

Gerry French. Psychoanalyst.

1937-2023

The death has occurred of Gerry French, long standing IFPP member and former Chairperson.

Gerry and I trained in psychoanalysis in the same class in St Vincent's University Hospital during the early 1990s. Sometimes in Cormac Gallagher's excellent Lectures on Lacan, Gerry might fall asleep and have to be nudged awake. He was a most thoughtful individual and group analyst, with a very wide perspective and a particular interest in Wilfred Bion. He also worked regularly with Irish people in London, particularly those uprooted and lonely. He had an infectious sense of humour. We had a good laugh about Father Ted and the vagaries of psychoanalytic politics in Ireland. In more recent years, he he was a regular member of our small supervision group until ill health meant he could no longer attend.

*Rob Weatherhill*

I remember Gerry as a warm and thoughtful person who resisted the Lacanian tide sweeping over us in his heyday. Bion was his guide and Christianity his inspiration. Rest in peace Gerry.

*Ross Skelton*

I was on the psychoanalytic training in The School of Psychotherapy, SVUH, with Gerry French from 1990-1992 in the same year as Rob Weatherill. Gerry remembered all of his fellow trainees well. More recently I renewed my acquaintance with Gerry while working with him on a number of Group Process weekends on the DBS trainings. He had met with me to suss me out informally to see if I was up to the job and he seemed to know half the country including my own rural Westmeath connections. He was formidable in his role and the students had a very high opinion of him. Gerry was passionate about the teaching and application of group and organisational training and experiential learning from a psychoanalytic and group analytic perspective. Like so many people who have spoken about him since his death I too found him great company. He had a fantastic recall of people he had met over the years in his different roles and recounted wonderful stories garnered from his lifelong work.

*Mary Cullen*

*Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dhílis.*