

The Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy,
co-sponsored by the UCD Humanities Institute, presents

**THE WOMB/INTRA-UTERINE COMPLEX & THE ANALYTIC ENCOUNTER:
Bracha L. Ettinger's Theory of the Matrixial**

A Public Lecture on Friday 23 March 2012 &
A Clinical Conference on Saturday 24 March 2012



WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING PSYCHOANALYTIC PRACTITIONERS:

Patricia McCarthy

Conor Maguire

Ann Murphy

Berna O'Brien

Mary Pyle

Medb Ruane

Margaret Spelman

Marie Walshe

Eve Watson

Rob Weatherill

(* provisional, to be confirmed)



VENUES

Public Lecture on Friday 23 March 2012 at 6.45 pm-9.30 pm

The Auditorium, UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
(<http://www.ucd.ie/johnhume/>)

See point 35 on the UCD Belfield Campus Map: <http://www.ucd.ie/maps> (open the pdf file)

Clinical Conference on Saturday 24 March 2012 at 9.45 am-5.00 pm

Room H204, UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
(<http://www.ucd.ie/hii>)

See point 30 on the UCD Belfield Campus Map: <http://www.ucd.ie/maps> (open the pdf file)

CLINICAL CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION: Saturday 24 March 2012

This clinical conference provides an opportunity for delegates to engage with the writings, art and clinical practice of Bracha L. Ettinger and her theory of the matrixial or womb/intra-uterine complex, which she has been developing for almost thirty years in her work as a psychoanalyst, clinical psychologist, artist and philosopher. The conference brings together psychoanalytic practitioners from a number of different traditions of psychoanalysis to engage in discussion with Bracha L. Ettinger about her work and its implications for clinical practice.

'Psychoanalytic theory has struggled to overcome the limitations imposed on the understanding of the formation of subjectivity because of the reliance on the Freudian theory of the unconscious which privileges the phallus as signifier of the dynamic between lack and desire, and which supports the model of repression based on the castration complex and its male perspective. In the relational intersubjective perspective, after Klein, Winnicott and Kohut many contemporary psychoanalysts with object-relations, intersubjective, and self tendencies are increasingly developing our understanding of the intersubjective field that is opened in the relations between the caring adult (mother) and the baby and revealed between analyst and analysand. In my work, I have tried to think about a model that breaks with both the Freudian-Lacanian paradigm and the intersubjective as a field of communication, rethinking desire and the unconscious by reference instead to the transgressive encounter between I and non-I grounded in the maternal womb/intra-uterine complex and a notion of affective economy that avoids phallogentrism' (Bracha L. Ettinger, 'Matrixial Trans-subjectivity' in *Theory, Culture & Society* 23: 2-3 (2006): 218).

PUBLIC LECTURE DESCRIPTION: Friday 23 March 2012

Bracha L. Ettinger is an internationally-renowned artist, who has exhibited her work in a vast number of places around the world, including Barcelona, Amsterdam, Helsinki, Turku, London, Paris, Berlin and New York. This lecture provides an opportunity to see samples of her art and hear her speak about her art practice and how it both informs and is influenced by her psychoanalytic work.

'Bracha Ettinger invites us to consider aspects of subjectivity *as encounter* occurring at shared *borderspaces* between several *partial-subjects*, never entirely fused nor totally lost, but sharing and processing, within difference, elements of each unknown other. This is to be stressed: the encounter is between *unknown* elements. Here we might find ways to think not only subjectivity in this abstracted theoretical form, but aesthetic encounters of viewers and art works, and also ethical and political relations between strange, foreign, irreducible elements of otherness in our encounters with human and even non-human events in the world' (Griselda Pollock, 'Thinking the Feminine: Aesthetic Practice as Introduction to Bracha Ettinger and the Concepts of Matrix and Metramorphosis' in *Theory, Culture & Society* 21.5 (2004): 7.

CPD POINTS

Continuing Professional Development points have been awarded by the Psychoanalytic Section of the Irish Council for Psychotherapy.

PLENARY SPEAKER

Bracha L. Ettinger is an Israeli/French/British psychoanalyst (member of NLS, WAP and TAICP), senior clinical psychologist, philosopher and a prominent international visual artist, a painter working mainly in oil-painting, drawing, photography and notebooks. She works between Paris and Tel Aviv.



Bracha L. Ettinger has been developing her theory of the matrixial relating to the feminine, the maternal, prematernity-prenatal and pregnancy for almost thirty years. Some of the key concepts of this theoretical complex include matrixial borderspace, metamorphosis, m/Other, transformational potentiality, borderlinking, copoiesis, differentiating-in-coemergence and co-fading, wit(h)nessing, relations-without-relating, distance-in-proximity, potential shareability, severality, trans-scriptions, cross-imprinting, matrixial time, trans-subjective transference, screen and gaze, fascinace, com-passionate hospitality, transjectivity, feminine-(pre)maternal Eros and the primal Mother-phantasies (abandonment, devouring and not-enoughness).

Two books, dedicated to an exploration of Bracha L. Ettinger's art, have been published recently: *Art as Compassion. Bracha L. Ettinger* (eds. Catherine de Zegher, Griselda Pollock, 2011) and *Le Cabinet de Bracha* (ed. Patrick le Nouene, 2011). Her exhibitions include the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1996), Kiasma, Helsinki (2006), the Centre G. Pompidou, Paris (Face a L'Histoire, 1996, elles@pompidoucentre, 2010). Recent solo exhibitions include Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Angers (2011), Alma Matrix (dual ex.) at 'Fundació Antoni Tàpies', Barcelona (2010), the Freud Museum, London (2009), the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki (2009) and the Drawing Center, New York (2001). Recent performances/installations and lecturing 'encounter-events' include ICI, Berlin (2010), Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk, Poznań (2011) and Ars Nova Museum, Turku (2011). Her next show will take place at Casco, Utrecht in April 2012.

Bracha L. Ettinger is the author of numerous articles and books on psychoanalysis, aesthetics and ethics, including *The Matrixial Borderspace* (essays from 1994-1999, University of Minnesota Press, 2006). She is Chair and Professor of Psychoanalysis and Art at the Media & Communications at the European Graduate School. She is an activist against the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, and is a member of Physicians for Human Rights. Further information about Bracha L. Ettinger can be found here: <http://www.egs.edu/faculty/bracha-ettinger/biography/>

RESPONDENTS AND FACILITATORS

Dr Patricia McCarthy is a practising psychoanalyst and Director of the School of Psychotherapy at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin where she teaches, and is a lecturer in the School of Medicine and Medical Science at University College Dublin. She is a member of the Irish School for Lacanian Psychoanalysis and serves on the editorial board of the journal, *The Letter: Irish Journal for Lacanian Psychoanalysis*, where she has published extensively.

Conor Maguire is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice in Dublin. He is involved in the MSc in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at Trinity College Dublin as a training analyst and also as current chair of the Irish Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy.

Ann Murphy is a clinical psychologist, psychoanalytic psychotherapist and visual artist. Clinical Lecturer in Psychiatry at Trinity College, Dublin, she was a founder and Director of the MSc in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (TCD), where she continues as lecturer, training analyst and clinical supervisor. She also lectures at St Vincent's University Hospital, and delivers Continuing Professional Development training in Dublin and at other venues throughout Ireland. She has a private practice in Dublin. Recent exhibitions have been at The Lab and at Dublin Castle.

Berna O'Brien MSc is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice in County Wicklow and Dublin. She is a training analyst, and teaches on the MSc in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy and the MPhil in Psychoanalytic Studies at Trinity College Dublin. She is the Director of Education for the Clinical Training Course of the Irish Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (IIPP), which conjoins with the MSc in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at Trinity College Dublin to form a four-year training of psychoanalytic psychotherapists. She is a member of the British Psychological Society (BPS) and the Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (IFPP).

Mary Pyle is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice in Dublin. She is a founder member of the Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. She was involved in the setting up of the MSc in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at Trinity College Dublin, where she is a lecturer, training analyst and clinical supervisor. She is the Clinical Director of the Clinical Training Course of the Irish Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (IIPP).

Medb Ruane is a writer and psychoanalytic practitioner, based in Dublin. She recently completed her GREP/IRCHSS-funded PhD at University College Dublin, looking at visual and literary culture in *The Táin* (1969) via contemporary psychoanalysis. She is a member of APPI, ICLD, AICA and has lectured at postgraduate level in Dublin Business School and Independent Colleges, Dublin. She has written as a columnist with *The Sunday Times*, *The Irish Times*, *The Irish Independent* and as a critic in museum catalogues and journals. She works with individuals and as a supervisor, along with editing APPI's magazine and serving on its journal's editorial board. She serves on the Mental Health Tribunals. She conducted clinical and theoretical seminars recently on Joyce le Sinthome, Modalities of *Jouissance* and Lacan with Melanie Klein, and performed Samuel Beckett's *Rockaby* at the UCD Fringe Festival.

Dr Margaret Spelman PhD, AFPsSI is full member of the IFPP, ICP and EAP and a psychoanalytic psychotherapist working with adults in private practice in Castleknock since 1998. She has worked as a clinical and organisational psychologist since 1983 and as a senior clinical psychologist in various parts of the Irish public health services since 1990. Her experience of her own children as babies, her infant observation and clinical experience along with her previous work in the area of early intervention (the 0-5 age group) and with children and adults with learning disabilities and their families contribute to her sustained interest in the thinking of D.W. Winnicott. She has completed an MSc and PhD thesis on the subject.

Marie Walshe is a Freudian-Lacanian psychoanalyst in private practice, treating children, adults and couples. She was an inaugural member of the APPI Child and Adolescent Analysis Group. This group brought together psychoanalysts working with younger clients in the education system, the health service, the justice system and private practice.

Currently a lecturer and supervisor in psychotherapy at Independent Colleges, she has previously lectured in their Law Faculty's Masters in Dispute Resolution programme. As a contributor to the annual APPI Congress and to APPI's journals, Marie has presented papers on critical issues in the contemporary psychoanalytic clinic, including the analytic act, clinical diagnosis, and mandatory reporting.

Dr Eve Watson practices psychoanalysis in Dublin. She is trained in the Freudian-Lacanian tradition, having received her clinical training at the UCD School of Psychotherapy at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. She is Head of the psychotherapy programmes at Independent College, Dublin where she also teaches. She has been involved with the Association for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in Ireland (APPI) since 2005 and is currently a member of the Executive Committee and chair of the Scientific Committee. She completed a PhD in the area of psychoanalysis in 2011 and has had her work published in Ireland, France, Canada and the UK.

Rob Weatherill is a practising and supervisory analyst in Dublin, a member of all four psychoanalytic groupings in Ireland and a founder member of two. He has a Masters degree in psychotherapy from St Vincent's University Hospital as well as the European Certificate in Psychotherapy. He currently teaches psychoanalysis on postgraduate courses at St Vincent's University College Hospital Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. He also lectured in psychoanalytic psychology in the Milltown Institute of Philosophy and Theology for fifteen years. He currently convenes a peer supervision group for experienced analysts. He is the author of *Cultural Collapse* (Free Association Books, 1994), *The Sovereignty of Death* (Rebus Books, 1998), (ed.) *The Death Drive: New Life for a Dead Subject?* (Rebus Books, 1999), *Our Last Great Illusion: A Radical Psychoanalytic Critique of Therapy Culture* (Imprint Academic, 2004), *Forgetting Freud: Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?* (Academica Press, 2011), and over thirty papers on psychoanalysis published in Ireland and abroad, as well as numerous smaller articles and reviews for the wider media. Further information about his work can be found on his website: <http://www.criticalpsychoanalysis.com>

SCHEDULE

Public Lecture on Friday 23 March 2012

Auditorium, UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4

5.45 pm-6.30 pm Registration

6.45 pm-7.00 pm Welcome and opening remarks

7.00 pm-8.00 pm Lecture by **Bracha L. Ettinger**, 'Beauty in the Human: Uncanny Compassion, Uncanny Awe', on psychoanalysis and her art working, chaired by **Rob Weatherill**

8.00 pm-8.30 pm Tea and coffee break

8.30 pm-9.30 pm Discussion facilitated by **Rob Weatherill**

9.30 pm Close of public lecture

Clinical Conference on Saturday 24 March 2012

Room H204, UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4

9.45 am-10.00 am Welcome and opening remarks

10.00 am-11.00 am **SESSION 1 – A THEORETICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE MATRIXIAL**

Lecture by **Bracha L. Ettinger**, 'Feminine-Maternal-Matrixial Eros and Com-passion', on the development of her theory of the matrixial, chaired by **Eve Watson**

11.00 am-11.30 am Questions and discussion facilitated by **Eve Watson**

11.30 am-12.00 pm Tea and coffee break

12.00 pm-1.00 pm **SESSION 2 – RESPONSES TO THE MATRIXIAL: IN DISCUSSION WITH BRACHA L. ETTINGER**

Responses to **Bracha L. Ettinger** by **Patricia McCarthy, Ann Murphy, Mary Pyle, Medb Ruane, Margaret Spelman** and **Marie Walshe**, chaired by **Berna O'Brien**

1.00 pm-2.00 pm Discussion facilitated by **Berna O'Brien**

2.00 pm-3.00 pm Lunch

3.00 pm-4.00 pm **SESSION 3 – THE MATRIXIAL AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE**

Lecture by **Bracha L. Ettinger**, 'Red Scar in the Sky: The Diaries and Poetry of Sylvia Plath', on the clinical implications of the matrixial, chaired by **Conor Maguire**

4.00 pm-5.00 pm Discussion facilitated by **Conor Maguire**

5.00 pm Thanks and close of clinical conference

LECTURE DESCRIPTIONS

Friday 23 March 2012 at 7.00 pm-8.00 pm

Beauty in the Human: Uncanny Compassion, Uncanny Awe

Bracha L. Ettinger will show some visual work and talk about some of her concepts relating to psychoanalysis and aesthetics: the passage of traces, wit(h)nessing and the affective aesthetic and proto-ethical accesses of compassion and awe for feel-thinking through beauty and sublimity.

Saturday 24 March 2012 at 10.00 am-11.00 am

Feminine-Maternal-Matrixial Eros and Com-passion

Bracha L. Ettinger will introduce various concepts relating to her theory of the matrixial, which she has been developing for many years. She will present the matrixial stage and position of pregnancy/prenatality and will discuss the clinical aspects of the following:

1. Matrixial borderspacing and borderlinking, the feminine-maternal-matrixial Eros, co-emergence, com-passion and compassionate hospitality;
2. Fascinance, compassionate hospitality and the feminine-maternal-matrixial Eros in the matrixial transference level;
3. The three primal mother-phantasies (abandonment, devouring, not-enoughness);
4. Same-sex difference (woman-daughter/woman-mother, son-man/father-man);
5. The clinical implications of empathy-within-compassion versus empathy-without-compassion for a therapeutic work that brings into account the trans-subjective connection with the archaic (m)Other and other close figures.

Saturday 24 March 2012 at 3.00 pm-4.00 pm

Red Scar in the Sky: The Diaries and Poetry of Sylvia Plath

Taking Sylvia Plath as a case history, Bracha L. Ettinger will look at how Plath reports on her therapy in her diaries. Bracha will show how not listening with a matrixial ear can be devastating for the psyche of a daughter who is a

mother – a dead end. Exploring Plath's report in her own words, Bracha will discuss the matrixial unconscious that is expressed in Plath's poetry but not in the account of her therapy, in order to argue that the matrixial works for life and creativity while some elements in therapy can work for the death drive.

RECOMMENDED READING

1. Bracha L. Ettinger, 'Matrixial Trans-subjectivity' in *Theory, Culture & Society* 23: 1-2 (2006): 218-222.
2. Bracha L. Ettinger, '(M)Other Re-respect: Maternal Subjectivity, the Ready-Made Monster-Mother and the Ethics of Respecting' in *Studies in the Maternal* 2.1 (2010): 1-24.
3. Bracha L. Ettinger, 'From Proto-Ethical Compassion to Responsibility: Besideneess, and the Three Primal Mother-Phantasies of Not-Enoughness, Devouring and Abandonment' in *Athena* 2 (2006): 100-135.
4. Wendy Hollway, 'Rereading Winnicott's "Primary Maternal Preoccupation"' in *Feminism & Psychology* (pre-published online 2011): 1-21.

These readings are available from Ann Daly upon payment of the registration fee.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

Bracha L. Ettinger, 'The Space of the Transference', Lecture Delivered at the European Graduate School, 2010 (c. 1 hour 23 mins.) <http://www.egs.edu/faculty/bracha-ettinger/videos/the-space-of-transference/>

TEA, COFFEE AND LUNCH

Tea, coffee and lunch are included in the registration fee, and have been sponsored by the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland.

REGISTRATION

PLEASE NOTE: The clinical conference is only open to practising psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, counsellors, psychologists, psychiatrists and other clinical practitioners, as well as trainees.

Public Lecture on Friday 23 March 2012

General Admission: €20

Reduced Fee – Students/Trainees: €10

Clinical Conference on Saturday 24 March 2012

General Admission – Practitioner Members: €85

Reduced Fee – Students/Trainees: €50

Early registration is advised as places are limited

ORGANISER

This event is organised by the Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (<http://www.ifpp.org>).

CO-SPONSOR

Further information about the activities of the UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland can be found here:
<http://www.ucd.ie/hii>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IFPP acknowledges the invaluable work, support and assistance provided by the Education Officer of the Irish Forum for Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in the organisation of this conference. The IFPP is grateful for the support and financial assistance of the Humanities Institute of Ireland at University College Dublin.

CAR-PARKING FACILITIES

There are two car parks located directly in front of the Humanities Institute of Ireland building. These are free car parks. If delegates choose to park elsewhere on campus, they need to confirm whether the car park is free or pay and display. A map of car parks on campus is available to download here:
<http://www.ucd.ie/building/downloads/traffic/Parking.pdf>

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

For directions to University College Dublin, see <http://www.ucd.ie/gettingtoucd.htm>

FUTURE EVENTS

Upcoming events organised by the Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy can be found by visiting the website:
<http://www.ifpp.org>

IMAGE CREDITS

Page 1 (left to right)

- Bracha L. Ettinger, *Matrix-Family Album*, n. 8 (2003-2005)
Oil and mixed media on paper mounted on canvas
39.5 x 26 cm
- Bracha L. Ettinger, *Notebook* (2005), in installation at Musée de Beaux-Art, d'Angers (2011)
- Bracha L. Ettinger, *Mamalangue* n. 5 (2001)
Oil and photocopied dust on paper mounted on canvas
27 x 23.8 cm

Page 3

- *Bracha in Her Studio in Tel Aviv* (2009)

BOOKING FORM

Public Lecture & Clinical Conference with Bracha L. Ettinger

Please complete this form and return it to:
Ann Daly, Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, 73 Quinn's Road, Shankill, County Dublin
Tel. (01) 272 2105; Email: amdps@indigo.ie

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 'IFPP' for:

(please tick one)

Practitioner Member – Public Lecture and Clinical Conference: €105 _____

Practitioner Member – Clinical Conference only: €85 _____

Reduced Fee – Student/Trainee Public Lecture and Clinical Conference: €60 _____

Reduced Fee – Student/Trainee Clinical Conference only: €50 _____

General Admission – Public Lecture only: €20 _____

Reduced Fee – Student/Trainee for Public Lecture only: €10 _____

Bookings will not be accepted without payment

PLEASE NOTE:

The clinical conference is only open to practising psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, counsellors, psychologists, psychiatrists and other clinical practitioners, as well as trainees.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR THE CLINICAL CONFERENCE IS NECESSARY