

# Presence & Absence



Brussels in-person and online  
5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

8<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN  
**PSYCHOANALYTIC**  
CONFERENCE FOR  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS





# Presence & Absence

Psychoanalytic theories of the emergence of the mind are based on a dichotomy of presence and absence of the (m)other. The ability to represent the object as a whole object and the capacity for experiencing oneself as a separate individual, with ambivalent properties, is required for a person to be able to be alive and in touch – with himself and potentially with the other – in the *presence* of the other.

Psychoanalysis also underlines the importance of frustration (the *absence* of pleasure and gratification) for the development of thought. We know that unbearable absence and intolerable frustration affect the growing mind in potentially catastrophic ways.

A good enough-balance between the *presence* of the benevolent, interested object **and** *absence* of this gratifying object (optimal frustration) – will over time foster the potential capacity to both be present with another and handle the other's absence – while keeping the other in mind.

How are these concepts discussed in different psychoanalytical perspectives? How are the themes of presence and absence elaborated in the clinical setting? And how does the digital era affect our understanding and experiences of presence and absence?

On behalf of the European Psychoanalytical Federation  
Martin Teising, Mercedes Puchol, Charlotta Björklind

# Programme

## Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

- 18:00 Arrival and registration
- 18:30 **Welcome address** by [Charlotta Björklind](#), [Mercedes Puchol](#) and [Martin Teising](#)
- 18:45-20:15 **Why is Irma sleeping? On the analyst's counter-transference and reverie** by [Maria Yassa](#)
- 20:30 Reception and get-together with drinks and food

## Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

- 09:00-10:30 **The Presence of Trauma and the Experience of Horror in the Therapeutic Relationship** by [Michael Günter](#)
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00-12:30 **Presence and Absence: caesuras in medically assisted procreation** by [Katy Bogliatto](#)
- 12:30-13:45 Lunch
- 13:45-15:15 Discussion groups
- 15:30-17:00 **What comes to be presented on a backdrop of absence \*** by [Patrick Miller](#)

- 17:00-17:30 Coffee Break
- 17:30-19:00 **A psychoanalytic view of the erotic and the obscene** by [Laura Ezquerro](#)

## Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

- 09:00-10:30 **The presence and the absence of the good object** by [Alexander Uskov](#)
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00-12:30 **Forms of presence and absence in a digital age** by [Charlotta Björklind](#)
- 12:30-13:45 Lunch
- 13:45-15:15 **Reflections on Remote Analysis, the Psychoanalytic Frame and the Consequences of the Corona Pandemic** by [Bernd Pütz](#)
- 15:15-15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45-17:15 Discussion groups
- 17:15-18:00 Information on training, closing remarks

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\* Due to confidentiality reasons, this presentation will be available only to in-person participants.

## Presenters

**Charlotta Björklind** is a training analyst and adult- and child psychoanalyst, member of the Swedish Psychoanalytical Association. She works in private practice with adults, adolescents and children, and as a lecturer at Stockholm University. She was a member of the previous EPF executive and until recently director of training of the Swedish Psychoanalytical Institute.

Dr **Katy Bogliatto** is a child psychiatrist, training psychoanalyst of the Belgian Psychoanalytical Society. Teaches at the Free University of Brussels: "Certificate of Infanto-Juvenile Psychotherapy Program" and "Certificate of Family Diversity and Couple" and at GECFAPPE (training on parent-baby-psychotherapy). She works in private practice & in the medical assisted reproduction service Chirec Hospital Brussels.

**Laura Ezquerro** is a psychoanalyst, member of the Madrid Psychoanalytic Association (APM). For years her research has focused on the articulation between Society, Art and Psychoanalysis. She has made several presentations and publications in different countries about the "Body" as a transmitter of our cultural heritage and as a scenario in the reconstruction of neo-identities. In 2021 she has created, together with S. Vassilev, a research group composed by colleagues from different regions around the theme of Transhumanism and Technosubjectivities. She is also part of the teaching team working and researching in collaboration with the Beijing Mental Health Hospital on the theme of "Cyberspace and the psyche".

Prof. Dr. **Michael Günter** is Training Analyst, Child and Adolescent Analyst (DPV/IPA) and Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. He has been Head of the Department for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Klinikum Stuttgart until 2022 and is now working in private practice and as expert witness.

**Patrick Miller** is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst based in Paris, a founding member of S.P.R.F (Société Psychanalytique de Recherche et de Formation). He is also an IPA training and supervising analyst, and a member of C.A.P.S. (Princeton). Patrick Miller is also the author of "Le Psychanalyste pendant la séance" (2001) and "Driving Soma, a transformational process in the analytic encounter" (2014) and has contributed to many other publications.

**Mercedes Puchol** is a clinical psychologist, full member and training psychoanalyst of Madrid Psychoanalytical Association (APM-IPA) and current president of APM. Works in private practice in Madrid with adults, children and adolescents.

**Bernd Pütz**, psychologist, practicing in Frankfurt am Main, since 2018 training analyst of the Frankfurt Psychoanalytic Institute, since 2020 member of the executive board of the German Psychoanalytical Association (DPV), since 2022 director of training of the DPV. Work focus: theory of treatment technique and the psychoanalytic frame.

**Martin Teising**, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, training analyst of the German Psychoanalytic Association (DPV), Past President of the DPV, Past President of the International Psychoanalytic University Berlin, European Representative in the Board of the International Psychoanalytic Association 2015-2019. Many publications.

**Alexander Uskov** is a training analyst of the Moscow Psychoanalytic Society (MPS), one of the founders and past-president of the MPS (2011-15). He is the author of a number of clinical and theoretical papers presented at annual conferences of the MPS and at conferences of the European Psychoanalytic Federation.

**Maria Yassa** is a training, teaching and supervising psychoanalyst and also a child- and adolescent psychoanalyst and a member of the Swedish Psychoanalytical Association. She works in private practice with adults, adolescents and children and has presented several papers during EPF conferences and has published in Swedish and international journals.

# General Information

8<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN  
**PSYCHOANALYTIC**  
CONFERENCE FOR  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



This conference is of interest for university students and recent graduates, especially in medicine, psychology and other cultural or language sciences.

All presentations will be in English.

The conference is held from Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October - Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2023.

Two possibilities to participate in the conference are offered:

- participating in-person at the EPF House in Brussels
- participation online

The fee of 30€ is the same for in-person participants at EPF House in Brussels and online participants.

The information about conference registration and payment is available on the EPF website **[www.epf-fep.eu](http://www.epf-fep.eu)**.

For further information, please contact Frank Goderniaux: [frank.goderniaux@epf-fep.eu](mailto:frank.goderniaux@epf-fep.eu), Martin Teising: [teising@t-online.de](mailto:teising@t-online.de), Mercedes Puchol: [mpuchol@futurnet.es](mailto:mpuchol@futurnet.es), or Charlotta Björklind: [charlottabjorklind@hotmail.com](mailto:charlottabjorklind@hotmail.com)

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## European Psychoanalytical Federation

This conference is organized by the EPF, the European Psychoanalytical Federation. It unites approximately 5500 analysts from all over Europe and some other countries.

It is a non-profit organization, fully independent and fully self-supporting. Its major aim is to promote psychoanalysis and organizes many activities such as yearly conferences.

For further information please have a look at the EPF website:

**[www.epf-fep.eu](http://www.epf-fep.eu)**



The EPF House Brussels



5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

For all students and recent graduates in psychology, medicine and other fields who want to know more about psychoanalytic theory and practice.



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