**VPSG Scientific Meeting**

**April 21, 2021 7:30-9 pm**

**Moderator: Sharon Dennett**

**\*\*\*Zoom Link\*\***

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9625583344>

Meeting ID is:  962 558 3344

Please sign in at 7:25 pm

**\*\*\***Papers Attached**\*\***

 **Where Oedipus was, Pleasure shall be.**

 **An evening with Cordelia Schmidt-Hellerau.**

Commonly the Oedipus complex is understood according to the mythological formula of “boy loves mother and wants to kill father”. However, the difficulties of this important developmental phase in everybody’s early life are much more intricate. Failures to master the mental challenges they raise, reside in our patients’ unconscious and restrict the experience of pleasure in their mature life and sexuality. This presentation will *not* discuss the pertinent literature about the Oedipus Complex. Instead, the presentation will elaborate on essential elements of the child’s challenges in the Oedipal phase aiming at sensitizing the clinician’s perception for the derivatives of their persisting conflicts and fixations as they occur in the analytic session. This will be a clinically relevant conversation for contemporary analysts who are wanting to keep the classical concepts alive in their work.

We request that you read these two papers as background:

Schmidt-Hellerau, C. (2005) The Other Side of Oedipus, Psychoanalytic Quarterly, 74, 187-217.

Additional Reading:

Schmidt-Hellerau, C. (2008) The Lethic Phallus: Rethinking the Misery of Oedipus, Psychoanalytic Quarterly, 77, 719-753.

Additional fun reading if you are interested:

Schmidt-Hellerau, C. (2020) Memory’s Eyes. A New York Oedipus Novel. New York, IPBooks.

(available for free on Kindle)

ISC Members:

Johanna Boyce, Chair ISC

Sharon Dennett, Program Co-Chair

Mina Levinsky-Wohl, Program Co-Chair

Sandra Howell, Secretary

Judy Lewis, Member

**Bio**

Cordelia Schmidt-Hellerau, Ph.D., is a Training and Supervising Analyst of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute and the Swiss Psychoanalytic Society. She has published numerous papers and three books on metapsychology with a special focus on drive theory, clinical issues and applied psychoanalysis. Her 2018 publication of *Driven to Survive* was a finalist of the American Board & Academy of Psychoanalysis Book Prize. Most recently she has published *Memory’s Eyes. A New York Oedipal Novel* (2019, IPBooks). Since 2017 she is the Chair of the IPA in Culture Committee. She works in private practice in Chestnut Hill MA.

Cordelia was also one of our two original site visitors from the IPA in 2008 when we made application to the IPA to become a study group in Vermont and has been a valued adjunct supervisor in our formal VPSG psychoanalytic training program.

**Confidentiality Statement**

Ensuring the confidentiality of all clinical material presented at our meetings is of the utmost importance to the VPSG.   Attendance is contingent on an agreement to adhere to the following guidelines:

Clinical material must not be discussed outside of the session in which it is presented and furthermore must not be recorded, conveyed, or disseminated in written or electronic form.

Participants must agree to maintain a secure environment to be utilized solely by the registered participant and protected from intrusion by, or exposure to, unauthorized persons.

If at any time a participant suspects he or she may recognize the identity of a patient in a case presentation, the participant must leave the session immediately.

Failure to observe these guidelines constitutes a breach of our ethical principles and may be cause for disciplinary or legal action or both.