

PA Seminars on the Maternal

The maternal is not a new topic in British psychoanalysis with its emphasis on the mother-infant dyad. The PA has more often sought to offer a critique of psychoanalytic theories of the maternal which tend towards a conceptualisation and theorisation of child development and early life, where the mother is largely silent, and yet an 'object' to be left behind in order to reach some form of autonomy and adulthood. And yet, the maternal as a subject remains at the core of the clinical work we do, as well as entangled with the PA's early history.

Background:

The conception of the seminars on the maternal came about as a part of a wider project, a Maternal Studies Group- which it is hoped we might get going at the PA-if there is enough interest. We envisage this as including seminars, conversations on practice and theory, from as many perspectives as possible- art- film- writing research- discussion- clinical work, philosophy.

In other words opening up -or offering a space to make these things available to those who might be interested. The hope with the seminars is to open up a conversation which would be an introduction to the project. If it proves that a lively debate on the subject is possible within the PA, our ambition is to then open it up beyond the PA with members hopefully involved.

Rosalind Mayo & Christina Moutsou