

## **FREUD CONFERENCE 2007**

### **One man's meat is another man's poison The unconscious significance of food: Its use personally and with each other**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville, Melbourne

#### **ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

DR DANA BIRKSTED-BREEN is a Training and Supervising Analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society, working in full-time private practice. She has held positions on the Scientific, Research and Ethics Committees of the British Psychoanalytic Institute; presented clinical seminars for the Institute of Psycho-Analysis, the British Association of Psychotherapists, the Lincoln and the Tavistock Institutes; published many papers and books; is General Editor of the International Journal of Psychoanalysis; and recently started the New Library of Psychoanalysis Teaching Series. A central clinical interest of Dana is her work with anorexic and bulimic patients which will be a focus of the Freud Conference.

PROFESSOR ANTHONY REDMOND is an Australian Research Council Post Doctoral Fellow/ Richard Carley Hunt Fellow in the School of History, Heritage and Society, Deakin University. He has received numerous awards in Anthropology, Prehistoric and Historical Archeology, and his Ph.D, Sydney University, was recommended for prizes as an outstanding thesis. Anthony has worked with Ngarinyin people in the northern Kimberley since 1994, conducting both applied and academic research. He has published many Book chapters, Journal articles and Encyclopedia entries.

## PROGRAMME

8.30 am Registration & coffee

8.50 Welcome and Introduction

9.00 – 10.30 **Anorexia & bulimia in the transference**

Dr. Dana Birksted-breen

In this paper the focus will be on the relational problems associated with eating disorders as they manifest themselves in the psychoanalysis of these patients.

10.30 – 11.00 Morning tea

11.00 – 12.30 **The saturated fat of the land: The ambivalent power of fat in Aboriginal Australia**

Professor Anthony Redmond

This paper explores some of the values attaching to fat at the Indigenous Australian (Ngarinyin) and the Euro-Australian interface. These values are surprisingly congruent despite them being products of very different ontological schemes, grounded in radically different material imaginaries. I discuss how human and other animal fats act as media of bodily transmutation in Kimberley Aboriginal cosmologies, drawing the soft and labile potentialities of the body into crystalline forms and back again. I engage this material with the psychoanalytic notion of object relations in order to explain some of the significant similarities in the indigenous and non indigenous images of desirable diamonds.

12.30 – 2.00 Lunch

2.00 – 3.30 **The work of interpretation**

Dr Dana Birksted-Breen

The psychoanalytic notion of “work” is used to describe a process of transformation which takes place over time, mixing both conscious and unconscious factors. We speak of this as “the work of mourning” or “working through”. The “dream-work” is a particular example in which a pressing emotional situation becomes a graphic representation using recent available situations and images. This sometimes, in itself, brings mental shifts in the patient before it is consciously understood. The work of the dream is hence not only the process of transformation into graphic representation but also a process of working through psychic distress. This paper suggests that the “work of interpretation” belongs in this category.

3.30 – 3.45 Afternoon tea

3.45 – 5.00 Panel discussion with both speakers

5.00 – 6.00 Drinks and nibbles

**Readings Bookstore will be at the Conference**

## REGISTRATION FORM

Surname ..... Title .....  
First Name .....  
Profession .....  
Address .....  
..... Postcode .....  
Contact phone no .....

**I enclose a cheque for \$..... made payable to: Freud Conference Fund**

**COST: \$175; \$130 concession.** (Pension card holders and full-time students – written verification with registration required). GST not applicable.

**EARLY BIRD (before 27th March): \$155.00 / \$115.00 concession**

All other registration by 22nd May.

**Pleasenote:**

No registrations accepted on the day.

Costs include lunch, morning and afternoon tea

Limited accommodation available for \$55.00 B&B – apply direct to Treacy Centre, tel: 03/ 8359 0101

**Cancellation Policy:**

Refunds (less \$30.00 administration fee) will only be given for cancellations received by Tuesday 8th May 2007. No refunds after this date.

**Registrations to be sent to:**

Freud Conference Administrator  
PO Box 2125  
Wattletree Rd Post Office  
East Malvern, VIC 3145

**Conference enquiries:**

Mobile: 0411 556 205

Email: [christine.hill@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:christine.hill@med.monash.edu.au)

**Booking enquiries:**

Phone: 03/ 9513 9080