



College of Psychoanalysts – UK
International Conference, University of Manchester, 26-27 June 2017

ISLAMIC PSYCHOANALYSIS / PSYCHOANALYTIC ISLAM

First call for papers

This international conference brings together scholars – including in critical psychology, cultural studies and political theory – and practitioners of psychoanalytic and group-analytic approaches to psychotherapy and counselling. We will explore the relationship between the clinic and culture in the contemporary world focusing on the challenge that Islam poses for psychoanalytic theory and practice, and the response of psychoanalysts to Islamic theory and practice. The conference locates this critical project in the context of a series of historical transformations in the development of Freudian and post-Freudian work, transformations that continue to underpin psychoanalytic debate. The first stage began with a question about the role of Judaism and Jewish history in the formation of Freud's own work and dialogue with his followers and co-researchers in central Europe. The second continues with a question over the supposed Christianisation of psychoanalysis after Freud and the secularisation of the practice in the so-called Judeo-Christian tradition in the West. The third stage follows a time of the globalisation and fragmentation of the psychoanalytic movement, resistance to colonisation and post-colonial critique, and is one in which we might either conceive of the end of psychoanalysis or its renewal with Islam. In each case the crucial questions concern the form of each rather than the content of their ideas about reality. This is a call for proposals for papers to be presented at a conference on the following themes:

- In place of attempts to render Islam amenable to psychoanalytic interpretation, how might we understand the significance of Islam for psychoanalysis today?
- What might an 'Islamic psychoanalysis' look like that accompanies and questions the forms of psychoanalysis that developed in the West?
- What might a 'psychoanalytic Islam' look like that speaks for while perhaps even transforming the forms of truth that Islam produces?
- What are the lessons of the encounter between psychoanalysis and Islam for clinical practice and cultural critique in and beyond the West?
- What bearing does this debate have on the identity of those positioned as 'Muslims' or 'psychoanalysts' in times of Islamophobia and professionalisation?

The international conference organised by the College of Psychoanalysts – UK with the support of Manchester Psychoanalytic Matrix and CIDRAL University of Manchester promises to function as a site for dialogue. It will be an opportunity to speak across the many conflicting traditions of work that comprise psychoanalysis, and of different interpretations of Islam and what it is to be a Muslim today. Abstracts of between 200 and 250 words together with an indication of the conference theme to be addressed should be submitted to the organisers before 31 January 2017: cpukconference@gmail.com