

## Crime in Mind

### Speaker Biographies and Abstracts

**Professor Matt Ffytche** is a Professor in the Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies at the University of Essex and an Academic Associate of the British Psycho-analytical Society and member of its Archives Committee. Editor of the journal *Psychoanalysis and History* since 2015, his critical introduction *Sigmund Freud* was published by Reaktion Books in 2022.

#### **Freud with Holmes; or, The Missing Modern Solution**

**Abstract:** Since the publication of Nicholas Meyer's crime novel *The Seven-per-cent Solution* in 1974, audaciously combining Sigmund Freud and Sherlock Holmes in the same plot, the pressure to fictionalise Freud as a detective has continued unabated. Keith Oatley's *The Case of Emily V.* and Jed Rubenfeld's *The Interpretation of Murder* are two of the better known examples in English. Freud with Holmes has proved particularly attractive for many circumstantial reasons: the rough chronological overlap between Freud and Conan Doyle; Doyle's move from medicine into literature, and Freud's literary style; their joint use of the case study; the pipe and the cigar; and above all – as famously argued by historian Carlo Ginzburg – their joint methodological development of a science of clues. We could add Freud's earliest insight that psychical life is founded on the fantasy of an Oedipal crime. This paper will explore aspects of the long-running fascination with uniting Freud and Holmes. However, there is also a bigger picture here, formulated in the 1970s by literary theorists Peter Brooks and Steven Marcus (but resonating with German critical theories of the detective novel in the 1920s), which argues that Freud and Holmes, at the beginning of the twentieth century, provided narratives – with certain overlapping features and some crucial differences – that offered to make sense of a confusing and threatening modernity.

-----

**Professor Michal Shapira** is a History professor at Tel Aviv University. She has previously taught at Columbia University, as well as Barnard and Amherst Colleges. Her research and publications focus on the legacies of World War II and the history of psychoanalysis in Europe, with an emphasis on total war, gender, and the development of expert culture in the twentieth century.

Shapira is the author of [\*The War Inside: Psychoanalysis, Total War, and the Making of the Democratic Self in Postwar Britain\*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2013). Her latest book is titled [\*A Case of Female Homosexuality in Modern Vienna: Sigmund Freud and His Patient Margarethe Csonka\*](#) (Routledge, 2023).

**Drawing on her work in the BPAS archives**

**Abstract:** In the mid-20th century, this talk argues, psychoanalysts played a pivotal role in shaping national perspectives on juvenile delinquency. It reveals how psychoanalysis became an important framework within criminology, transforming the treatment of offenders and influencing legal, probation, and governmental systems.

---

**Professor Jan Abram** is a training and supervising analyst of the BPAS in private practice in London. She is the author of several books and articles on the work of D.W.Winnicott, Visiting Professor UCL, and President of the European Psychoanalytical Federation.

**On surviving the psychic crime: “...do analysts get killed in sessions...?”**

**Abstract:** Freud’s greatest finding, through his Self-analysis, was that every human being develops a death wish towards their parents. Winnicott’s greatest finding, built on Freud’s, was that the newborn is ruthless due to the instinct to survive. For some people, depending on what happened to them as babies, early ruthlessness may lead to the need to kill. How do analysts survive when the patient’s murderous intent is mobilised in the transference? This essay examines a phase of analysis in which both patient and analyst struggled to survive. What was the essential ingredient that saved their lives?

---

**Heather Wood DPhil** is a psychoanalyst with the British Psychoanalytical Society and Chair of Publications for the BPAS. She was formerly Consultant Adult Psychotherapist and Clinical Psychologist at the Portman Clinic, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, where she developed a special interest in the compulsive use of internet pornography and the related subject of paedophilia. She has taught and published widely on these and other subjects, including Bower, Hale and Wood (Karnac, 2013) *Addictive States of Mind*, Blumenthal, Wood and Williams (2018) *Assessing Risk: A Relational Approach*, and papers in *Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy* and the *British Journal of Psychotherapy*.

**On Freud's 'Criminals from a sense of guilt'.**

**Abstract:** In his 1916 paper on *'Some character types met with in psychoanalytic work'*, Freud refers to 'Criminals from a sense of guilt'. With meticulous observation and characteristic ingenuity, he notes that, rather than being driven to commit criminal acts and then feeling guilty, some people who commit crimes already feel guilty and then are driven to behave in ways that enact their inner sense of 'badness'. This is confirmed by the observation that that some offenders treated in psychotherapy, far from being without conscience, often have an extremely self-punitive conscience and

act in defiance or confirmation of this. A particular sub-group of internet offenders will be described who appear to have acted in response to a guilt-inducing, critical object in their minds.