

EMERGING FROM THE UNDIFFERENTIATED Understanding and working with primitive states of mind



TIME: Friday 11 November 7–9.30 pm

VENUE: The Jubilee Building, Parnell,
Auckland (NZ)

COST: \$ 40, Full Time Students \$ 20

It is an exciting time to be a psychoanalyst or psychoanalytic psychotherapist, not simply because of the cognitive neuroscience and research findings which vindicate our theories and practice, but also because of the paradigmatic shifts in thinking that are occurring about how we view the mind and psychic experience. The development of a model of the mind which incorporates primitive mental states is a particular psychoanalytic frontier where such exciting shifts are taking place. This is because such states of mind involve a mode of psychic experience that precludes the use of the therapist / analyst as an object for psychic growth via projective and introjective mechanisms. In contrast, they require the analyst to be available as an undifferentiated object for the patient that provides a containment function which allows for psychic transformation leading to the development of symbolic functioning (metaphorisation). In the tradition of Bion, the approach places emphasis on the notion that we need another mind to develop our own or to 'come into being'. As such it highlights what Ogden has recently described as an ontological rather than an epistemological approach to psychotherapy or psychoanalysis. This paper will use clinical vignettes to illustrate these ideas and consider their application to the psychotherapeutic process to work successfully with such patients.

***Timothy Keogh PhD** is a training and supervising analyst with the Sydney Branch of the Australian Psychoanalytical Society (APAS) and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Sydney. He is past president of APAS, Founding President of the newly formed Australian Forensic Psychotherapy Association, President of Penthos (penthos.org.au - a psychoanalytic charity providing a brief intervention for parents experiencing prolonged grief), Chair of the Ethics Committee of the Australasian Confederation of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapies (ACPP), Co-Chair (Asia-Pacific) of the International Psychoanalytical Association (IPA) Committee on Couple and Family Psychoanalysis (COFAP) and a member of the IPA Violence Committee. He is author of *Through a Glass Darkly* (Karnac) and the senior editor of *Psychoanalytic Approaches to Loss* (Routledge) and *Interpretation in Couple and Family Psychoanalysis* (Routledge).*

Please book by payment to the NZIPP account: 38-9016-0052471-00 by 8 November 2022.

This lecture will be in person; Zoom will be also available.

Wine and cheese will follow the discussion.