

# FREUD CONFERENCE

2008

## On How (and Why) the Mind and World were made Black and White

*Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville, Melbourne*  
*Saturday 2nd August, 2008 8.30 – 5pm*

### **Dr Farhad Dalal (UK)**

#### **Session 1 - The World**

##### *A History of the Invention and Colouring of 'Race'*

That things and people are called black and white is taken for granted; also that a 'natural' fear of darkness turns into a fear of black people - one of the root causes of racism. This talk will probe racist explanations found in folk-psychology, and also more technical explanations. I begin with a critique of genetic arguments, to show the vacuity of the concept of race, and track the evolving semantic history of these terms in the English language. I will argue that the naming of things and peoples' black and white are not descriptions but ascriptions. Further, that as the world is blackened and whitened, so is the psyche.

#### **Session 2 - The Mind**

##### *Identity & Power: The Manufacture of Racialized Psyche*

Beginning with Freud I will critically address the range of psychoanalytic explanations for racism, focussing on Winnicott, Matte-Blanco and Foulkes, to develop a model of identity formation. I argue that the 'We' is prior to the 'I', and the psyche constituted by the vicissitudes of power-relational fields one is born into. I then draw on Elias to look at how and why Racial Otherness comes to be manufactured and sustained, and will end with brief reflections in the clinical setting.

### **Dr Tessa Philips (NSW)**

#### **Session 3 - Apartheid of the Soul**

This presentation addresses aspects of my early life in apartheid South Africa which have impacted my work as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist. The emerging principles have far-reaching, even universal implications which show how scars of apartheid mark oppressed and oppressors, bystanders and beneficiaries.

#### **Session 4 - Panel discussion**

### **About the Speakers**

**Dr Farhad Dalal** is a clinical supervisor and training group analyst for the Institute of Group Analysis, (London); an Associate Fellow at the University of Hertfordshire's Business School in the Complexity and Organizational Change unit; and a founding member of the South Devon Psychotherapy and Counselling Service. His professional identity has three strands: organizational work, academia and psychotherapy, the latter including supervision as well as individual, couple and group practice. He has published numerous papers on psychoanalysis, group analysis and racism, as well as two books. Farhad's presentations will draw on a range of disciplines including psychoanalysis, group analysis, sociology (specifically Norbert Elias), history and linguistics, to build a general theory of difference in which a theory of racism will be located.

**Dr Tessa Philips**, an ex-South African, is a practicing psychoanalytic psychotherapist in Sydney. She is a faculty member of the Sydney University Master of Medicine (Psychotherapy) Program and of ANZAP; a council member of the International Association of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology (IAPSP), and on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy (IARPP). Tessa has published papers and presented locally and internationally.

Lunch is provided.

5-6pm Drinks & nibbles.

Registration Enquiries and Form

Phone: (03) 9513 9080

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Details on website: [www.freudconference.com](http://www.freudconference.com)