

Decolonising Psychoanalysis Seminars

Occupying Psychoanalysis in a Post-Colonial World: Fanon's 'zone of nonbeing' and the subject of racism

Gautam Basu Thakur (speaker) with Sharon Numa (respondent)



Saturday 23rd April 2022, 3:00pm - 5:00pm GMT

Online seminar £12 - £24 - [Tickets Here](#)

This is the second in a series of seminars on **Decolonising Psychoanalysis**, organised by the Race and Culture Committee of the Guild of Psychotherapists. The series is intended to open up conversations about psychoanalysis by initiating Transatlantic Dialogues between academics and psychotherapists, bringing clinical responses to their academic decolonial work. How will clinicians speak to those concepts from the standpoint of their practice? And how can we use these ideas to think about subjectivity, development, racial trauma and so on?

Abstract of Gautam Basu Thakur's Paper

Few psychoanalysts have addressed the topics of race and racism in their writing or teaching. It is my contention, however, that Freudian-Lacanian theories of subjectivity, desire, enjoyment and fantasy offer us critical opportunities for re-imagining the function and form of race, racism and xenophobia in our contemporary world.

But this exercise remains incomplete without including Fanon – Fanon adds to and unravels the limits of psychoanalytic theories examining racialized subjectivity in colonial and white-majority societies.

Speaking to Fanon's relevance in our divisive partisan world, this talk will underline how Fanon's analysis of racial identification and race relations in *Black Skin, White Masks* allows us to build an understanding of racism in terms of a collective fantasy mediating the racist subject's relation to the racial other. The racialized other exists in a 'zone of non-being' (Fanon) and a state of radical negativity, but is represented in racist discourse as a figure of illicit/excessive enjoyment (jouissance). As an object of both envy and desire, the racial other is experienced as an impediment to the racist subject's ability to gain his own satisfaction (social, economic, sexual) and as such this other must be erased or confined (socially, economically, sexually). This paradoxical condition vitiates race relations and infects the psychology of both 'blacks' and 'whites.'

For speakers' biographies, further event details and tickets please visit our EventBrite [here](#)

Ticket-holders will have access to a recording of the seminar for a month after the event.