



The  
**FRANCES TUSTIN**  
**Memorial Trust**

Dear colleagues,

Please share this email with your peers, colleagues and candidates in your institute/society, supervisees,

1. We are glad to announce **our new lecture in the Frances Tustin Memorial Trust's online lectures: the lecture will take place through zoom on Sunday, October the 15th, 2023, at 20:30, Israel time**, and will host, for the second time this year, Prof. Maria Rhode from London. The title of the lecture is:

### **Emotional factors in sense perception in children on the autistic spectrum**

**Abstract:** Frances Tustin described vividly the existential bodily terrors of children with autism, including falling, spilling out, and bodily mutilation. She also emphasized the fundamental importance for development of integrating masculine and feminine, and their precursors, hard and soft.

In this paper, I suggest that children on the autism spectrum, like other people, interpret their experience in terms of family models. This has nothing to do with the etiology of autism, but concerns the meaning that may be attributed to experiences with a variety of causes. I also suggest that there exists an "autistic" level of the Oedipus complex, concerned with bodily existential anxieties (in contrast to Freud's whole object Oedipus complex that concerns sexual identity, or Klein's part object level that concerns psychotic anxieties). This "autistic" Oedipus complex links with Britton's conceptualization of existential anxieties in borderline adults, with the additional feature of occurring on a bodily level. It can have important implications for the meaning attributed to the sensory hypersensitivity that is so often found in children with autism, and can contribute to understanding the confusion between the senses that can sometimes be observed clinically. Clinical vignettes illustrate the importance of primitive Oedipal constellations for the integration of the senses and for the capacity for self-reflection.

Prof. Maria Rhode's bio and picture are attached to this email.

**Registration is open till Wednesday, October the 11th, 2023, midnight, Israel time.** Please respect this deadline. The link to zoom will be sent on Saturday, October the 14th, 2023.

**For international registration** please click here: [International registrants](#)

**For Israeli registration** please click here: [Israeli registrants](#)

**2. The Annual Frances Tustin Memorial Lectureship day will take place on November 10th, 2023** at Tel Aviv University and you are all invited. Please save the date!

During this lectureship day **we will host Prof. Didier Houzel (France) and Prof. Dana Amir (Israel)**. Both are former receivers of the Frances Tustin Memorial Prize and their deep and original thinking will, for sure, make this day a very rich and interesting event. Very soon details will follow.

**3. We are glad to remind you that The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust's website has undergone a heavy renovation** so that its new format is very modern and user friendly and also fit for mobile devices. We encourage you to go and visit it. We still have to update a few things, but you can already get a view of what it contains, including the option to become members of the trust.

Here is the website address of the trust:

<https://www.frances-tustin-autism.org/>

**4. Save the date:**

**The 9th Frances Tustin International Conference will take place in Mumbai, India between September 19th - September 22nd, 2024. The Conference's theme is : Following Early Ruptures.** The conference will host leading lecturers and supervisors from various countries, all experts in primitive mental states, in general, and autistic defenses and disorders, in particular. This international event, is a joint project of The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust and the Indian Psychoanalytic Society, Mumbai chapter. The conference will enable us to deepen our theoretical and clinical understanding of developmental ruptures and their further evolution that are relevant for many professionals who work with both adults and children.

In addition to the professional program some tours and cultural events will be suggested for those interested in discovering Indian culture and way of life. Further details will be published later on.

Very warmly,

Alina Schellekes  
Chair of The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust;  
Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst,

Israel Psychoanalytic Society;  
Head of The Primitive Mental States Advanced Program,  
Program of Psychotherapy, Tel Aviv University