Bion: A Theory of Thinking and some Clinical Implications

“... the psychoanalyst is concerned practically with a problem that the philosopher approaches theoretically.”
(Bion Attention and Interpretation p97)

Friday 13 December 2013
Room: 4SB.5.3, University of Essex Colchester Campus

The psychoanalyst Wilfred Bion’s work is at the cutting edge of current international psychoanalytic developments. He is perhaps best known for his Theory of Thinking, which will be the focus of the afternoon. His Theory of Thinking includes his ideas about the origin of thought, and its development from what he calls ‘beta-elements’ (chunks of experience), to ‘dream thoughts’, ‘concept’ and ‘scientific deductive system’. These will be explained and illustrated. He is particularly interested in how we arrive at new thoughts.

Although at first sight his work can seem difficult to approach, it is underlain by illuminatingly ‘simple’ ideas, and extraordinary clinical insights.

The first part of the afternoon will introduce this Theory of Thinking. In the second part we will look at the light it can throw on practical clinical issues.

Programme

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Nicola Abel-Hirsch is the 2013/2014 Visiting Professor at the Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies, University of Essex. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Psychoanalysis, and works in private practice. She teaches in the UK and abroad, and has published a work on the concept of the Life Instinct, Eros. She is the editor of Hanna Segal’s last work Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Coming across the work of Bion as a philosophy student, she became interested in psychoanalysis, and is now one of an international group of psychoanalysts who meet to discuss his work. She has written a number of papers on Bion, including Bion’s concept of Suffering; On Premonition; A comparison of Freud and Bion’s concepts of the Life Instinct; Freud and Bion on the Pleasure Principle; Bion’s concept of Narcissism and Socialism; and current work on the link between the Oedipus Complex and the mind/body relationship.

People are welcome to attend one or both sessions.

Ticket information:
£25 for both sessions, or £15 for one

For booking and registration, please contact Debbie Stewart:
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