



The
FRANCES TUSTIN
Memorial Trust

and

Tel Aviv University
Sackler Faculty of Medicine
Program of Psychotherapy

Invite you to attend

The 24th Annual
Frances Tustin Memorial Lectureship

that will take place on

Friday November 5th, 2021, between 8:30 am-15:00 (Israel time)
at Tel Aviv University, Hall nr. 201, Sackler building and through
zoom

featuring

Shiri Ben Bassat (Israel)

The recipient of the 24th Frances Tustin Memorial Prize (2021)

Presenting her prize-winning paper:

**“War in times of love”- Prenatal cell relations as a
prototype of autistic anxieties, defenses and object relations**

with discussants: Jeff Eaton (USA) and Joshua (Shuki) Durban (Israel)

and an additional paper:

**The actual conception as a starting point of the psychic
preconceptions that will influence future unconscious phantasies
and object relations**

Shiri Ben Bassat is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst with the Israel Psychoanalytic Society. She supervises at Franz Brill Mental Health Center (Ramat Chen, Tel Aviv) and teaches in various programs in the Studying Center of The Israel Psychoanalytic Institute. Shiri previously studied biology and holds an MA degree in immunology.

Program Schedule:

8:00-8:30 – Registration (due to covid restrictions refreshments cannot be served, each participant is required to bring his own)

8:30-10:30 – First part – Chair: Alina Schellekes

Opening remarks: Alina Schellekes (Chair of The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust)

Dr. Merav Roth (Chair of The Psychotherapy Program, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University)

Lecture: Shiri Ben Bassat: “War in times of love”- Prenatal cell relations as a prototype of autistic anxieties, defenses and object relations

Abstract: In recent years, thanks to new biological studies, one can note with excitement how Tustin’s theoretical and clinical work concerning primitive anxieties captures, with astounding precision, what appears to be the experience of the embryo during the first three months of life. The embryo, which during this period is no more than a changing and developing mass of cells that lacks continuity, unity or a skin, must cope with two central tasks: withstanding the attack of its mother’s immune-system cells, while simultaneously adhering and continuing to proliferate and penetrate into the uterine lining cells. As a former immunologist and practicing psychoanalyst, I will attempt to formulate a neuro-immuno-psychoanalytic discourse. This discourse aims to expand our understanding of the resonances of those “traces” described by Bion – as made evident in the fears of falling and dissolving and in the defensive adherence to autistic objects and shapes so as to alleviate the anxiety of disintegration. To this end I will relate to recent biological-immunological findings through the lens of the analysis of a four-years-old girl and draw a connection between psychoanalytic thinking concerning primitive mental states and between the central insights obtained through embryological research and recent immunological findings, which tie autism to a dysfunction of the immune system in early pregnancy.

Discussants: Jeff Eaton (Graduate and Faculty Member of the Northwestern Psychoanalytic Society and Institute in Seattle, WA, USA)

Joshua (Shuki) Durban (Training and Supervising Child and Adult Psychoanalyst at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society and Institute)

10:30–11:00 – Coffee/zoom break

11:00–12:30 – Second part – Chair: Joshua (Shuki) Durban

Lecture: Shiri Ben Bassat: The actual conception as a starting point of the psychic preconceptions that will influence future unconscious phantasies and object relations

Abstract: Following Freud's statement, in 1920, that "biology is truly a land of unlimited possibilities" and that "we may expect it to give us the most surprising information", the relations between soma and psyche gradually came to occupy a central place in psychoanalytic thinking. Later contributions, from both psychoanalysis and biology, have contributed to an understanding of the body as a crucial factor in the constitution of normal and abnormal psychic development, further confirming Tustin's thinking about the links between the organic matrix and psychic patterns. In this lecture, I will argue that the connection between body and psyche exists from the moment of conception itself, as the starting point of both organic life and mental life – the time of becoming. At present, advanced 3-D technologies, gene-expression analysis and genetically engineered animal models enable us to gain a better understanding of the biological prenatal processes and the proto-mental prenatal processes entailed. I will suggest that central and fundamental psychic processes such as achieving a balance between life and death; between chaos, fragmentation, splitting and integration; between mantling and dismantling and between merging and differentiation, among others, start from the time of conception. Encoded in the constitution of the psyche, these processes will become the basis of our unconscious phantasies and of our future object relations. The variability of these processes underlies the uniqueness of every newborn, while their failures will leave traumatic vestiges, which will become evident in the course of analysis, especially when facing unrepresented primitive mental states.

Using 3-D animation films and electron microscope photos of this embryonic phase, I plan to accompany these assertions with images that analysts can bear in mind when encountering the traces of such primal, molecular trauma. This knowledge might enable analysts to better detect, understand, contain and interpret such traumatic prenatal states, so that they may be relived and transformed.

Discussion with the audience will be led by Joshua (Shuki) Durban

12:30–13:00 – Lunch/zoom break (participants are kindly requested to bring their own lunch)

13:00–15:00 – Third part – Chair: Joel Miller (Vice-chair of The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust, Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst at Israel Psychoanalytic Society)

Excerpts from the film “Life, Animated” will be screened. The film is a 2016 documentary based on Ron Suskind’s 2014 book Life, Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes and Autism, which tells the story of his son who struggled with autism and communicated through his love of Disney films.

Discussant of the film: Nechama Faber Ben Pazi (clinical psychologist, founder and director of the "In-School" Support System for Autistic Children and Youth (7-18) within the Treatment and Research Autism Center (TRAC) In Israel)

Discussion with the audience will be led by Joel Miller

Closing Remarks – Alina Schellekes

Registration for non-Israeli participants. Please click below on the relevant link:

[Registration to The 24th Annual Frances Tustin Memorial Lectureship - **University**](#)

[Registration to The 24th Annual Frances Tustin Memorial Lectureship - **Zoom**](#)

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Faculty of the Lectureship Day:

Alina Schellekes is the Chair of The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust. She is a supervising clinical psychologist and a training and supervising psychoanalyst at The Israel Psychoanalytic Society. She teaches and supervises at the Israel Psychoanalytic Institute; at The Psychotherapy Program, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University where she is the head of the Primitive Mental States advanced track of studies, which she initiated in 2007. In 2006 she received the Honorary Mention of the Phillis Meadow Award in New York for excellence in psychoanalytical writing. In November 2008 she received in Los Angeles the 12th Frances Tustin Memorial Prize for her paper: "The Dread of Falling and Dissolving – further thoughts". Her main topics of interest, both in her publications (in Hebrew, English, Italian and Portuguese) and in her teaching, focus on the understanding of primitive mental states, void existence, unrepresented states of mind, hypochondria, psychosomatic states, day dreaming, the concept of double, therapeutic excess.

Dr. Merav Roth is a clinical psychologist, a training and supervising psychoanalyst at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society and a researcher of psychoanalysis and culture. She is the chair of the Psychotherapy Program, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, and the former chair of the interdisciplinary doctoral program in psychoanalysis and the former founder and chair of the post graduate Klein studies, both belonging to the Psychotherapy Program at Tel-Aviv University. Together with Joshua Durban, Roth edited and wrote the preface and introductions to the book "Melanie Klein – essential papers II" (Tel Aviv: Book-Worm, 2013) and recently published her book "Reading the Reader – a Psychoanalytic Perspective on Reading Literature", (London and New-York: Routledge books, 2020). Roth has also published various chapters in books and papers (both in English and in Hebrew) on psychoanalysis, literature and trauma.

Shiri Ben Bassat is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst with the Israel Psychoanalytic Society. She supervises at Franz Brill Mental Health Center (Ramat Chen, Tel Aviv) and teaches in various programs in the Studying Center of The Israel Psychoanalytic Institute. Shiri previously studied biology and holds an MA degree in immunology. She is the recipient of The 24th Frances Tustin Memorial Prize in 2021.

Jeffrey L. Eaton, MA, FIPA, is a graduate and faculty member of the Northwestern Psychoanalytic Society and Institute in Seattle, WA, USA. In 2006 he received the Frances Tustin Memorial Trust Lecture Prize. He is author of A Fruitful Harvest: Essays after Bion and many chapters in edited collections. He has been Margaret Jarvie Memorial Lecturer at The University of Edinburgh and Beeta Rank Memorial Lecturer at Boston Psychoanalytic Society. In 2017 he was International Guest Lecturer for The Australian Psychoanalytic Society. For over a decade he was Senior Consulting Psychotherapist for Gunawirra Foundation in New South Wales providing consultation to psychotherapists working with at risk Aboriginal children and mother-infant groups. He also spent many years as an Instructor and Consultant for the Alliance Community Psychotherapy Clinic, a program providing psychoanalytic psychotherapy to chronically mentally ill adults.

Joshua (Shuki) Durban is a training and supervising child and adult psychoanalyst at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society and Institute where he also teaches. He is on the faculty of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, The Psychotherapy Program, Primitive Mental States track and the Post-Graduate Kleinian Studies track. He is the scientific co-editor (with Dr. Meirav Roth) of the Hebrew edition of the collected works of Melanie Klein. He is a member of the IPA inter-committee for the prevention of child abuse. He serves as an advisor and supervisor for national and international projects on the subject. He works in private practice in Tel-Aviv with children, adolescents and adults and specializes in the psychoanalysis of ASD and psychotic children and adults. His papers were printed in journals such as: IJPA, Psyche, The Journal of Child Psychotherapy, Free Associations, Ethos and The American Journal of Psychotherapy. His work was translated into French, German, Spanish and Portuguese. He has also contributed chapters to several books on mourning, on trauma, on evil, on ghosts in the consulting room, on the role and training of physicians, on refugees and on autism.

Joel Miller is the Vice-chair of The Frances Tustin Memorial Trust. He is a supervising clinical psychologist, a 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 Psychotherapy, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, in its core program and in the Primitive Mental States advanced track of studies. He teaches and supervises at the Winnicott Center in Israel, in the advanced studies program as well as in the new program for Educationalists. He has a private practice in Kfar Saba where he does supervision, psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy with children, adolescents and adults.

Nechama Faber Ben Pazi is a clinical psychologist, founder and director of the "In-School" Support System for Autistic Children and Youth (7-18) within the Treatment and Research Autism Center (TRAC) In Israel. She is founder of a two-year program in Psychoanalytic-Developmental Writings dealing with Autism for the TRAC psychotherapists. She is teacher in the Primitive Mental States Track of advanced studies at The Program of Psychotherapy, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University. She is in private practice in Modiin, Israel.

The Psychotherapy Program, Academic Center of Continuous Medical Education, Sackler Faculty 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; six advanced tracks of continuing studies and a special program for PhD studies in psychoanalysis; a one-year study framework in psychodynamic psychotherapy for professionals in the medical and para-medical fields. **Head of the Program: Dr. Merav Roth.** For information on The Psychotherapy Program please visit its website: <https://med.tau.ac.il/psychotherapy>

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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