



neuropsychoanalysis

## Next Psychodynamic Neuroscience Research meeting of Autumn 2015:

**ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015, 6 pm, at [UCL BEDFORD WAY](#), ROOM 305 (note the new venue)**

As you know by now, a Neuropsychoanalysis Group has been formed in London with special emphasis on psychodynamic neuroscience and neuropsychology research. Now in its eighth year, it usually meets at 6:00 pm on the first Thursday (and less frequently on the first or second Wednesday or Thursday) of each month of the academic calendar.

This interdisciplinary group is modelled on the many other successful NPSA groups that exist internationally. The aim is to provide a venue for clinicians and researchers with an interest in Neuropsychoanalysis and Psychodynamic Neuroscience. The Group also functions as a base for exchanging professional news, enhancing interdisciplinary careers and forming clinical and research collaborations. Each meeting consists of a presentation of neuroscientific research or a psychoanalytically-informed clinical work with neurological patients, followed by extensive discussion by the group.

This meeting will take place at UCL, [26 Bedford Way](#) (north corner), in room 305 on the third floor. Bedford Way will remain our venue throughout 2015.

**CHRISTMAS IS CLOSE! SUPPORT NPSA!**  
**BRING SOME CHANGE TO BUY BRAIN-THEMED CHRISTMAS CARDS**  
**(1 CARD=£2; 3 CARDS=£5; 6 CARDS=£10 - STUDENTS: 10 CARDS=£10)!**

## DAVIDE TOMATIS

Dept of Functional Rehabilitation, Mauriziano Umberto I Hospital, Turin

### Working in the moment: margin of success for coma patients in Minimally Conscious State

Abstract: Too often Minimally Conscious State (MCS) patients are not considered as treatable due to the difficulty in recognising and reading the essential minimal changes in a patient. Prof. Cecilia Morosini worked with patients in this condition and she would have agreed with Mark Solms' paper "The conscious Id" (Solms, 2013) that the brain stem can be considered as the base of consciousness. She also believed that brain plasticity can be transferred from the rehabilitators to the patients if the rehabilitators are able to understand the smallest communicative signals from the patients due to psychoanalytic empathy. This work is about psychotherapy treatment with brain injured patients from the Associazione Elice in Milan (Italy). In this particular case, the psychotherapist uses the Gestalt method and she is inspired by the Prof. Morosini ideas and by the Daniel Stern's 'now-moments' theory. We believe that it is very important to pay attention to the little interactions that, when they are seen and recognised, can turn into 'moments of meeting' and enhance the possibility of change. We

will show a clinical case with a patient in a MCS that is unable to speak and needs a different way to communicate. We chose to use affective touch, physical and eye contact to find a way to reawaken his sense of self through the expression of emotions in the therapeutic relationship. Working with MCS patients allows us to study the plasticity of the brain at its roots. We believe that the research into the MCS is today at the forefront of Neuropsychanalysis study.

*Short Bio:* **Davide Tomatis** is a psychologist and a psychoanalytical psychotherapist. He works privately and as a consulting psychologist at the Mauriziano Umberto I Hospital in Turin (Italy) in the Department of Functional Rehabilitation of brain injured people. In this particular field, he also works with the Associazione Elice and the Fondazione Morosini in Milan. As a member of the International Neuropsychanalysis Society, he's interested in the relationship between neuroscience and psychoanalysis, in particular in rehabilitation and psychotherapy for brain injured people.

**Future talks (lasting an hour or so):** Thurs 4 February: [Eamon McCrory](#); Thurs 24 March: [Mark Solms](#)

**Books:** Look out for *From the Couch to the Lab: Trends in Psychodynamic Neuroscience*. Eds. A. Fotopoulou, D. Pfaff and M.A. Conway Oxford University Press. Published in March 2012  
NB. The Editors' royalties have been donated to the charity that supports this Group.

If you read this for the first time, and are interested in joining or visiting this group, please contact: **Dr Katerina Fotopoulou** at [a.fotopoulou@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.fotopoulou@ucl.ac.uk), providing 2-3 lines indicating your discipline and the nature of your interest, and feel free to tell your friends and colleagues about the group! Suggestions about topics or format are welcome.

If, as we hope, you are moved to forward this notice to colleagues, and especially to any departments or institutions you are affiliated with, we would be very grateful to know where it has been sent so we can track these efforts in spreading the word about the meeting.

**Thank you...The Admin Team**

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website: [www.npsa-association.org](http://www.npsa-association.org)