



Australian and New Zealand Society of Jungian Analysts

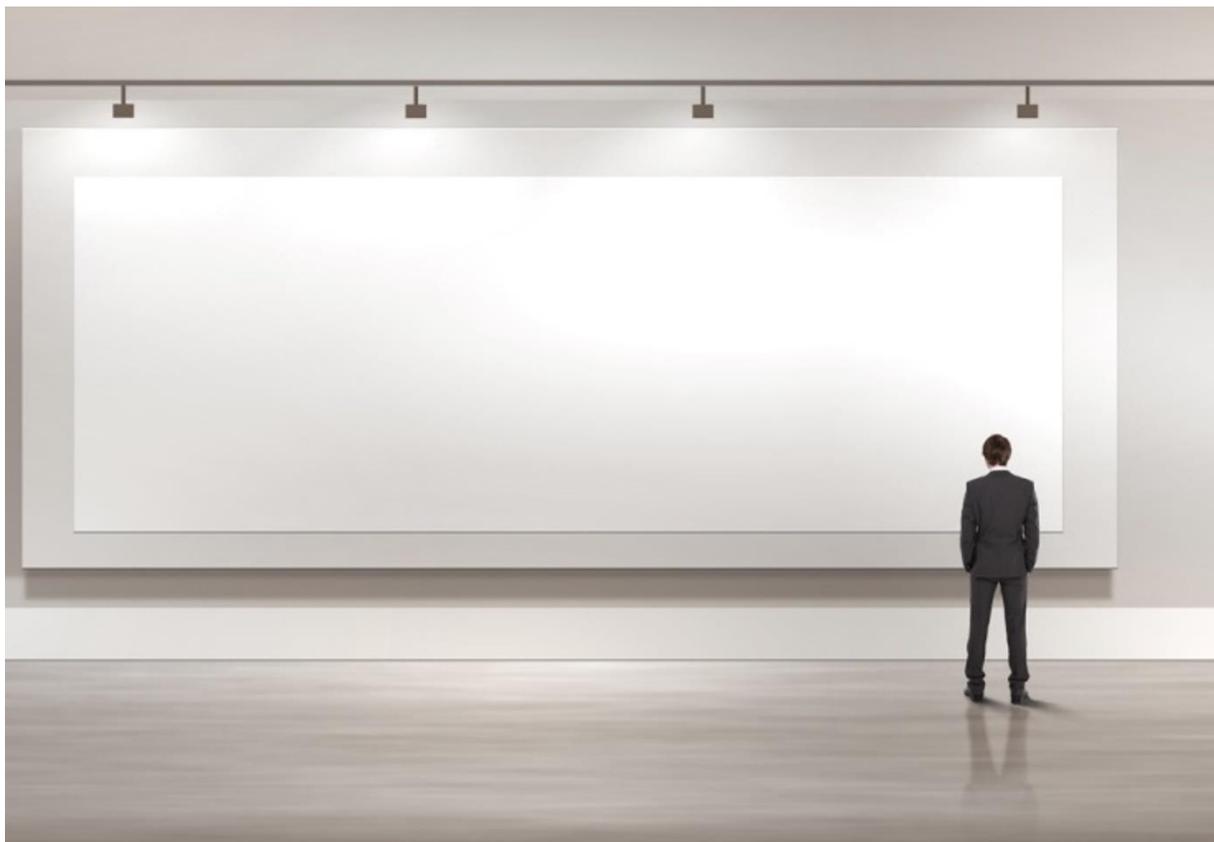
Invitation to Mental Health Professionals

Understanding and Working with Disruptions in Symbolic Capacity in Jungian Analysis

Saturday 3rd December 2022

Zoom

9.00am – 12.00pm AEDT



This presentation includes an overview of symbolic capacity in Jungian psychology. What is symbolic capacity? What are symbols? Why is symbolic capacity important to Jungian analysis? How is symbolic capacity related to imagination, dreaming, and creativity? How is the transcendent function involved?

Additionally, we will examine the origins of disruptions in symbolic capacity. What causes disruption in symbolic capacity? What early experiences disrupt the formation of symbolic capacity? How does trauma impact symbolic capacity? What are the characteristics of disrupted symbolic capacity?

An overview of Wilfred Bion's model of psychological functioning and how it can be used to work with disruptions in symbolic capacity. Concepts covered will include: beta elements, alphas function, alpha elements, maternal reverie, and the container/contained model.

There will also be emphasis on the analyst's use of reverie in the treatment of patients with disruption of symbolic capacity with particular attention to imagining what the patient cannot imagine, as well as the use interpretation of non-verbal, non-symbolized psychic experience.

The conceptual material will be illustrated with case examples of patients with disrupted symbolic capacity.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Bonomi, Carlo (2004). Trauma and the Symbolic Function of the Mind. *Int. Forum Psychoanal.*, **13**(1/2):45-50

Margaret M. Browning (2019). Our Symbolic Minds: What Are They Really?, *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, **88**:1, 25-52

Bovensiepen, Gustav (2002). Symbolic attitude and reverie: Problems of symbolization in children and adolescents. *Journal of Analytical Psychology* **47**:241-257

Willemsen, H. (2014). Early Trauma and Affect: The Importance of the Body for the Development of the Capacity to Symbolize. *Journal of Analytical Psychology* **59**:695-712

