

CONFER

presents

An evening with  
**Jessica Benjamin**



## The Analyst's Fear of Doing Harm

Chairperson: Judy Yellin  
Discussant: Tamar Schonfeld  
Case presenter: Jane Haberlin

With live case supervision

intersubjectivity  
co-created intersubjectivity  
co-created phenomena  
breakdown and repair of the relationship  
the analyst's fear of doing harm  
impasses and enactments in the therapeutic relationship  
intrapsychic function of splitting  
learning through enactment

Monday 9th October 2006  
7.0pm – 9.45pm

London

## 6.0 Drinks reception

## 7.0 Judy Yellin

Introduction to Jessica Benjamin and her work

## 7.10 Jessica Benjamin

### Our Appointment in Thebes

### The analyst's fear of doing harm and learning through enactment

This paper will begin with a position I have developed on the need to facilitate a shared intersubjective third position in the psychotherapeutic relationship – a co-created phenomena, which occurs through breakdown and repair of the relationship between analyst and analysand. I will elaborate how the breakdown of this shared "third" characterizes the structure of impasses and enactments. The intersubjective view makes use of the insight of projective identification, which focuses on the intrapsychic function of splitting, but adds another dimension by highlighting its reciprocity, including the analyst's participation and her fear of the harmful effects of enactment. Since the breakdown of the shared third experience occurs under the cloud of dissociation - is in the service of dramatizing disowned self-other experiences - we have come to accept that the analyst also dissociates in order to play her/his part in the drama. The crucial insights in most cases cannot be produced by the analyst independent of her own participation. I propose that the injuries we are pledged to avoid will come back to us as enactment and that insight is a form of action, often taken in relation to such enactment. To the extent that such enactments are inevitable, the ideal of the perfectly containing analyst may actually intensify the very rupture it is meant to prevent. The belief that we can avoid re-traumatizing the patient may therefore lead to ruptures and mystification. That which we seek to avoid – as Oedipus illustrates – meets us with a vengeance on the road to Thebes.

## 8.0 Tamar Schonfeld with Jessica Benjamin: discussion of the presentation

## 8.30 Live case discussion: Jessica Benjamin with Jane Haberlin

Jane Haberlin will present a clinical vignette which illustrates the themes of enactment, breakdown and repair in the psychotherapeutic relationship. This will be discussed with Jessica Benjamin. Together they will explore the dilemmas, difficulties and opportunities faced by the therapist in that relationship.

## 9.45 End

## Jessica Benjamin

Jessica Benjamin is a pioneer in the fields of relational psychoanalysis and gender theory. She is a psychoanalyst in private practice in New York City and is on the faculty at the New York University Postdoctoral Psychology Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. She is best known as the author of *The Bonds of Love: Psychoanalysis, Feminism and the Problem of Domination* (1998). Her more recent books are *Like Subjects, Love Objects: Essays on Recognition and Sexual Difference* (1998) and *Shadow of the Other: Intersubjectivity and Gender in Psychoanalysis* (1997). She has lectured and supervised all over the world, presenting her perspective on the concept of recognition in intersubjectivity and on gender development. She is Associate Editor of the journal *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, a founder and board member of the International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, and a founding member of Psychotherapists for Social Responsibility in New York.

## Tamar Schonfeld - Discussant

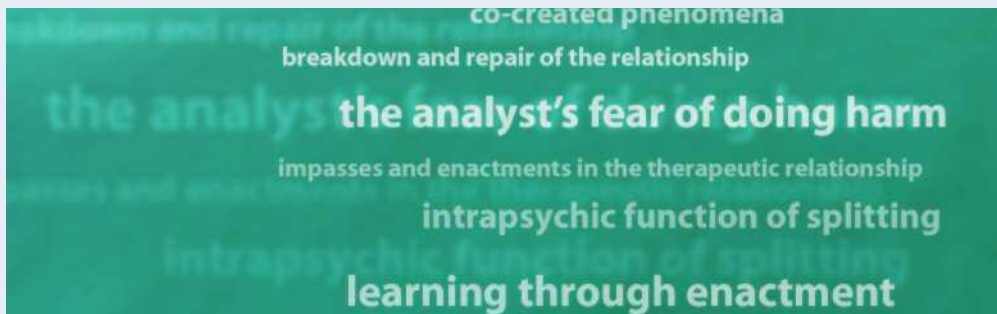
Tamar Schonfeld is a psychoanalyst and Member of the Institute of Psychoanalysis where she is involved in the work of the Group of Independent Psychoanalysts. She is a member of Arbour's Training Committee and a Team Leader in the Arbour's Crisis Centre as well as working in private practice.

## Judy Yellin - Chair

Judy Yellin is a relational psychoanalytic psychotherapist. She teaches at the Centre for Attachment-Based Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy conducting seminars on Freud and on relational psychoanalysis. She is a member of the International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, and a founder member of IARPP Britain. Judy is an Associate of Pink Therapy, a therapy service for sexual minority clients provided by lesbian and gay therapists from a variety of theoretical and clinical perspectives.

## Jane Haberlin - Case Presenter

Jane Haberlin trained with Arbour's and worked at the Arbour's Crisis Centre and at the Women's Therapy Centre. She is a member of the IARPP and a founder member of the London Relational Group. She works in private practice in London.



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## Information

**Venue** London Voluntary Sector  
Resource Centre  
356 Holloway Road,  
London N7

**Transport** Holloway Road  
(Piccadilly line)

**Registration** From 6.0pm

**Reception &  
Bookstore** 6.0pm

**Start** 7.0pm

**End** 9.45pm

**Fee** £40 inc. VAT

**CPD Hours** 2.75hrs

**Certificates of  
Attendance** Available at the event

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