Digital Desire and the Online Imposter: 'Catfishing'

Danielle Knafo, Ph.D.

among participants, moderated by Yoav Antman.

Thursday, 4.7.2018

Program:
19:45 - 20:10: Gathering and welcome
20:10 - 21:00: Talk by Dr. Danielle Knafo (in English)
21:00 - 21:20: Discussion, moderated by Orna Shor
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Freud considered the unconscious a site of repressed wishes and hidden desires whose influence extends to the farthest reach of conscious life. Today, the unconscious is finding new expression on the Internet, which allows users anonymity and easy access. Users can shed their “real world” skins and replace them with digital ones, creating virtual personas to indulge in their secret passions. The Internet allows for the appearance of nearly anything that takes place in the human mind. Thus it is a space for fantasy, though with physical and sometimes dangerous consequences.

This paper will address the forbidden expressions of human desire via technology. A case of catfishing, whereby a person creates a fictional profile to lure someone into a relationship, is offered to raise questions about the nature of the human self and the role it plays in deception.

Dr. Danielle Knafo:

Danielle Knafo, Ph.D., is a professor in the clinical psychology doctoral program at Long Island University, NY.

She is also faculty and supervisor at NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis.

She has written and lectured on numerous subjects, including psychoanalysis, art and the creative process, gender, sexuality, and perversion, trauma and psychosis, and technology. Her three most recent books are *Dancing with the Unconscious: The Art of Psychoanalysis and the Psychoanalysis of Art; The Age of Perversion: Desire and Technology in Psychoanalysis and Culture; and Sex, Drugs, and Creativity: Searching for Magic in a Disenchanted World*. Dr. Knafo maintains a private practice in Manhattan and Great Neck, NY.