practices in the treatment of severe eating distress and starvation**

‘Mental health policies should address the “power imbalance” rather than “chemical imbalance” ... and abandon the predominant medical model that seeks to cure individuals by targeting “disorders”.’ (UN Special Rapporteur (2017))

Forensic psychotherapy does not often speak directly of 'eating disorders' but issues of coercive treatment and the 'forensic' *publication of distress* are salient. 'Anorexia nervosa' is widely considered to have the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric disorder. Numerous women (and some men) die yearly of the sequelae of malnutrition and starvation. Although iatrogenic harm from inpatient treatment is seen as a high-risk factor, hospital admissions for eating disorders in the UK 2017-2019 rose by 37% across all age groups.

In 2018/19, women accounted for 92% of all admissions for anorexia and bulimia of people aged 19 and over. Practices of starvation and system of care responses are strongly gendered: we might wonder whether some kind of structurally violent (gendercidal?) neglect underpins the mortality rate. In these circumstances, notwithstanding many innovations in the field, there is little in the status quo to feel reverent towards.

I propose that the existing diagnostic and treatment frame for 'eating disorders' is inadequate and needs to be challenged. I analyse responses of systems of care to the constructed otherness pertaining to 'disordered' practices of starvation. I deploy the story of how Captain Janeway reclaims Seven of Nine from the Borg in *Star Trek: Voyager* as a parable to explore ethics of 'colonial' and anti-'colonial' practices in fraught encounters between in-groups and out-groups.

**Dr Anne Aiyegbusi** is a group analyst, forensic psychotherapist and mental health nurse. Her nursing career in the NHS saw her gaining experience in the range of roles 'from ward to board.' However, her clinical practice was based in forensic mental health services, including 15 years as a consultant nurse in secure services for women. After taking early retirement she returned to the NHS on a part time basis and manages a co-produced clinical network offering training and consultancy to build workforce capacity for supporting people with the diagnosis of 'personality disorder'. Anne is also a director, psychotherapist and consultant nurse for Psychological Approaches, a community interest company providing training and consultancy to public sector agencies working with complex needs and offending. Anne has published and presented widely in areas relating to complex trauma and attachment issues, especially as related to forensic services, 'personality disorder' women's mental health and racism.

**Title: "Black Women's Burden: Projections, fantasies and tropes"**

Positioned at the intersection of sexism and misogyny, black women are doubly vulnerable due to what may be understood in terms of attracting psychological and social reactions associated with two oppressed identities. Resultantly, the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts. In this presentation I will explore the particular projections, fantasies and tropes black women have to contend with, linking their roots to historical racist atrocity. Three particular propagandized characters which emerged from American slavery have endured over centuries and are commonplace in the projections, fantasies and tropes associated with black women the world over. These racist tropes are; Mammy, Jezebel and Sapphire. I will make reference to how these tropes originally served to conceal the harm done to black women due to their vulnerability and will argue that this is still the case. I will describe the implications for black women encountering the forensic and criminal justice settings.

**Emma Allen** is the Professional Lead for Arts Psychotherapies at Rampton Hospital, one of three high secure hospitals in the UK. Emma has been working at Rampton since 2009 as a HCPC registered Art Psychotherapist and is the founder, pioneer, and researcher of Forensic Sandplay Therapy, qualifying with BISS (British & Irish Sandplay Society) & ISST (International Society for Sandplay Therapy) in September 2019. Emma also works in a prison, (HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall) in an enabling environment; assessing and treating young men at risk of developing personality disorders and who struggle with interpersonal relationships related to their trauma histories. Emma has published a number of book chapters and journal papers, is a clinical supervisor, lecturer, and has presented at IAFP, BISS and ISST conferences.

**Title: “Some Body Else”: Harlequin’s Journey in Forensic Sandplay & Gender Dysphoria**

Distressed by a misalliance of gender identity, and sex assigned at birth, Alex, (not their real name), struggled with gender dysphoria, and suicidal ideation, whilst serving a life sentence for the murder of men, and receiving treatment for personality disorder in a high secure hospital. This paper presentation, examples how Forensic Sandplay assists the over-controlled offender through promoting playfulness, and explores the androgynous figure of Harlequin in relation to gender-violence. Through spontaneous, symbolic creations, consciousness relaxes its control, and imagery shifts towards new potential and authenticity; alleviating emotional inhibition, hyper-vigilant-physiological threat sensitivity, and decreasing destructive impulses, and preventing escalating emotional tension (Allen, 2018). This case vignette explores difference and deception with the false self; of hiding, pretending to be, or feeling like somebody else. The journey ends in a recovery from, the personal father, and in a recovery of, the archetypal feminine and is a story that uncovers themes of traumatic murder of the masculine and overcoming de-personalization and de-realization in the search for true Self.

Forensic Sandplay tells tales from deep within both the body and mind; of devastating physiological and psychological impact of abandonment-trauma, loss, and bereavement, from the masculine (and death of the father), and physical abuse from the feminine (mother). Alex’s identity-formation existed in the periphery between male and female, and masculine (conscious) and feminine (unconscious) energies in emotional detachment. Sacrificial archetypes, such as Harlequin, surrender the ego to the Self in order for previously “masked” emotional states, and aspects of Self, to become known, in a process of initiation; containing, liberating, and uniting internal opposing forces, and achieving balance. As a pretending Fool, yet paradoxically, intelligent Trickster, Harlequin transcends resistance, and emancipates suppressed anxiety and threat-sensitivity; uncovering buried, past resentment, and surrendering control in order for self-preservation, acceptance and self-realization.

Note: A unisex pseudonym has been applied to this case vignette and some information has been changed or omitted to protect, and respect individual’s identities. Gender-specific pronouns are also omitted, using plural, ‘they/their’.

**References**

Allen, E. (2018). *Introducing Forensic Sandplay*, British Journal of Play Therapy, Vol. 13, p.p 50-64.

**Antonia Maria Carrasco** *is a family mediator, and President of Asociación GenMad: the Association of Victims of the Law and Gender Violence in Spain.*

**Title: “Analysis and Social Consequences of Violence against Women in Spanish law”**

This presentation will address gendercide in Spain from the data to the consequences that the measures adopted to prevent it have had in our country, even at the cost of silencing the violence suffered by men, children and the elderly.

**Christie Coho, Dr Leyla Hussein, Cabby Laffy, Roxana Parra Sepúlveda FGM/C Presentation**

**Christie Coho** is committed to increasing social justice for individuals and wider society. This lens informs her therapy work in FGM/C clinics and NHS trauma services, as well as in private practice. She also provides clinical supervision and reflective practice facilitation with non-clinical staff at community-based organisations. Christie has also been a community mental health social worker for over 20 years, having worked mostly in developing services and networks while providing clinical support to young people struggling to transition into adulthood and their families. She holds a Masters in Social Work and is a former National Chair/Co-chair of the progressive Social Welfare Action Alliance. For many years Christie has used her skills and passion for people's well-being whilst volunteering with people who are homeless, refugees, or otherwise dealing with the impacts of violence. She is currently a volunteer Home Visitor for Refugees at Home.

**Dr Leyla Hussein, OBE**, is a Psychotherapist and Founder of the Dahlia Project, the UK's first specialist therapeutic service for FGM survivors. She is a leading, award-winning international campaigner against female genital mutilation (FGM) and her passion is to create safe spaces for women and girls. She created the ground-breaking Face of Defiance project which is a series of photographic portraits and interviews with FGM survivors. She is recognised as one of the key experts on this issue globally and her work has been presented at Oxford, Cambridge and many Ivy League faculties. Leyla is also the Rector at the University of St Andrews.

**Cabby Laffy** brings a refreshing and unique approach to psychosexual health, integrating over 20 years of personal and professional development. Her book *LoveSex: An Integrative Model for Sexual Education* (Karnac 2013) aims to redress our lack of sexuality education, address social and cultural issues, and to promote psychosexual health. Cabby set up the Centre for Psychosexual Health (CPH) in 2006 to provide training based on the Homeodynamic Model for Psychosexual Health. She is a psychosexual psychotherapist and a supervisor, working with individuals, couples and groups. She has facilitated a broad range of trainings and workshops since 1991. Cabby is a UKCP registered and NCP accredited psychotherapist, a COSRT accredited psychosexual therapist, a supervisor, a group facilitator, and a member of PCSR.

**Roxana Parra Sepulveda** has developed her practice as a Psychotherapist and Clinical Supervisor since 1999. She has specialised in the area of trauma and sexual violence for the last 15 years. Her work experience includes leading specialised therapeutic services of diverse, women-only organisations in the UK. At present she works within the higher education sector in London as Head of Wellbeing. Roxana is also a Clinical Supervisor who combines academic excellence with practical, international experience and knowledge. She has co-written and developed the first ever guidelines for working therapeutically with survivors of female genital mutilation, published in 2019. She is immediate past Chair of the International Attachment Network, which promotes the understanding of the Attachment Theory. Roxana is keen on continuing the work to influence social change towards a society without abuse.



**Title: “Restoring what no longer exists: Working with Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)”.**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) came to have this name to make a point about the brutality of the act, arguably the most gender-annihilating of all acts. Typically perpetrated by females on females, and organised by female family members, female genital cutting/circumcision has been passed down the generations for thousands of years across cultures and tribes around the world. Ironically, the expressed (‘surface’) explanation for this practice is love, a desire to ensure a girl’s opportunities to be respected, socially included and to marry. At the root, however, is a physical-cum-sexual/psychological damaging of the genitalia and the self for the purpose of suppressing and dominating female sexuality.

In practicing cultures, myths and misinformation persist about how removing parts of the genitalia protect hygiene and health, prevent uncontrollable sexual desires and clitoral growth, and fulfill religious doctrines. These, along with the tremendous pull of continuing traditions as a way of holding onto ‘tribal’ identity, enable the continued existence of this harmful practice. Although declared a crime in many countries, relatively few convictions have occurred.

Exploring this unique form of child abuse and sexual assault, this talk will expand on the themes raised above and how they present themselves in the therapy room. Trust, betrayal, loss, poor self-esteem, depression, anxiety and of course traumatic symptomatology are but the headlines. The therapeutic journey to wholeness may encompass caring for the injured internal child, treating post-traumatic stress, resolving confusion and contradiction, re-/connection with one’s body and sexuality, and a self-defined integration internally and with one’s family, community and the wider world.

**Jessica Collier** is an art psychotherapist, in central and North West London NHS Trust: HMP Downview, she is co-editor of the *International Journal for Forensic Psychotherapy* and a board member of IAFP.

**Title: “Behind closed doors: Art psychotherapy with female sex offenders in prison”**

Record numbers of women in the UK are being convicted of sex offences and handed down custodial sentences (Ford, 2018). Despite this, there are no published papers in the British art therapy literature addressing women as the perpetrators of these crimes or detailing the work undertaken in art therapy to understand this phenomenon. The existing literature concerning art therapy with sex offenders invariably focuses on male perpetrators, with females typically presented as victims or survivors of abuse. The failure to recognise women as sexually transgressive other than in stereotypical offences, such as prostitution, is complex.

This paper will examine the difficulty contemporary society has in identifying women as sex offenders and the consequences this has for their victims and the way individuals are treated once imprisoned. The author, working in a women’s prison, found that her caseload consisted primarily of women who had committed sex offences and wondered about the preponderance of these referrals to art therapy. The paper will use a case study of trans-generational incest to accentuate why these marginalised prisoners are impelled into non-verbal treatment. The material discussed will further emphasise the responses these women themselves have to their offences, highlighting denial and humiliation, and the way in which image making can bring meaning to the feelings and experiences that remain too shameful to put into words.

The presentation will be framed through the lens of art therapy practice, psychoanalytic theory and art history, including Sophocles’ play *Oedipus Rex*, in which overwhelming shame manifests in denial and blindness and the work of Louise Bourgeois, whose spider motif may illuminate her own and society’s harmful idealisation of motherhood.

**Reference:**

Ford, R (2018) More women convicted of sex offences *The Times* March 7, 2018 <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/more-women-convicted-of-sex-offences-bfdvv2w37>

**Dr Ibifuro L. Cookey**, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust,  
Newcastle upon Tyne UK

**Title: “The intersection of personality structure and dynamic risk factors in a male offender population: a retrospective study”**

This retrospective study examines a population of offenders with personality disorder (PD) transferred from prison settings to a specialist PD service in Newcastle upon Tyne. Treatment outcomes vary and depend upon how well patients engage with the treatment process. At times, aggressive and otherwise anti-social behaviour disrupts the therapeutic environment and creates alienation between the patient, their peers and the treating team. This study aims to explore pre-admission dynamic risk factors and identify those, if any, that predict treatment outcomes.

The electronic clinical records of 68 patients admitted to Oswin over a 6-year period were reviewed. The following pre-admission patient factors were noted: referral source, number and type of adjudications within prison, presence and treatment of substance misuse, nature of index offence, previous weapon offences, previous sexual offences, self-harm, suicide risk, clinical diagnosis, prescribed medication and scores of the following rating scales - Brøset Violence Checklist, Impact of Events scale, Feelings and Behaviours Questionnaire, Locus of Control of Behaviour Scale.

This data was analysed with post-admission outcome indicators to ascertain which pre-admission factors, if any, were associated with positive and negative outcomes. Outcome indicators included: length of stay, number and nature of risk incidents during admission, mode of remittance, reason for remittance, discharge destination, state of formulation on discharge, outstanding work at discharge and the following post-discharge factors – substance misuse, violence, self-harm, psychological work (type, focus and level of engagement).

**Massimo de Mari**, M.D. is a Psychiatrist and Criminologist, full member of the Italian (SPI) and International (IPA) Psychoanalytic Society. He works as Consultant Psychiatrist in the male prisons of Padua (Italy). He is been guest lecturer on Forensic Psychiatry at the University of Padua and has edited a book ("L'io criminale" (2018) Alpes, Roma) on Forensic Psychiatry from a psychoanalytic perspective.

Title: **"The Perfect Man"**

In this presentation I will describe a ten-year psychotherapy treatment with a man sentenced to twenty-three years for murdering his wife.

I will analyse the complex personality of a young doctor and multi-talented man, pushed to the edge of a chasm by a trans-generational destiny for males to be "the best" in everything.

**Dr Ronald Doctor** is a Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychotherapy and Forensic Psychotherapy at the West London Mental Health NHS Trust. He trained at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust and is a Fellow of the British Psychoanalytical Society. He was formerly a Visiting Psychiatrist at HM Wormwood Prisons. He was Treasurer of the IAFP, Treasurer and Chair of the Association for Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy in the NHS, Academic Secretary of the Psychotherapy Faculty & Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Title: **“Repudiation of Femininity”**

**Lisa Fischel-Wolovick, JD, MSW** is an attorney who has represented battered women for thirty years. She is the author of numerous publications including her recent book: *Traumatic Divorce and Separation: The impact of domestic violence and substance abuse in custody and divorce*, published by Oxford Univ. Press in 2018. She also helped to organize the first Criminal Court that specialized in domestic violence in New York State. Before becoming an attorney, she obtained her master's in social work and worked in medical social work, which included advocacy and counseling for battered women. Ms. Fischel-Wolovick is currently teaching courses in Family Violence, Child Maltreatment, and the Psychology of the Victim, at the City University of New York, John Jay College's graduate program in Forensic Psychology. She is on the Advisory Board of the Leadership Council on Child Abuse and Interpersonal Violence, and the National Family Court Watch Project. Ms. Fischel-Wolovick is a frequent speaker on domestic violence, child custody, and trauma at national and international conferences and judicial trainings. She has provided consultation for attorneys, mental health professionals, and the judiciary on custody, domestic violence, and trauma.

**Title: The Experiences of Domestic Violence Survivors in the U.S. Family Courts: Gender Bias in the Courts.**

There is a significant body of research on gender bias against women in the family courts. In particular, battered mothers have been the focus of gender biased theories of parental alienation, used as a defense against claims of abuse and child maltreatment, despite a lack of empirical validity and acceptance.

This presentation will review the research on the traumatic impact of exposure to domestic violence and child maltreatment and how symptoms of such exposure are frequently discredited by use of gender-biased theories. The family courts in the United States are closed to the public and as a result there is a lack of transparency and accountability. A large-scale national study revealed that many supporting mental health professionals who provide custody evaluations lack a formal graduate education in domestic violence and child maltreatment. Furthermore, legislative presumptions that favor joint legal custody in custody decisions and requirements of co-parenting, fails to take into consideration the long-term public health risks of such chronic traumatic exposure.

Finally, this presentation will address needed systemic reforms that include increased transparency, long-term court-monitoring, and supporting mental health professionals with formal graduate education in trauma, child development, and abuse, to promote resilience in vulnerable families.

**Lisa Gardiner**, *Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist and Clinical Lead, Hampshire and IOW Multi-agency Personality Service, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, Adult Forensic Services*

**Title: Female bodies and the law – the use of Mental Health law in England and Wales against women**

In England and Wales, there are two major pieces of legislation in place that apply to people with mental health difficulties – the Mental Health Act 1983 (amended 2007) and the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Both have scope to allow treatment without consent – in the MHA where the physical illness arises as a consequence of mental illness (for example the serious physical issues that arise from anorexia nervosa) or in the MCA where the person lacks the capacity to make competent decisions about her care.

Despite these legal powers being fairly proscribed, there is a body of case law within English law where mental health legislation has been used as a means of controlling women's bodies – most notably, when it concerns reproductive issues (such as pregnancy) or the female body itself (as in anorexia). In reviewing this case law as a body in itself, it is evident that at times the law has been misapplied.

In this session, we will look at the historic and current legal context, some examples of the case-law and consider the unconscious and societal dynamics that underlie the legal treatment of women's bodies.

**Nick Jones** is a psychodynamic psychotherapist working in private practice and within a university setting. He works as both an individual and group psychotherapist and offers clinical supervision to practising or trainee therapists. Having worked previously within an NHS forensic service, he has considerable experience working with complex, high-risk patients.

### **Title: Toxic Seduction: Gender, Play and Disavowal**

“Seduce” derives from the Latin word for “lead away” or “lead astray.” Its prefix “se-” connotes something “set apart, hidden, concealed” as well as “to part, divide, exclude,” and has multiple other associations, including “without; on one’s own.” Perhaps, then, seduction relates not to being drawn in but to that which is “split off,” and to a state of isolation rather than togetherness.

The paper explores this etymology in order to make sense of a relationship which took place between a male patient and a female nurse within a medium-secure forensic hospital. It became evident that the relationship had perpetuated dynamics prevalent in the patient’s offending, comprising numerous convictions for sexual offences against partners. At the same time, confusion arose around who might have initially seduced whom, and who had controlled whom.

In the brief period he was in therapy, the patient described a plethora of relationships in which he had sought to control his partners’ sexual and emotional experience. He also described sexual abuse from his step-father, in which his masculinity was both lauded and denigrated, and a grievance that he had been rejected by his mother in favour of this man.

The paper considers the patient’s patterns of relating and offending as attempts to split off any semblance of femininity within himself, denigrating and harnessing it via his relationships with women. It also considers his use of women as tools in his embattlement with men, suggesting that his offending was orientated around deep disturbances in his sense of self, manifesting as a determinedly hyper-masculine persona and a cycle of degrading and rivalrous attacks on others. It also examines others’ embroilment in this cycle, particularly the therapists’ roles in sustaining his precarious identity, and the difficulty in bringing to light the reality of what had happened.



Authors: **Alex Maguire, Sally Helliwell, Martina Mindang, Sarita Bose**, Consultant Nurse Specialist and Trainee Non-Medical Approved Clinician, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.  
Broadmoor Hospital, UK.

**Title: Life After Death – a round table presentation**

The Homicide Group at Broadmoor started in April 2004, so has now been running for over 15 years; by 2008 it became clear that those who had taken the life of a family member or loved one experienced both complex grief and shame and necessitated a group of their own.

There are currently groups for both sets of patients in operation which take a narrative approach to psychodynamic group work with offenders predicated on the following principles:

- Life after a death / Living after a death, and the associated change in identity
- An understanding that everyone has multiple partial identities – son, brother, father, patient and murderer
- That this identity is created in narratives and stories, both subjective and objective
- Psychodynamic therapies allow people to change their narratives of themselves
- This is particularly significant when the story that must be told involves a homicide or other serious offence

This two-part presentation starts with an overview of the two groups, their similarities and differences, both in terms of process and prognosis with particular reference to those men who have killed women. Masculine and feminine roles, values and expectations in early life will be discussed, as well as the gender specifics of the groups' facilitators and the impact this may have on the group members.

The second part of the presentation looks in more detail at who the *intended* victims might be, where the boundary between subject and object breaks down and a kind of symmetrical thinking happens where femicide might be seen as a displaced suicide - the killing off of an unbearable part of the self. Through a long-term commitment to the group the defended patient narrative (characterised by rationalisation, minimisation and denial) is slowly transformed into a more nuanced, authentic and coherent account and rebuilding may begin.

**Elena Mundici** is a Psychotherapist member of the Tavistock Society of Psychotherapist, the Forensic Psychotherapy Society and the British Psychoanalytic Council. She works as a Psychodynamic Psychotherapist in the NHS and is Director of Panoptikon, an organisation that works with prisoners and prison staff. She is currently editing a book on prison experience.

**Title: A matter of wife and death: Music and gender representation in prison**

*'Rhythms and melodies contain representations of anger and mildness, and also of courage and temperance and all their opposites and the other moral qualities that most closely correspond to the true natures of these qualities - and this is clear from the facts of what occurs: when we listen to such representations we change in our soul.'*

(Aristotle, *Politics* Book 8, 1340a)

Many authors have explored the connection between creativity and destructiveness. From a psychodynamic perspective, both creative and destructive acts carry a psychic meaning, and can be understood as a form of communication. Similarly to the violent act, the *execution* of a piece of music involves a synergy of physical, mental and affective functions, and an interaction of conscious and unconscious forces.

This paper explores the author's experience of teaching music in prison. Describing her work with a prisoner who had committed uxoricide, the author explores how the structured and formal language of music provided a rigorous yet flexible space where the prisoner could begin to confront and explore his internal world and unconscious phantasies. In particular, the author discusses how split off aspects related to gender representations and connected with the index offence emerged in the ambiguous language of music. Finally, the author illustrates how the progressive acquisition of musical technique could be understood as the beginning of a process of symbolisation and integration.

**Dr Theodoros Papagathonikou, BSc, MA, PhD** *The Association for Group and Individual Psychotherapy (AGIP)*

**Title: From Medea to Clytemnestra: The revenge of the beaten child and the murder of the (m)other in psychopathic and sadistic patients**

Psychopathic and sadistic patients share several common characteristics, such as emotional detachment from the suffering of the others and proneness to instrumental modes of aggression and crime. Despite voluminous literature, however, the aetiology of psychopathy and sadism remain largely unknown, whereas psychological treatments for psychopaths and sadists are marked by therapeutic pessimism, as these patients appear intransigent to any therapeutic intervention.

The aim of this presentation is to present findings of a mixed-methods study with the aim to discuss the extent to which object relations theory could inform our understanding of psychopath's and sadist's internal world.

The presentation will be divided in two parts. The first part will be a short presentation of the developmental antecedents that impact upon adult personality development in psychopathic and sadistic patients. In the second part, the author will attempt to discuss how the early traumatic and aversive experiences contribute to the development of intense hatred and envy within the patient's psyche that often results in savage aggression.

The author argues that maternal deprivation and abuse result to the symbolic murder of patient's feminine side, which leads to dis-identification and violent separation from the goodness of the internal mother on the one hand, and the development of a concordant sadistic pseudo-identification with the father-aggressor, on the other.

**James Rymer MSc.BSc.BA (MBPSs)**, *Verbatim Therapy & Consultancy LTD*, is a qualified Integrative Psychotherapist and BPS registered Psychologist. He also holds a Master Practitioner of Clinical Hypnotherapy qualification. Jim has studies at Post Graduate level in Forensic Psychotherapy and has a special interest in aggression, disruptive behaviour and sexualised behaviour in young people and adolescents. He enjoys working with creative arts therapies. Jim has held positions as a senior lecturer in two UK Universities and continues to lecture through the UK and Europe.

**Title: Gendercide - Gender Divide and the body; The art of Francis Bacon as a point of reference to Gendercide.**

If one were looking for a pictorial representation of ‘Gendercide’, perhaps one should look no further than the art of Francis Bacon. This Anglo -Irish, (which presents difficulties of cultural identity, neither belonging to one tribe nor the other) largely self-taught painter created disturbing images which still evoke the twin aspects of shock and awe in those who see them. Bodies are merged into melting flesh mounds; faces are distorted, and character blurred and smeared into unrecognisable form, the human body in all its naked fragility is displayed upon his canvas as tenderly as a butcher would display a carcass. Captured within the pictorial frame as within the therapeutic frame of a session is an essence, a broken wholeness of experience, both a yearning and a plea. Bacon was born a Catholic and was self-exiled from his homeland and church as a result of his homosexuality, issues compounded by guilt and shame he struggled to exorcise all his life. Working with forensic clients I am often struck by the parallel processes between our therapeutic struggles and expression within Bacon’s art.

Therapeutic Issues come to the fore such as body dysmorphia, fear of being subsumed into the other, the possibility or impossibility of the creation of a lexicon of understanding between two bodies in space, the therapist and the patient (the intersubjective co-created reality). The yearning so expounded within Bacon’s work echoes the yearning for a relationship with self. Yet this very ‘self’ is often within the body a narcissistic image or mirage of the long lost, primal relationship. Using and referencing Bacons work as a starting point, we shall explore these themes referring from personal anecdotes from my client work.

**Dr Celia Taylor** *BSc, MB.BS, Diploma Forensic Psychiatry, FRCPsych, Lead Clinician & Head of Service, Millfields Unit, John Howard Centre*

**Title: “There is a not single person I loved that I didn’t eventually betray” – Albert Camus**

Very little of the research on boundary breaches in forensic settings explores the implications, and the serious risks incurred, when highly psychopathic patients are involved. In this workshop I will present a precis of the existing literature in this field, together with an analysis of some of the contributing factors. I will also describe a clinical example of the development of a relationship between a sadistic, repeat sexual offender and a clinician at the outset of her career, known for her expressed commitment to good care.

The evolution of the encounter from mutual magnetism through seduction to sadism and cruelty will be discussed, in the context of a paralysing sense of helplessness experienced by colleagues in the “bystander” role. I will explore the blurring of notions such as victim and perpetrator, how and why those in authority can effectively be disarmed, and how an unconscious sense of fear can ricochet through the team. Finally, I will proffer some lessons learned in our attempt to comprehend and evaluate the damage done.

**Dr Malik Saoudi** *trained in Medicine at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge. He is a Consultant Psychiatrist to an In-Patient Psychosis Unit in South West England, Ex-Honorary Therapist at The Portman Clinic, holder of an MSC in Psychoanalytic Studies from University College London and is interested in the relationship between psychosis and perversion.*

**Title: Miguel De Unamuno's 'Abel Sanchez: Una Historia de Pasion' - The role of envy in (gender based) violence.**

We come together for a parallel collaborative discussion group of Bilbao's Miguel De Unamuno's vivid description of 'seething envy' and all-consuming rage in the build-up to gender violence. Your host proposes a close reading of the first three chapters of De Unamuno's 'Abel', which will serve as material for discussion to then come together and think about some of the central themes in the genesis and progression of this mindset for our patients.

The book tracks the ravaged disintegration of Dr Joaquin as an 'envy' mindset takes hold in him. Your host proposes a respectful reminder that envy - though still debated in the analytic community as to whether it exists as a de novo primary primitive destructive entity - is very much an isolatory pursuit (as distinct to jealousy). Simultaneously connected to, but also to the exclusion of the other. For a certain type of disturbed: a painful primal scene is unflinchingly gazed upon - one that excludes 'me', but one that also 'created me'. De Unamuno might have said: 'The concave becomes convex'.

Your host hopes that the group discussion can pick up on themes in the writing and link to those initially put forth by Freud and later Klein and her followers - (in particular Betty Joseph). Particularly the encouragements to attend to the potential defences our patients can have towards envy, and how it impacts on therapeutic work. We will examine De Unamuno's protagonist's journey as Envy takes set and begins to pervade all aspects of his fictional psyche, corrupting all potential for anything 'good' to be accepted within him. A fiery furnace of hate (forged in the fires of fear) comes to be replaced by a cold icy flame.

"I felt as if my soul had frozen. And the icy cold pressed upon my heart, as if flames of ice were choking me (...) like a petrified growth, as hard as stone (...) a poisonous plant (...) an iceberg which weighed open my soul, or rather, it was my soul itself that was congealed in hatred. The ice if of it was so crystalline that I could see into and through it with perfect clarity".

We can wonder together if this slow 'chilling' and 'freezing' protects from a state of fuller psychotic persecuted shatter. In the book, Dr Joaquin cannot allow himself to be 'robbed' of it - he cannot allow himself to disintegrate fully and tumble into the abyss of oblivion. The importance for the therapist, and the therapeutically minded, is to remember to attend to both of these parts - the ones that fear 'death' and the ones that wish to conquer and defeat it. De Unamuno beautifully interweaves the protagonist's 'Posthumous Confessions' into the narrative. They bring just the kind of balanced enquiry that a therapist strives for with a patient - in the book, only possible after the shadow of Death has passed (and the Biblical 'Land of Nod' is itself exiled). Immortalised and held in idealised distant awe in 'a painting' - but with a murderous rage for the Painter.

Miguel De Unamuno y Jugo (1864-1936): Poet, Philosopher, Essayist, Playwright, and Professor of Greek and Classics remains a key architect of Spanish Intellectual Life to this day

- he was a fervent proponent of liberty and social justice during tremendous violent political upheavals.

SUGGESTED READING FOR DISCUSSION GROUP:

- 'Abel Sanchez: The History of Passion'. Miguel De Unamuno.
- 'Cain: A mystery: There is no instinct like that of the Heart' - Lord George Gordon Byron
- 'Envy in Everyday Life' - Betty Joseph - Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy 2 (1986) 13-22
- 'The Fox and the Grapes' - Aesop's fables
- La Fontaine's fables: Le Renard et les Raisins; Le Corbeau voulant imiter l'Aigle; Le Lion et Le Moucheron

**Dr Alexis Theodorou**, *Specialist Trainee in Forensic Psychiatry and Medical Psychotherapy, West London NHS Trust*

**Dr Saima Ali**, *Core Trainee in Medical Psychotherapy, West London NHS Trust*

**Title: Vagina; victim or violator?**

The aim of this workshop is to offer the participants a psychoanalytic understanding of sexual boundary violations and their clinical and therapeutic implications. In particular, we will explore whether female clinician and male patient relationship transgressions have similar clinical meanings as the inverse or is there an inherent bias between the genders?

We will present anonymised examples of such clinical ‘accidents’ that have occurred in secure hospitals within the United Kingdom. The scope of these cases will encompass incidents between clinician and patient, as well as intra-professional boundary violations. By discussing these vignettes, we will demonstrate the risk of a subtle, gradual and insidious erosion of boundaries, alongside more apparent incidents of a sexual nature and abuse of power.

Following the presentation discussion will be encouraged to include all participants. We will consider contemporary societal factors that may influence conscious and unconscious biases. Could the #metoo movement have a gendercidal dimension?



**Dr Cleo Van Velsen** is a Consultant Psychiatrist in Forensic Psychotherapy, having worked in the Forensic Services of the East London NHS Foundation Trust as a Responsible Clinician in the Personality Disorder Service at the John Howard Centre. She is medically qualified with postgraduate membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. She underwent higher specialist training as a psychotherapist and was Consultant Psychotherapist at the Maudsley Hospital for five years. She is also a Member of the British Institute of Psychoanalysis. She is registered with the British Psychoanalytic Council. She worked for one year for the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture and has done research in the area of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. She is co-editor of a textbook of Forensic Psychotherapy and a section editor of the Edinburgh International Encyclopaedia of Psychoanalysis. She has expertise in the assessment and treatment of people suffering from a wide range of personality and other difficulties. This has meant that she has prepared many reports for the civil, criminal and family court. She is a member of Forensic Psychiatry Chambers which consists of a group of experienced psychiatrists providing psychiatric advice and reports to the legal profession. She has particular expertise in the understanding and formulation of complex difficulties which has been demonstrated in her reports for the court, but also in the many consultations with which she has been asked to assist. She has presented at many national and international conferences on personality disorder and related topics, including applied aspects of forensic psychiatry and psychotherapy. For some years she was an advisor to the British Board of Film Censors, in particular addressing areas of sexual violence. She has supervised many trainees in the individual and group treatment of patients and facilitated reflective practice and staff groups. She is approved under Section 12 of the Mental Health Act and has carried out assessments in the Family, Criminal and Civil Court systems. For three years, until 2003, she was the external examiner to the Guildhall School of Music Diploma in Music Therapy, followed by a period of three years as the external examiner to the University of Hertfordshire MA in Art Therapies. She is a member of the Expert Reference Group on Factitious and Induced Illness at the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

**Title: “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly Psychopath”**

**Marzia Versaggio**, *Forensic Psychologist, Juvenile Detention Center “Malaspina”, Trainee Italian Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy*, email: [marziaversaggio@libero.it](mailto:marziaversaggio@libero.it)

**Francesco Spadaro**, *Psychiatrist and Training Psychoanalyst, Board Member IAFP, President of Italian Society of Forensic Psychotherapy* email: [fspadaro22@gmail.com](mailto:fspadaro22@gmail.com)

**Title: Strange case of gendercide: splitting, projection and phantasmatic metamorphosis**

A “pentito” of mafia, after several years, reveals that the death of a man, which had been considered natural, had in fact been a murder of which he had been one of the executioners. According to him, the instigator was the companion of the murdered man, who had become his lover. We do not know the reason for this confession. Maybe he was looking for an extra sentence reduction, maybe a revenge. The woman denies being the instigator but admits to have been an accomplice. She had left at the age of 18 her husband, an honest young man for the victim, a man much older than her, already married and with children. A man close to the criminal world, for his activity as a loan shark. Over the years, however, she had realized that she was considered by him as a woman to be used. She was often beaten and, finally, she was proposed to be used for swinger parties. It was at that time that she knew (and became her lover) the mobster who put into practice the criminal plan. After a failed attempt of stabbing him, after hearing the opinion of a veterinarian, the mobster planned to kill his lover’s companion with a shot of pesticide, while the man was lying in bed with the woman. Once this murder attempt failed, due to the obvious reaction of the victim, this one was suffocated with the help of some accomplices. The use of the pesticide appears weird, as if the victim were considered an insect. The woman, in recalling this criminal event, describes her existential path with the victim as increasingly degrading. Parallel to her degradation as a woman, her partner underwent in her mind a phantasmatic metamorphosis, until becoming an odious insect to be suppressed with a pesticide. The projection of her grandiose idealized Self on her partners has conditioned the entire life of this woman, who has always accompanied herself to criminals of increasing criminal stature. To this idealization it corresponds the presence of a split primitive part, peculiarly represented by an insect, harmful and faecal. Murder occurs when the defence of splitting is challenged, bringing her into contact with this own primitive part of her. The apparently childish characteristics of metamorphosis linked to the initial criminal solution (the pesticide injection) highlight the unconscious continuity of such a specialized and structured context as Mafia with the anthropological magical dimension of an archaic Greek and even pre-Hellenic Sicily.

**Dr Estela Welldon** is the Founder and Honorary Elected President for Life of the International Association for Forensic Psychotherapy, a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, an Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychotherapy at Tavistock Portman NHS Clinics, a Senior Member of the British Association for Psychotherapy, a member of the American Group Analysis, of the British Psychoanalytic Council, of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy and of the Confederation of British Psychotherapists. In 2018 Estela was made Visiting International Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. She is an honorary member of the Institute of Group Analysis and of the Society of Couple Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists, Tavistock Clinic. In 1997 Oxford Brookes University awarded Dr. Welldon with a D.Sc. Honorary Doctorate of Science degree for her contributions to the field of forensic psychotherapy. Dr Welldon works privately as a psychoanalytical psychotherapist and organizational consultant. She is the author of *Mother, Madonna, Whore: The Idealization and Denigration of Motherhood*(1988); *Sasomasochism* (2002), *Playing with Dynamite: A Personal Approach to the Psychoanalytic Understanding of Perversions, Violence, and Criminality* (2011), and main editor of *A Practical Guide to Forensic Psychotherapy* (1997).

Title: **“Female Violence”**

**Dr Emma Went** is a *Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist based in Norfolk. She is Lead Clinician and provides inpatient care for the Attarraah project, a locked rehabilitation service for women with complex needs. She has a private psychotherapy practice and has provided teaching and supervision to trainee psychiatrists from a psychodynamic perspective. She also regularly provides psychiatric opinions Nationwide to the courts and parole boards and has developed a special expertise in assessing risk using a psychodynamic approach.*

**Title: “Learning Disability, intra-familial violence and the politics of shame”**

Those working with learning disability populations will be familiar with the violence that can occur within the family which is often under-reported, minimised and rarely brought to the attention of the courts or forensic services. There is a common theme of the young adult male with autism being aggressive, usually towards his mother, often resulting in him having to leave the family home.

The dynamic of the family of origin then travels with the individual unprocessed and lost to understanding as family members die or drift away whilst institutional management of the overt behaviour becomes paramount. For those who know where to look however, those dynamics are played out through those who care for them and the institutions that support them where the resulting loss of "thinking" at times reaching levels that can be described as psychotic.

Using a mixture of individual case material and recent events in the national eye I will attempt to bring some ideas as to the history and origins of these dynamics and offer some thoughts on how to begin to address them in the populations we serve.

**Dr Hessel Willemsen**, *Clinical Psychologist, Jungian Analyst. Working in private practice in London.*

**Title: “Trans, truth and the reinterpreted past: a child’s experience of living in two families”.**

This clinical paper is based on a dilemma I faced when assessing a child, aged seven, whose father transitioned from male to female when the child was not three years old. The boy was aware that ‘Ms C’ is his father, but ‘Ms C’, his father, insisted he was not to speak about his conception, the time before his conception and the first three years of his life because his father wanted to live as a woman and have history reflect that he always was female. Central in the paper will be the boy’s phantasies about the primal scene and the deceit with which he was confronted; the boy began to think he was conceived of two females. The dilemma I and the boy faced, was that his current narrative, largely fed by his father, reflected a conflict between the boy’s biological past and the father’s reinterpreted past, or in other words, between the boy’s need of a confirmation of the reality and the father’s wish and right to live his life as a woman. The consequences of the thwarted truth of the boy’s life led him to express murderous rage directed at others and himself, but also to the use of a schizoid defence to avoid the powerful split of reality and the perversion of reality.

Author:

Address for correspondence: 21 a, St Thomas’s Road, London N4 2QH, United Kingdom

Telephone: 00442088802072 or 00447900204776

Email: [hw@psychresolution.co.uk](mailto:hw@psychresolution.co.uk)