



התכנית לפסיכותרפיה
מרכז אקדמי ללימודי המשך ברפואה
הפקולטה לרפואה
אוניברסיטת תל אביב



*The
FRANCES TUSTIN
Memorial Trust*

and

*Tel Aviv University
Faculty of Medicine
Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program*

Invite you to attend

**The 29th Annual
Frances Tustin Memorial Lectureship**

that will take place on

**Friday, November 6th, 2026, 8:00 am-15:00 (Israel time)
at Tel Aviv University, Schlezack Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine
and via zoom***

Featuring

**Prof. Luca Quagelli (France), Prof. Maria Rhode (UK),
Ruth Weinberg (Israel), Hilit Bechor Cohen (Israel)**

Theme of the Conference:

Analytic Thinking on Sensoriality

*(Israeli participants can register for in-person participation at Tel Aviv University; Non-Israeli participants can register both for in-person and zoom participation)

Program Schedule:

08:00-8:30 – Registration and refreshments

8:30-10:30 – First session – Chair: Alina Schellekes (Chair of The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust-FTMT)

Opening remarks: Dr. Shlomit Yadlin-Gadot (Chair of The Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program, School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University)

Alina Schellekes (Chair of The FTMT)

Lecture – Prof. Luca Quagelli (France): **Sensory inter-weavings and relational openings in clinical work with autistic children**

Abstract: In his first lecture, Prof. Quagelli aims to shed new light on how sensoriality can be considered and deployed in the treatment of severely autistic children. Whereas psychoanalysis has explored in detail the defensive function that sensoriality can have for these patients, Prof. Quagelli puts forward the idea that this can be used to enhance the differentiation and structuring of the body ego. Through detailed clinical material, from the psychotherapy of a five-year-old girl, he sets out to illustrate how work on different sensations can lead to relational openings that are initially specific to each sensory channel and how access to otherness emerges from this work on sensations. The lecture focuses on technique and the way in which the analyst must situate himself in sensoriality and intervene as closely as possible to it for these processes to be carried out successfully. It is in this way that the various sensory flows are gradually (re-)inscribed in the relational circuit and can begin to (re-)connect with each other.

10:15–10:45 – Coffee break

10:45–12:45 – Second session – Chair: Joel Miller (Vice-Chair of The FTMT)

Lecture – Prof. Luca Quagelli (France): **Does touching have a place in clinical work with severely autistic children?**

Abstract: In his second lecture Prof. Quagelli discusses the value of certain forms of bodily contact in clinical work with severely autistic children. After reviewing some theoretical elements on the function of touch in the psychic development of infants, he examines the meaning that prohibition on touching may have for autistic children. Drawing on clinical experience, the lecture explores the stages in the structuring of the bodily ego in the treatment of autistic children, and stresses the importance of immersing oneself in the patient's sensory world in order to weave together sensations capable of fostering relational openings. In particular, when the analyst begins to be differentiated from the non-human environment, the child spontaneously seeks out experiences of envelopment. In these moments, when the analyst is experienced as a background presence, that bodily contact, in the form of back support, can play an important role on the path towards three-dimensionality. The lecture also discusses the relationship between touch and interpretation, as well as the risks associated with bodily contact, suggesting some

criteria that could differentiate the therapeutic function of touch from acting on the part of the analyst. In conclusion, Prof. Quagelli reflects on the long-term effects of these technical adjustments on the evolution of the analytic process.

Discussion of the two lectures: Ruth Weinberg (Israel)

12:45–13:15 – Lunch break

13:15–15:00 – Third session – Chair: Alina Schellekes (Israel)

Case presentation – Hilit Bechor Cohen (Israel)

Discussion: Prof. Maria Rhode (UK) – online

***Registration is open until November 1st, 2026.**

International participants who cannot attend in Israel are invited to attend via zoom. Please click below on the relevant link:

Registration for International participants, in person at Tel Aviv University

Registration for International participants via Zoom

הרשמה לישראלים: אנא שימו לב שעבור ישראלים ההשתתפות היא רק באוניברסיטה

ההרשמה פתוחה עד ה-01/11/2026

אנא לחצו על הלינק הרלוונטי:

לינק לתשלום עבור חברי קרן טסטין הישראלים, סגל ותלמידי התכנית לפסיכותרפיה

אוניברסיטת תל אביב – 220 ש"ח

לינק לתשלום עבור הקהל הרחב – 260 ש"ח

Faculty of the Lectureship Day:

Luca Quagelli (Paris, France) is associate professor of clinical psychology and psychoanalytic psychopathology of the child at Sorbonne Paris Nord University, UTRPP-UR 4403. He works in public mental health services with psychotic and autistic children and adolescents, and in private practice in Courbevoie (Paris region). In recent years, he has been particularly interested in the place of the body and sensoriality in the transference encounter. In his recent publications, he questioned how work on sensoriality can contribute to the structuring of the bodily ego and the construction of the boundary between inside and outside. The exploration of the analyst's bodily countertransference is thus studied as a tool potentially capable of shaping what remains unthought in the patient's inner world and in the analytical relationship.

Maria Rhode (London, UK) is Emeritus Professor of Child Psychotherapy at the Tavistock Clinic in London, where she formerly co-convened the Autism Clinical Workshop; member of the Association of Child Psychotherapists; and Child Analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society. She trained at the Tavistock Clinic, where she was supervised by Martha Harris, Donald Meltzer and Frances Tustin; she has a particular interest in childhood autism and psychosis, language development and infant observation, and has written and lectured widely on these subjects. Most recently, she has published an audited case series of an early intervention for toddlers at high risk of autism and their families. She received the Frances Tustin Memorial Prize in 1999.

Ruth Weinberg (Israel) is a clinical psychologist and a training and supervising psychoanalyst at the Israeli Psychoanalytic Society where she served on the educational committee and as Head of the Child/Adolescent Track. She is the head of the Kleinian advanced track of studies at the The Program of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University. She is a scientific editor of translations of psychoanalytic literature to Hebrew and published several articles in the Journal of Child Psychotherapy. She works in private practice with children, families and adults in Tel Aviv.

Hilit Bechor Cohen (Israel) is a supervising clinical psychologist, currently a senior psychoanalytic candidate at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society. Previously she served as Head of Emotional Therapists Sector at the Shaked-Holon Unit: Kindergartens for Children on the Autistic Spectrum. Her work is mainly with adults, infants and young children, autism, and parent-child therapy. She teaches at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society and in the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program, School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, in the Primitive Mental States and in the Kleinian advanced tracks of studies. She is in private practice in Rehovot, Israel, working with children, adolescents, and adults.

Shlomit Yadlin-Gadot, Ph.D. (Israel) is a clinical psychologist, training psychoanalyst in the Tel-Aviv Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis. Chair of the Psychotherapy Program, School of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University. Editor in Chief of Maarag - The Israeli Annual of Psychoanalysis, The Hebrew University. IARPP board member and co-chair of Intl. Colloquium Committee. Author of "Truth Matters: Theory and Practice in Psychoanalysis" - Brill | Rodopi, 2016, and co-author of "Lacanian Psychoanalysis: A Contemporary Introduction" – Routledge, 2023.

Joel Miller (Israel) is the Vice-chair of The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust. He is a supervising clinical psychologist, a training and supervising child and adult psychoanalyst at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society and institute where he has taught as well. He teaches and supervises at the Program of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, in its core program and in the Primitive Mental States advanced track of studies. He supervises at the Winnicott Center in Israel, both in the core and in the advanced studies program. He is presently one of the directors of the advanced program for psychoanalytic psychotherapy "The Therapeutic Act" at the Center for Advanced Studies of the Israel Psychoanalytic Society. He has a private practice in Kfar Saba where he does supervision, psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy with children, adolescents and adults.

Alina Schellekes (Israel) is the Chair of The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust. She is a supervising clinical psychologist, a training and supervising psychoanalyst at The Israel Psychoanalytic Society and a honorary member of The Polish Society for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. She teaches and supervises at the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program, School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University where she is the head of the Primitive Mental States advanced track of studies, which she founded in 2007. She worked as a senior clinical psychologist for more than three decades at Brill Mental Health Center (Ramat Chen), Tel Aviv. In 2006 she received the Honorary Mention of the Phillis Meadow Award in New York for excellence in psychoanalytical writing. In 2008 she received in Los Angeles the 12th Frances Tustin Memorial Prize for her paper: "The Dread of Falling and Dissolving – further thoughts". In 2023 she received the Hayman Prize for Published Work Pertaining to Traumatized Children and Adults, awarded by the IPA Committee on Child and Adolescent Psychoanalysis (COCAP). The prize was given for her paper: 'Sentenced to life: Reflections on the inability to bear vitality, following the movie Turtles can fly.' In 2021 she was the International Guest Lecturer for The Australian Psychoanalytic Society. Her papers have been published in several journals and chapters of books. Her book "The Dread of Falling - Reflections on Primitive Mental States" was published in Hebrew in 2021 by Resling Publishing, Tel Aviv and a revised and expanded edition was published in English, with Routledge, London in 2025 and in Portuguese, in 2026, with Blucher, Brazil. She is in private practice in Qiryat Ono, Tel Aviv area, Israel.

The Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program, School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel was established in 1971 and since its foundation provides deep and comprehensive training in psychodynamic psychotherapy for psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers. The program is comprised of a 3-year core program; nine tracks of advanced studies (Self psychology; Primitive Mental States; Winnicott, Bion and the Independent radical breakthroughs; Group psychotherapy; Relational studies; Kleinian studies; Contemporary Freud studies, Couples psychoanalytic psychotherapy; Psychoanalytic track for the study of trauma); a special program for an interdisciplinary PhD studies in psychoanalysis and its interfaces; Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Studies for Creative Arts Therapists); a one-year study framework in psychodynamic psychotherapy for professionals in the medical and para-medical fields.

Chair of the Program: **Dr. Shlomit Yadlin-Gadot**

For information on The Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program please visit its website:

or contact Irit Bar at iritbar@tauex.tau.ac.il

The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust's Board of Trustees: **Alina Schellekes** (Israel), **Chair**; **Joel Miller** (Israel), **Vice-chair**; Joshua (Shuki) Durban (Israel), Jeff Eaton (USA), Nechama Faber Ben-Pazi (Israel), Prof. Yolanda Gampel (Israel), Prof. Didier Houzel (France), Dr. Suzanne Maiello (Italy), Prof. Maria Rhode (UK), Tessa Zadok (Israel).

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For information on events and membership in The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust please visit the trust's website: <http://www.frances-tustin-autism.org> or email Alina Schellekes at: shalin@zahav.net.il