

Witnessing Trauma

Program

Symposium Workshops 2015

Thursday, June 18:

Lectures: Sigmund Freud Museum, Berggasse 19

19.00 - 21.00

**Jeanne Wolff
Bernstein, Ph.D.**

Opening Comments

**Françoise Davoine,
Ph.D.**

**The psychotherapy of trauma and
psychosis: A fight against a totalitarian
social link**

Through the unorthodox psychotherapy of a young man coming twice a year from a far away country divided by an impenetrable frontier and from a cultural background unknown to me, I will show how I was forced to make use of tools taken in my own story, literature, and uncanny little things which summoned ghosts left behind the border. In order to understand what happened, as well as the unexpected outcome of this therapy, I will borrow theoretical bearings from the Viennese philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein.

**Ghislaine Boulanger,
Ph.D.**

**Vicarious Traumatization: A Necessary
Therapeutic Tool**

Trauma is contagious; its powerful affect and frequently unformulated memories can be transmitted -- often mysteriously and largely non verbally -- within families, across generations, and from patient to clinician. In this lecture, I propose a way of understanding how vicarious traumatization occurs. Despite its often powerful and disorienting impact, in psychodynamic treatment working through the vicarious traumatization, in the treatment setting itself, is essential to helping the survivor of a massive psychic trauma recognize and come to terms with the experience. Case material will be used to demonstrate those situations in which vicarious traumatization can be addressed in treatment and those in which other means must be found.

Thomas Wenzel, M.D.

An integration of concepts in an interdisciplinary field

An integration of concepts in the interdisciplinary field
A short summary and overview of the history of trauma models, covering social, political, biological and psychological models in their relevance to present treatment and rehabilitation concepts.

Friday, June 19:

**Workshops: Medical University of Vienna (MUW);
Spitalgasse 23, Jugendstilhörsaal**

14.15

**Katharina
Leithner-Dziubas,
Prof.in (Vienna,
Austria)**

Introduction

14.15 – 16.00

**Françoise Davoine
(Paris, France)**

**The psychotherapy of trauma, and
psychosis, a fight against a totalitari-
an social link.**

Francoise Davoine is a psychoanalyst, with an additional degree in sociology and classic literature. Her interest in trauma derives from her psychoanalytic work with psychosis in a psychiatric hospital setting and in a mental health clinic where she worked for 30 years. Françoise Davoine is the author of publications including: *La folie Wittgenstein*, 1992, réédition: Editions du Croquant, Belle combe en Bauges, 1992 (*Wittgenstein's Folly* YBK Publishers, New York, 2012). *Mère Folle, Arcanes*, Strasbourg, 1998 (*Mother Folly*, Stanford University Press, 2014). She also figures prominently in a film by Mieke Bal and Michelle Williams, „A long Story of Madness”, which was shown at the Freud Museum a few years ago. With her late husband, Jean-Max Gaudillard, she is the co-author of “History beyond Trauma”, 2004, Other Press, and is the head of conferences at “L'Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales”, where she has lead with her late husband, Jean-Max Gaudilliere, an ongoing seminar, entitled, “Madness and Social Link” for 40 years.

Workshop: I will focus on the critical moments when psychoanalysis is stuck in a stale mate, where in fact the patient explores the blind spots in the analyst's story. Hopefully, this crisis opens on a co research, at the crossroad of traumatic stories and History, transforming destruction into, as says Cathy Caruth, a “crisis of life”.

16.15 – 18.15

Ghislaine Boulanger:
(New York, USA)

The Strength Found in Innocence: Resistance to Working with Adult Onset Trauma.

Ghislaine Boulanger is a psychologist and psychoanalyst in private practice in New York City, member of the Relational faculty at New York University's Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis and a leading international expert on Psychoanalytic trauma models and treatment. Since the publication of her book, "Wounded by Reality: Understanding and Treating Adult Onset Trauma", she has taught and published extensively on the psychodynamic dilemmas facing adults who have survived violent and life threatening events, and the clinicians who work with them.

Workshop: In this workshop, I shall systematically review the forms that both the survivor's and the clinician's resistance can take in engaging in this difficult work. I shall also discuss the particular problems that arise for clinicians who are themselves survivors of an adult onset trauma in working with other survivors. In addition, I propose to review a number of necessary adaptations to technique, and stress other psychodynamic practices that, difficult as they may be, to follow in these circumstances, are particularly beneficial in working with survivors. Clinical examples will be used to illustrate each of the points under discussion; workshop participants will also be encouraged to offer their own examples.

18.30-20.30

Thomas Wenzel
(Vienna, Austria)

An integration of concepts in the interdisciplinary field

Medical University of Vienna and World Psychiatric Association Section Sequels to Persecution, past director International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Survivors. Long standing teaching and project activity in collaboration with international organisations.

Workshop: The workshop explores the history and present state of the art of trauma and treatment approaches in a global and culture based perspective of healing after exposure to extreme trauma. Biological factors, social framework and individual history define the needs to be addressed in treatment. Transcultural factors of suffering and resolution can play an additional key role in understanding and recovery.