

The Irish Forum for Child and Adolescent  
Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Presents

***A CLINICAL CONFERENCE WITH  
Dr Anne Alvarez***



**A Psychoanalytic Perspective on Working with  
Autistic, Borderline, and Hard to Reach Children**

With Responses by **Professor Michael Fitzgerald,  
Ms Audrey Gregan, Ms Pauline Mahon,  
Dr Brendan McCormack and Dr Sandra McLeod**

**Saturday 28 January 2012 @ 9.00 am-5.00 pm**

*Pearse Hotel  
99-107 Pearse Street  
Dublin 2*

**This conference has been awarded 6 CPD points by the Psychoanalytic  
Psychotherapy section of the Irish Council for Psychotherapy (ICP)**

## CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

This is a multidisciplinary conference relevant to practitioners in psychoanalytic psychotherapy, psychology, psychiatry, psychotherapy, social work, the creative arts therapies and childcare teams working with autistic, borderline and hard to reach children and adults. Anne Alvarez is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist in the Child and Family Department, Tavistock Clinic, London. Her keynote lecture will address technique and different levels of work/engagement with autistic and hard to reach children.

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

### *Levels of Analytic Work and Levels of Pathology: The Work of Calibration*

This attempt to formulate a schema of three levels of analytic work arose from the failure to reach extremely damaged children or adolescents with the more usual explanatory (Freud 1893-95) or locating (Klein 1946) interpretations. These patients seemed not to be able to manage spatial, temporal and causal 'two-tracked thinking' (Bruner 1968). Ego weakness led them to be easily overwhelmed by 'why-because' or 'who-you' interpretations. Historical developments in levels of interpretation from Freud on may thus need to be reversed to take psychopathological and developmental priorities into account. A second, lower, level, that of containment or empathic description of the simple 'whatness' or 'isness' of experience (Winnicott 1953; Bion 1962; Joseph 1978; Stern 1985) may be needed with fragmented, under-integrated, or overwhelmed patients. In even more severe cases, where the sense of both self and the other is very weak, a third — more intensified — level of work may be necessary. This level — which makes use of a counter-transference sense of urgency with patients in states of severe chronic dissociation, despairing apathy, or a certain 'undrawn' sub-type of autism — may serve to recall the cut-off person to himself and to life, via a sort of 'Hey there'.

## PLENARY SPEAKER

Anne Alvarez Ph.D., M.A.C.P is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, and retired Co-Convenor of the Autism Service, Child and Family Department, Tavistock Clinic, London). She is the author of *Live Company: Psychotherapy with Autistic, Borderline, Deprived and Abused Children*, and has edited with Susan Reid *Autism and Personality: Findings from the Tavistock Autism Workshop*. A book in her honour, edited by Judith Edwards, entitled *Being Alive: Building on the Work of Anne Alvarez* was published in 2002. She was Visiting Professor at the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Society in November 2005 and a new book, *The Thinking Heart: Three Levels of Psychoanalytic Work in Psychotherapy with Children and Adolescents*, is in press with Routledge.

## RESPONDENTS

**Professor Michael Fitzgerald MD, FRC Psych., M.Instit. Psychoanal.** is an Associate Member of the British Psychoanalytical Society and is Henry Marsh Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Trinity College, Dublin. A Clinical and Research Consultant to the Irish Society for Autism and an Honorary member of the Northern Ireland Institute of Human Relations, he has a doctorate in the area of autism and has been a researcher in this area since 1973. He trained at St Patrick's Hospital Dublin, Chicago Medical School, and The Maudsley Hospital and the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London. He has clinically diagnosed over 2000 individuals with autism and Asperger's syndrome and has served on the Government Task Force on Autism and the Family. He has contributed to National and International Journals on autism and is the author of over 120 publications. He has written or co-written twenty books. For further information, see <http://www.professormichaelfitzgerald.eu/>

**Ms Audrey Gregan Dip. Ed. Froebel, Dip. Sp. Ed.,** Child Development CPT-S is a certified Play Therapist/Child Psychotherapist with thirty-two years' experience, working with children on the autistic spectrum in St Paul's

Hospital and Special School. She holds a postgraduate diploma from the International Board of Examiners of Certified Play Therapists and Child Psychotherapists and is a Certified Play Therapy Supervisor. She is a DIR®/Floortime™ practitioner and integrates Sensory Integration in her practice. She is accredited by the British Association of Play Therapists, Play Therapy International and is CEO of Play Therapy Ireland (PTIrl).

**Ms Pauline Mahon** BSc, MSW, MMed.Psych, M.A.C.P. is a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist (CAPt) and has worked full time in the Health Service in Northern Ireland for the past twenty-one years, mainly in CAMHS. Alongside providing a psychotherapy service to children across Northern Ireland, Pauline is one of the founding members and Secretary for the charity group CAPPNI. She also teaches on a number of professional training courses and assists in the running of and teaches on the M7 Belfast course (P.G. Diploma Observational Studies). She provides supervision to a range of professionals and is a service supervisor for a trainee child psychotherapist

**Dr Brendan McCormack** trained in psychiatry and psychotherapy in London. He is currently working as a consultant psychiatrist with the HSE based in AMNCH Tallaght Regional Hospital, and is also the Clinical Director of Cheeverstown House Services for People with an Intellectual Disability. Brendan is a past Chair of the Psychotherapy Faculty of the College of Psychiatry of Ireland and is a member of the Institute of Psychotherapy and Disability (UK).

**Dr Sandra McLeod** is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, North Wexford Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Service. This is a new service which Sandra is developing she has been in this post since Aug 2009. Prior to this Sandra worked in England as a Consultant in Solihull since 2004. Dr McLeod has a keen interest in psychoanalytic theory and its practical applications.

## **SCHEDULE**

9.00 am	<b>Registration</b>
9.30 am	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
9.45 am	<b>Lecture by Dr Anne Alvarez:</b> <i>Levels of Analytic Work and Levels of Pathology: The Work of Calibration</i>
10.40 am	<b>Questions and Brief Discussion</b>
11.00 am	<b>Tea and Coffee Break</b>
11.20 am	<b>Multidisciplinary Panel Discussion: Professor Michael Fitzgerald, Ms Audrey Gegan, Ms Pauline Mahon, Dr Brendan McCormack and Dr Sandra McLeod</b>
12.20 pm	<b>Plenary Discussion</b>
1.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00 pm	<b>Case Presentation: Pauline Mahon</b> , Child Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, The Family Trauma Centre, Belfast
3.30 pm	<b>Tea and Coffee Break</b>
3.50 pm	<b>Multidisciplinary Reflective Discussion Groups</b> (Facilitators include practitioners from psychoanalytic psychotherapy, psychology the creative arts and other disciplines)
4.30 pm	<b>Feedback from Groups and Final Words from Anne Alvarez</b>
4.55 pm	<b>Thanks and Closing Remarks: Dr Aoife Twohig</b> , Chairperson, Irish Forum for Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy

## RECOMMENDED READING

Links to recommended reading will be provided on receipt of registration fee

- Alvarez, A. (1997) 'Projective Identification as a Communication: Its Grammar in Borderline Psychotic Children', *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 7.6: 753-768.
- Alvarez, A. (2010) 'Levels of Analytic Work and Levels of Pathology: The Work of Calibration', *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 91.4: 859-878.
- Joseph, B. (1978) 'Different Types of Anxiety and their Handling in the Clinical Situation', in E.B. Spillius and M. Feldman (eds.) (1989) *Psychic Equilibrium and Psychic Change: Selected Papers of Betty Joseph*, London: Routledge. (originally in *Inter J of PA*)
- Steiner, J. (1993) 'Problems of Psychoanalytic Technique: Patient-Centred and Analyst-Centred Interpretations', In *Psychic Retreats: Pathological Organizations in Psychotic, Neurotic and Borderline Patients*. London: Routledge. (originally in *Inter J of PA*)
- Winnicott, D. W. (1953) 'Transitional Objects and Transitional Phenomena: A Study of the First Not-Me Possession', *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 34: 89-97.

## REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The registration fee for this event is:

€85 general admission

€50 students/trainees

## VENUE

The Pearse Hotel is located at 99-107 Pearse St near the Grand Canal Dock. For directions, see <http://www.pearsehotel.com/location.html>

## TEA & COFFEE AND LUNCH

Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be provided free of charge in the morning and afternoon breaks. Snack lunch is available in the hotel otherwise there are some cafes nearby.

## REGISTRATION

Please complete the registration overleaf and send with your payment. Cheques, postal orders or bank drafts should be made payable to 'The Irish Forum for Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy', and posted to Ann Daly, IFCAPP Conference, 73 Quinn's Road, Shankill, County Dublin. Payment of the registration fee secures a place at the conference. Include your name and email address as receipt of payment will be confirmed by email. **Please note early registration is advised.**

## ORGANISER

This event is organised by the Irish Forum for Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. A list of practitioner members can be found on the website for the Irish Council for Psychotherapy: <http://www.psychotherapy-ireland.com>

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The IFCAPP acknowledges the invaluable work, support and assistance provided by the Education Committee of the Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in the organisation of this clinical conference.

## **PARKING**

There is no parking available at the Pearse Hotel but adequate parking is available for reasonable all-day rates in a number of car parks within easy walking distance. There is parking available at Apollo House, at the junction of Tara Street and Poolbeg Street (all day: €10).

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Luas: The Spencer Dock stop is 7-minutes walk. DART: The hotel lies mid-way between Grand Canal Dock and Pearse Street dart stations.

**BOOKING FORM**  
**Clinical Conference with Anne Alvarez**

Please complete this form and return to:  
Ann Daly, 73 Quinn's Road, Shankill, County Dublin  
Tel: 01-2722105  
Fax: 01-2722111

*The appropriate fee must complete this form. Thank you.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque/postal order/bank draft for € \_\_\_\_\_ to be made payable to 'IFCAPP' for:

(please tick one)

Full or Associate Member (IFCAPP or IFPP)/General Admission: €85 \_\_\_\_\_

Reduced Fee (Student/Trainee): €50 \_\_\_\_\_

**Bookings will not be accepted without payment**