

# Freud Conference 2012

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May, The Treacy Centre, Parkville, Melbourne

## “The Centre Cannot Hold”

09.00 – 10.30 Dr Carine Minne

### **Infanticide, Matricide or Suicide? Toward a Psychoanalytic Understanding of a Killing**

This paper will focus on the psychoanalytic treatment, in a high security hospital over many years, of a young female patient who killed her baby. Legally considered as a case of infanticide, psychoanalytically it can be understood as the killing of the mother, or of the self. I present a theoretical understanding of the mental state shifts from more psychotic functioning to a more personality disordered presentation, with momentary glimpses of sanity. The necessity for regular psychoanalytically informed communications to members of the multi-disciplinary teams will be raised.

#### ***Morning tea***

11.00 – 12.30 Dr Elyn Saks (via satellite)

### **My Journey through Madness**

Diagnosed with schizophrenia at an early age, Elyn will tell the story of her life-long struggles with this severe mental illness. Given “very poor” and “grave” prognoses she was not expected to live independently, let alone to work. Yet today she lives a rich, full, and productive life with a great professional career, many friends, and a loving husband. Elyn will punctuate her narrative with passages from her book, “The Centre Cannot Hold.” In conclusion, she will draw some policy implications from her story, recognizing she is an “n” of only one.

#### ***Lunch***

14.00 – 15.30 Dr Carine Minne

### **Violence to Body and Mind: Treating Patients who have Killed**

I present the long-term psychoanalytic treatments of two young male patients in a high security hospital - one a case of matricide and the other the killing of a complete stranger. While part of the overall treatment plan, the analyses continued on transfer to medium security and back into the community. Structural changes, which can emerge in such long-term continuous treatments, are described and illustrated clinically. The traumatic effect of ‘improvement’ is emphasized, as is the risk of further enactment, which can trigger considerable anxiety in those involved in the care of these patients. Regular psychoanalytic consultations to the clinical team members are again emphasized as necessary ‘immunization’ against the contagiousness of such mental disorders in prison settings.

#### ***Afternoon tea***

16.00 - 17.00 Panel discussion with Dr Carine Minne and Mr Neville Symington

17.00 - 18.00 Drinks & nibbles

### **About the presenters**

**Dr Carine Minne, UK** is a psychoanalyst with the British Psychoanalytic Society, and Consultant Psychiatrist in Forensic Psychotherapy at the Portman Clinic and Broadmoor High Security Hospital, West London. As the first UK dual trained psychiatrist in forensic psychiatry and psychotherapy, she is now Training Program Director in North/West London for the amalgamated dual higher psychiatric training in forensic psychotherapy, which has since developed nationally. Carine also chairs the Special Interest Group in Forensic Psychotherapy at the Royal College of Psychiatrists. She has lectured nationally and internationally, has many published papers and chapters, and is currently co-writing a book on forensic psychoanalysis with her supervisor and mentor, Dr Leslie Sohn.

**Dr Elyn Saks, USA**, is the Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychology, Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences, at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law; Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine; on the Faculty, New Center for Psychoanalysis; and Director, Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics. She has received several prestigious awards, including a 2009 American Fellowship "genius grant" by the MacArthur Foundation. Throughout this very rich and fulfilling life, Elyn has struggled with severe schizophrenia, described in her most recent book "The Centre Cannot Hold: My Journey through Madness". Elyn is widely sought as an international speaker, is involved in several research projects, and has an impressive list of book and journal publications.

**Mr Neville Symington, Australia**, is a well known Sydney psychoanalyst and member of the British Psychoanalytical Society. He trained in London and for several years worked at the Tavistock Institute. In 2007 Neville started a clinical organization called Psychotherapy with Psychotic Patients (PPP). He has published several books, including one on poetry, and lectured in many countries.