

Australian Association of Group Psychotherapists conference open day.

Saturday 2nd March 2024

at

Redlands Indigiscapes Centre

With Dr Daniel Anderson

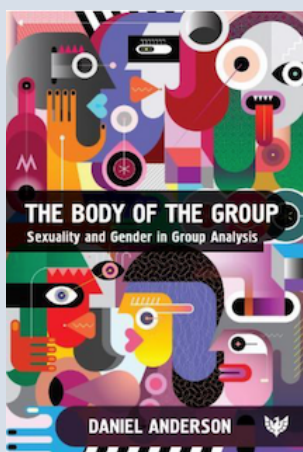
You are invited to a day of thinking and talking with Dr Daniel Anderson

Consultant psychiatrist and group analyst

on

The institutional trauma of sexuality and its reparation

Dr Daniel Anderson is a consultant psychiatrist, group analyst, and psychodynamic psychotherapist working in the NHS at The Christie cancer hospital in Manchester, England, and in private practice. He is the lead for postgraduate supervision and coaching to doctors training in oncology and is an honorary associate professor of psychotherapy at the University of Central Lancashire. Dan completed his PhD at the University of Manchester's Institute of Education and consequently authored the book *The Body of the Group: Sexuality and Gender in Group Analysis*. He is the module leader for sexuality and gender at the Institute of Group Analysis, London, and is a fellow of The Royal Society of Arts



His book, *The Body of the Group: Sexuality and Gender in Group Analysis* is available from Karnak or Amazon

Introduction

As group analysts we believe that individuals are conceptually inseparable from the social world around them; the social is internal not just external. Gender and sexuality, as core parts of our identities, are central to understanding ourselves and our relationships with others. However, sexuality and gender are arguably invisible (or at least less visible) products of identity. The body, generally hidden under clothing, reveals itself through contour, behaviour, and imagination. They require an extra effort within language to state a position or 'come out' to use a colloquialism. As clinicians, none of us are beyond the language of politics and history. We are as prone to prejudices such as homophobia and transphobia, consciously and unconsciously, as anyone else. And the language of sexuality and gender is changing at pace.

Much has changed over recent decades in terms of the attitudes of mental health systems towards gender and sexual minorities. It is a complex task weighing these changes without disavowing history.

Foulkes, Therapeutic Group Analysis, 1975: "...we should rule out people who are pervert to a marked degree – for instance [...] homosexuals [...]. We do not want people who are out for their own advantage, material or otherwise, those who are vain and oversensitive, fanatic, and those who think they have a mission to fulfil".

Anderson, The Body of the Group, 2022: "Such regulatory structures of space, time, and contact, both of bodies and language, offer a unique experience that is particularly regulated, for [the analytic group] is neither a social space nor (in due course) are group members total strangers to each other. The analysands are positioned somewhere in between, both ill-defined and refused definition, and open to debate and movement".

Much has been historically written about the apparently pathological nature of the 'homosexual'. Very little has turned this around to consider the pathology-inducing nature of the discourse within certain schools of psychoanalysis surrounding the 'homosexual' and the 'trans person' that creates the subject. The problem is that counselling and psychotherapy, and group analysis specifically, are discursively bound to historical accounts of the relationship between homosexuality and classical psychoanalysis. This results in group analysis historically referring to non-normative sexualities and genders as being reduced to perversion and developmental arrest, or grossly reduced to a singular category of identity.

This seminar asks questions such as: What is the legacy of history? How to do we de-centre trauma going forward without either abandoning history or reifying identities? What price do we pay to challenge (and not challenge) narratives? How do we harness our differences of sexuality and gender as diverse clinicians?

Venue: Indigiscapes Centre
17 Runnymede Road, Capalaba, QLD 4157
(07) 3824 8611

09:30 - 09:50	Arrival
09:50 -10:00	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country
10.00 -10.30	Group introductions
10.30 -11.15	Debunking terminology and myths
11.15 -11.45	Morning Tea
11.45 -12.30	The problematic discourses of psychoanalysis and law
12.30 -13.30	Lunch
13.30 -14.15	Group analysis and queer theory
14:15 -14:45	Afternoon tea
14.45 -16.15	Median group

Please note that places are limited

Cost \$200.00

Register here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CNXMN>

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