# The Race & Culture Group

# Present

# The Question of Hue in Psychoanalysis: Training, Institutions and Practice.

# 10 – 4.00pm Saturday 29th February 2020

# VENUE: The Guild of psychotherapists, 47 Nelson Square, London SE1 0QA

# \*\*\*\*FREE of CHARGE\*\*\*\*\*

**Narendra Keval Exploring the Use and Misuse of Race in the Clinical Encounter**

Preoccupations about difference in the form of ethnicity, race or racism and their lived experience are always present in subtle ways in the privacy of our daily thoughts and feelings, imagination and dreams. Our clinical encounters are no exception but they need close and sensitive scrutiny to capture the nuances of what is being grappled with and communicated by our patients and to enable clinicians to respond with affective understanding of the unconscious processes present. These deep structures of thought and feeling are universally present in contemporary culture, institutional life as well as the consulting room, where they may come to constitute the passions of the transference.

They can signal a wish to explore the self in relation to others where curiosity and imagination are allowed to prevail or take refuge in the wish to thwart and damage the self and others, closing down any possibilities for intimacy with and learning from others. These preoccupations and their particular *use* at any given moment tell us something about the quality of thinking present and the particular kinds of predicaments and challenges of engaging with them when the emotional pressures that they exert can risk unhelpful enactments. I will consider how some of these dynamics in the clinical situation has resonance with challenges of engaging with diversity and difference in institutional life.

**Dr Shona Hunter The power of whiteness as a mythology of the good**

Amidst increasing mainstream recognition that whiteness is an identity position which implies an orientation to power and privilege the way this orientation manifests is highly contested and often misunderstood. One commonly recognised affective mode of whiteness is the fragility and defensiveness through which whiteness protects itself against interrogation. This is largely a defensiveness driven by the desire to resist seeing the white self as violent and violating of others, to resist seeing the ‘darker’ side of the self. It is a defence against the discomfort of recognising whiteness as a manifestation of fear, shame, guilt. When we begin to understand whiteness as a master signifier which works as a form of general protection against the human experience of difference, uncertainty and related anxiety, we have starting point from which to see how it sutures into everyday meanings and practices such as ideals of good professionalism. How whiteness is smuggled into other meanings and practices outside of our everyday awareness.

As people working with emotion, those working with psychoanalytic ideas have an opportunity here to enter into the debate on fragility and defensiveness to help societal understandings of power and its relationship to affect and material reality and personal and social discomfort. And yet, there is evidence of white defence here too in the shape and profile of the psychoanalytic body of ideas, its professional profile and ways of practicing. So; the questions remain what should be done? What can be done? How can community be reinvented? What does that reinvention mean and what shape could it take?

**See below for speakers’ details and abstract**

**Narendra Keval** is a Psychoanalyst, Adult & Adolescent Psychotherapist and Clinical Psychologist. He worked as a senior clinician with patients suffering from complex personality disorders in a range of NHS settings and consults to staff teams in organisations in both the public and private sector. He is in full-time private practice, a visiting lecturer at the Tavistock Clinic and has been a visiting speaker at Psychoanalytic institutes in the UK, Cape Town, South Africa and USA. He is a member of the British Psychoanalytic Society, Tavistock Society of Psychotherapists, British Psychoanalytic Council and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. His book ‘Racist States of Mind ‘, was published by Karnac in 2016.

**Dr Shona Hunter** is a writer, researcher, educator, speaker on power, privilege, oppression, currently Reader in the Centre for Race Education and Decoloniality at Leeds Beckett University UK. She has previously held academic posts at Birmingham, Lancaster and latterly Leeds UK and has held visiting positions at Sydney (Australia) Mannheim (Germany), and in South Africa at Cape Town, Rhodes and for 5 years as visiting researcher and visiting Associate Professor at the University of Johannesburg in the Faculty of Fine Arts and Design. She has published a range of single authored and edited works, including monographs, journal special editions and articles on race, racialisation and whiteness and its lived, material and affective dynamics with a particular interest in the way these dynamics are constitutive of liberal and neoliberal state practices.

She has led collaborative and individual fellowship based research projects from the World Universities Network, The British Academy, the Economic and Social Research Council and Research Council’s UK in these areas. In 2009 she established the White Spaces Research Network of around 250 interdisciplinary scholars, activists, practitioners across 17 countries with an interest in whiteness. Now in its tenth year this project is expanding and developing into a globally connected broader common intellectual initiative WhiteSpaces ([www.whitespaces.org.uk](http://www.whitespaces.org.uk)).

10:00 Registration Tea & Coffee

10:30 **Dr Shona Hunter ‘The power of whiteness as a mythology of the good’**

12:00 Light Lunch

12:45 **Narendra Kavel ‘Exploring the Use and Misuse of Race in the Clinical Encounter’**

2:15 Refreshment Break

2:30 Plenary

3:00 Conclusion

# \*\*PLACES ARE LIMITED PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW\*\*

# A light lunch will be provided

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