

CONFER

presents

A seminar with  
**Patrick Casement**

Discussant: Dr Diana Shmukler

Working-through early  
trauma in the transference

Considering the patient's use of the therapist  
as an object, bearing the unbearable in our  
countertransference and the question of  
regressive states in psychotherapy

Friday, November 23 2007  
Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London

# Introduction to seminar

This is a unique opportunity to hear Patrick Casement talk about his profound struggle to stay connected with a patient suffering from severe early trauma. In this discussion of previously unpublished case material, he will talk about how a critical moment in an analysis became the turning-point that enabled it to move towards a successful completion. The experience has left Patrick Casement with questions that he is still in the process of answering, and which he will raise at this evening.

As discussant, Dr Diana Shmukler will join Patrick Casement to consider the question: How much is a patient really helped when we try to offer reparative emotional experience?

The audience is invited to consider how these questions relate to their own experience as psychotherapists and to bring thoughts for discussion.

## Programme

**6.30 pm Reception and bookstall**

**7.30 pm Patrick Casement**

### **Working-through Early Trauma in the Transference: Some Related Questions**

What do we understand by Winnicott's notion of the "use of an object" in relation to the psychotherapist? How can we remain open to the intense trauma that represents the patient's earlier experience? How is projective identification brought about? How are we to bear the unbearable in our countertransference experience so that the relationship can be sustained?

**8.30 pm Dr Diana Shmukler**

## **Containing the Self and Other Through Therapeutically-evoked Regressive States**

The therapeutic benefits of regression and its management have long been debated in the field of intense psychodynamic psychotherapy. In the context of a relational stance, emphasising the importance of the therapist's subjectivity to the process, Dr Shmukler will comment on the powerful theoretical and clinical material provided by Patrick Casement, with a view to understanding the demands placed on the therapist in cases of early trauma that result in therapeutically evoked regression.

**9.00 pm Discussion with the audience:**

What are your own experiences of therapeutically- evoked regression, and bearing projective identification or countertransference in such cases?

**9.30 pm End**

# The Speakers

## **Patrick Casement**

Patrick Casement's work as a psychoanalyst soared to fame in 1985 when his first book *On Learning from the Patient* was published. This highly acclaimed work, which Harry Karnac recorded as his fastest selling text book in 40 years, captured the attention of the profession through its beautifully explored examples of the complex transactions that take place between analyst and patient. Casement unravels these relationships with an exceptionally honest scrutiny of his own internal dilemmas and challenges in the treatment process. His first book was followed by *Further Learning from the Patient* and in 2002 *Learning from our Mistakes* which won a 2004 Gradiva Award for Nonfiction. His latest book *Learning from Life* (2007) has been much commended for its exploration of how analytic wisdom is acquired.

## **Dr Diana Shmukler**

Diana Shmukler PhD is a clinical psychologist, UKCP registered integrative psychotherapist, teacher and supervisor. She was formerly Associate Professor of Applied Psychology at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, and visiting Professor of Psychotherapy at the University of Derby. She is currently Visiting Professor of Psychotherapy at the University of Middlesex, a supervising and teaching Member of the International Transactional Analysis Association, Primary Tutor at Metanoia and a visiting teacher at the Institute for Arts in Education and Psychotherapy in London.

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# information

**Date** Friday, November 23 2007

Bookstall and light refreshments will be available before the event

**Registration** 6.00 – 7.15 pm

**Start time** 7.15 pm

**End** 9.45 pm

**Venue** Brunei Gallery, SOAS,  
London WC1

The Brunei Gallery is located between Malet Street and Thornhaugh Street, in the north-west corner of Russell Square opposite SOAS. The Gallery is a five minute walk from the British Museum.

## Public transport

Nearest underground stations are Russell Square, Goodge Street, Euston, Euston Square and Tottenham Court Road.

## Further information

Tel 01728 689090  
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