

Transition and Countertransition: Psychoanalytic Work with Transgender People

Second European Study Day

Saturday June 5, 2021.

Start time will be 8:30 am London time, which is 9:30 am Berlin, 10:30 am Haifa and Helsinki, 06:30 pm Melbourne.

8:30 - 08:35: Introduction: Frances Thomson-Salo; Overall moderator: Eva Reichelt

08:35 - 09:15: **Alessandra Lemma – Towards a psychoanalytic ethics-based practice with transgender individuals**

Drawing on my clinical work with both adolescent and adult transgender patients, in this paper I will describe an integration of bioethics and psychoanalysis to provide a clinical framework for thinking about what we are trying to do analytically with patients who identify as transgender. I will consider the relationship between autonomy and the unconscious mind and this will provide the basis for a critique of ‘gender affirmative care’.

09:15 - 09:45: Discussion from the floor

09:45 - 10:00: Individual break

10:00 - 10:30: **Susann Heenen-Wolff – Gender and transgender: a meta-psychological contribution to the genesis of the sexual ego**

The paper distinguishes between the formation of an early body ego as a result of primary identification and that of a sexual ego as part of secondary identifications. Identical and trans-identical orientation could arise against the background of how, when gender difference is discovered, the primary identification is processed, ‘translated’, in an ‘après-coup’ movement.

10:30 - 11:00: Discussion from the floor

11:00 - 11:15: Individual break

11:15 - 11:45: **Oren- Gozlan – Has psychoanalysis reached its limit with the question of the trans child?**

Advances in technology and medicine have made available an array of medical and surgical options for gender transitioning, and new representations of gender variance and emerging forms of community accompaniment provide gender non-conforming children with emancipatory possibilities. The transitioning youth’s demands for recognition and/or support for initiation of medical intervention push against the analyst’s theories of gender and challenges conservative understanding of sexual identity. In this article I trace recurrent metaphors in discussions about gender transitioning focusing on selected articles recently published in the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, particularly a paper authored by David Bell titled, “First Do No Harm”. I focus on three images— contagion, the naturality of nature, and amputation, to ask, what do these apparently disparate signifiers reveal about the anxieties in the field?

11:45 - 12:15: Discussion from the floor

12:15 - 12:30: Concluding remarks by Dana Amir