

Invitation to a seminar:

“The Work of Christopher Bollas”

led by Sarah Nettleton
(British Psychoanalytical Association)

Christopher Bollas has made an extraordinarily wide contribution to the field of contemporary psychoanalysis. His work covers theory, clinical technique and psychopathology. He has also applied his unique understanding of the mind to fields such as literature, architecture, history, social anthropology and politics, and he has written three novels and a volume of plays.

Expanding on the legacy of Freud, Winnicott and Bion, his work brings together normality and pathology, exploring the complex inter-relationship between the private, internal, subjective world and the world of external objects.

This seminar will introduce Bollas's innovative metapsychology, exploring many of the theoretical concepts that he has developed over the past half century. Clinical material will be used to illustrate his innovative way of working with free association.

Topics include:

1. The Receptive Unconscious

Repression & the receptive unconscious; psychic genera; unconscious perception, unconscious creativity and unconscious communication; maternal & paternal orders.

2. Human Idiom

Idiom as kernel of self; processional knowledge: the unthought known; psychic form & psychic content; self-presentation & self representation; intersubjectivity & interformality.

3. The Evocative Object

The aesthetic moment; the transformational object; the elaboration of idiom; the aleatory object; object use as a form of thinking.

4. Free Association

Networks of the unconscious; sequential logic ; psychic focus & psychic dissemination; the infinite question; the Freudian echo

***Sarah Nettleton** is a psychoanalyst in private practice in London. Originally she studied music, working for many years as a piano accompanist, and for her Masters dissertation at the Tavistock Clinic she wrote on the psychodynamics of musical giftedness. Her more recent work includes papers on Schubert's song cycle Winterreise, on the effects of sound and voice in Beckett, and on the relationship between voice, creativity and metaphor. For the past 20 years she has been the editor of Christopher Bollas's books, and she has taught his work extensively both in the UK and around the world. Her own book The Metapsychology of Christopher Bollas: an Introduction was published by Routledge in 2017, and is available in English, French, Portuguese, Italian, Polish and Farsi.*