

Between Hours/Interdisciplinary Dialogues
Toronto Psychoanalytic Society

22nd ANNUAL DAY IN APPLIED PSYCHOANALYSIS

SATURDAY, September 18, 2021 [9:20AM TO 2:30PM]

A Zoom Conference Event

(online participation only, pre-registration is required)



Strangers in a Virtual Land

The Impact of Disembodied Relatedness on Psychic Development and the Sense of Self

A day of dialogue with literary, socio-cultural, and psychoanalytic thinkers

Christine Anzieu-Premmereur Child & Adult Psychoanalyst (New York)

Alice Quinn Editor, *Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic*

Vijay Seshadri Poet (New York), whose poetry collection, *3 Sections*, won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry

Clara Nemas Child & Adolescent Psychoanalyst (Buenos Aires)

Beth Coleman Associate Professor, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology, U of T

The global pandemic hurled all of us into a virtual world, wherein a two-dimensional sense of instant contact masks the loss of real connection with each other. What does it mean to occupy

this strange land? What impact does it have on the shape of our inner world, on our sense of Self and Other, and on our own limits? Mourning and dislocation have been prevalent in discussions around this shared global experience and our accommodation to it. But could our arrival also be a boon, providing a window into the techno-centric lives of today's children and adolescents whose world is already so "virtual?"

This symposium brings together speakers from different disciplines to explore the ongoing psychological tension between our growing reliance on the virtual world to communicate, work, memorize, and play, and the loss of embodied relatedness that would bring us into contact with the emotional vitality of self and the other and the bounds of reality so necessary for psychological growth. Do avatars act as gateways or serve a 'second skin' function? What might facilitate more fluid in-and-out movement permitting deeper connectivity? The poet, Paula Meehan, asks, "What is the poet's role in the age in which the responsibility for memory has been handed to the machine?" And what are the implications of being immersed in this ever-evolving mode of virtual relating on our sense of identity, relationships, and on the structuring of the mind itself?

The panel, comprising poetic interlocutors, thinkers at the cultural-technological-communications interface, and psychoanalysts working with the inner worlds of children, adolescents and adults through this pandemic year of confinement, will strive to put words to this enigmatic experience we have shared and bring for discussion their thoughts on the experience of estrangement, longing, innovation, bewilderment, and loss, particular to being in this time of contrived virtual relating and in the face of rapid technological advancement.

The morning panel brings together New York child and adult psychoanalyst, Christine Anzieu-Premmereur MD, New York poet, Vijay Seshadri, and former *New Yorker* poetry editor, Alice Quinn, whose anthology, *Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic*, was published last year. In this urgent outpouring of American voices, America's poets, from their shelter in place, speak to our collective fear, grief, and hope from diverse individual perspectives.

The afternoon panel presents Clara Nemas MD, child and adolescent psychoanalyst (Buenos Aires), whose work with children's inner experience through this time will be in generative dialogue with that of Beth Coleman, Associate Professor of Data & Cities at the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology and Faculty of Information, University of Toronto. Professor Coleman is an artist, electronic music composer, and author of *Hello, Avatar: Rise of the Networked Generation*, an examination of our many modes of online identity and how we live on the continuum between the virtual and the real.



Christine Anzieu-Premmereur MD is an adult and child psychiatrist and psychoanalyst. Member of the Société Psychanalytique de Paris and at New York Psychoanalytic Institute, she is faculty of the Columbia University Psychoanalytic Center, where she directs the Parent-Infant Training Program. She published "The Process of Representation in Early Childhood," "Attacks on Linking in Parents of Young Disturbed Children", "A Psychoanalytic Exploration of the Body in Today's Psychoanalysis", in French on play in child psychotherapy and on psychoanalytic interventions with parents and babies.

Vijay Seshadri is the author of *Wild Kingdom* (1996); *The Long Meadow* (2003), which won the James Laughlin Award; and *3 Sections* (2013), which won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, and, most recently, *That Was Now, This Is Then* (2020). The Pulitzer committee described *3 Sections* as a "compelling collection of poems that examine human consciousness, from birth to dementia, in a voice that is by turns, witty and grave, compassionate and remorseless."

Vijay Seshadri has received fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the NEA, and the Guggenheim Foundation. He has worked as an editor at *The New Yorker* and has taught at Sarah Lawrence College, where he currently directs the graduate non-fiction writing program.





Alice Quinn, Editor, *Together in a Sudden Strangeness:*

America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic, is one of America's most accomplished poetry editors, including poetry editor of *The New Yorker* from 1987 to 2007. Adjunct Professor at Columbia University's graduate School of the Arts. She is the editor of a book of Elizabeth Bishop's writings, *Edgar Allan Poe & The Juke-Box: Uncollected Poems, Drafts, and Fragments*, as well as a forthcoming book of Bishop's journals.



Clara Nemas MD is a training and supervising analyst of the Buenos Aires Psychoanalytic Association (APdeBA), Child and Adolescent psychoanalyst, member of FEPAL (Latin American Psychoanalytic Federation) and of the IPA (International Psychoanalytic Association). Dr. Nemas maintains a full-time private practice in Buenos Aires and was Vice-president and Scientific Secretary of the APdeBA, where she chairs the Department of Kleinian Developments and a seminar on Meltzer's ideas. She is chair for Latin America for the 2021 IPAC on The infantile, it's multiple dimensions, Member of the IPA China Committee and the IPA Asian Pacific Committee. She has published numerous papers on ethics, psychoanalytic theory, and clinical technique in working with adolescents and is currently involved in teaching Kleinian

Beth Coleman PhD is Associate Professor of Data & Cities at the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology and Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, where she directs the City as Platform lab and connects the disciplines of Science and Technology Studies and Critical Race Theory. She is the author of *Hello Avatar: Rise of the Networked Generation*, a book exploring such network activities as embodiment, extreme (virtual) violence, and the work in virtual reality labs. Her research affiliations include the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University; Microsoft Research; and New York's Data & Society Institute. Her previous academic positions include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of Waterloo. An artist and technologist who creates public, civic, and poetic works, Beth has exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New Museum of Contemporary Art, and Musée d'Art moderne Paris.



Program

- 9:20 Welcome and Introductions, Vivienne Pasioka PhD, Chair
- 9:30 **Christine Anzieu-Premmereur MD**
- 10:00 **Alice Quinn and Vijay Seshadri**
- 10:30 Coffee Break (10 minutes)
- 10:40 Dialogue between speakers
- 11:00 Open Discussion with Audience

- 11:30 Lunch break (30 mins)

- 12:00 **Clara Nemas MD**
- 12:30 **Beth Coleman PhD**
- 1:00 Coffee Break (10 minutes)
- 1:10 Dialogue between speakers
- 1:30 Open Panel and Audience Discussion
- 2:30 Closing Remarks

Registration

On-line: torontopschoanalysis.com

Or email: info@torontopschoanalysis.com

Early Registration (before August 1, 2021) \$125
(after August 1, 2021) \$140

Full-Time Students \$75 (Proof of 2021/22 status in universities/colleges required) early bird, or \$90 after August 1.

Registration deadline: September 13, 2021.

This event is eligible for Section 1 CME credits (0.5 credits/hour)

Refunds must be requested in writing 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the event, after which fees cannot be returned. A handling fee of \$30 will be retained.



Organizing Committee *Vivienne Pasioka, PhD Chair,
Gavril Hercz MD, Karen Dougherty MA, Simran Chahal MA*

Cover Image by Beth Coleman