

A Critical Companion: Superego Across the Life Cycle

The superego is a central concept in psychoanalysis: Freud described it as the heir to the Oedipus Complex, linking it with the introjection of parental injunctions and restraints. It is 'critical' in two ways. The version which can most immediately spring to mind is that of a harsh critical voice; a persecutory presence, undermining and distorting reality. The second is a superego which reflects more positive aspects of parental figures, internalised as protective, benign, and forgiving. This form can be a helpful and necessary companion, helping us think about how we manage our desires and treat others.

The conference is chaired by **Dr Vic Sedlak**, a training and supervising analyst in the British Psychoanalytical Society and President Elect of the British Society. Our speakers are:

Anjali Grier - The Superego in Infancy and Young Childhood: Some Benign and Pathological Developments

Anjali Grier is a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist and Psychoanalyst. In the context of Kleinian and post-Kleinian theories, she will discuss the superego in infancy and young childhood, drawing on clinical vignettes from her experience of working clinically with parents, infants and under-fives.

Dr Louise Allnutt - Emotional Insecurity and Bodily Protection: Developmental Complexities in Adolescents with Complex Medically Unexplained Symptoms

Louise Allnutt is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist. Drawing on Bick's concept of second skin (1968) and Klein's understanding of the early superego, she explores two case examples of adolescents who developed crippling physical symptoms during transition into secondary education.

Penelope Garvey - Questioning the Superego

Penelope Garvey is a training and supervising analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society. She outlines differences between Klein's early harsh superego, her normal mature superego, and the deep unconscious forces that constitute what has been variously named; the 'abnormal superego', the 'ego destructive superego', the 'envious superego' and the 'ego splitting superego'.

Dr David Bell - The Normalisation of Cruelty: Reflections on Psychological Impact of Neoliberalism

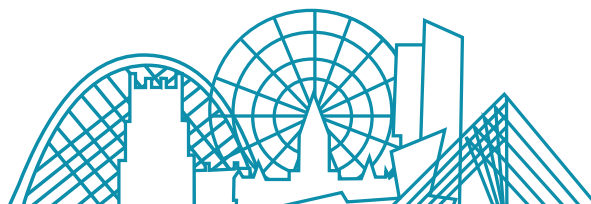
David Bell is Past President of the British Psychoanalytical Society and recently retired from the Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust. He has lectured and published on a wide range of subjects. In this paper, he explores how Neoliberalism undermines the social contract of welfare, replacing it with a hateful superego that divides humanity into the deserving and undeserving, making those whose socio-economic situation has deteriorated feel themselves to be personally responsible.

Saturday 9 July 2022

St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester - also online

Find out more, and book your tickets at

mpdt.org.uk/conference-2022/



Manchester Psychoanalytic Development Trust

Room 8, Norwood House, 53 Brighton Grove, Manchester, M14 5JT
info@mpdtg.org.uk | mpdt.org.uk