

# The Debbie Bellman Memorial Lecture

## Learning from the Experience of Reading Bion's Autobiographies

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 8-10pm

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026 12 - 4pm (GMT)

**bpa**  
British  
Psychoanalytic  
Association

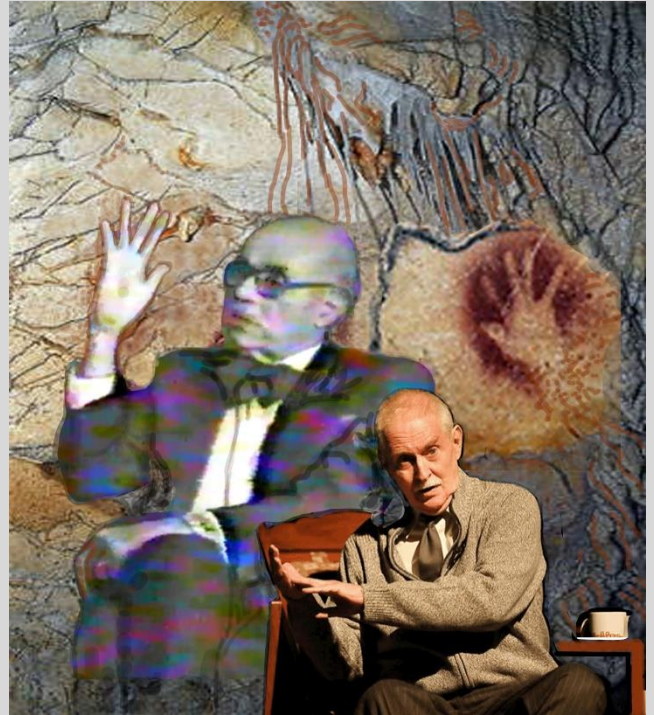


Image: *The caesura over the generations*  
(Composite image by Meg Harris Williams)

### FRIDAY 8-10 PM (ONLINE ONLY)

Meg Harris Williams | Introduction  
Film showing *The Becoming Room*

### SATURDAY 12 - 4PM (Hybrid)

**12 – 1.30pm Meg Harris Williams:**  
*Learning from the Experience of Reading Bion's Autobiographies*

In her talk Meg will describe some key elements that emerge from Bion's presentation of his 'self' in his autobiographical works, and how, as with creative fiction, identification with these becomes a passionate learning experience for the reader, by encouraging or even demanding that further symbolic transformations are made.

### SATURDAY (cont.)

**1.30 – 2.15pm Break.** Light lunch provided, followed by a film by Mércia Fagundes and Thais and Miguel Marques and the song 'Chega de saudade' ('No more longing') by João Gilberto

**2.15 – 4 pm Panel Discussion: Vera Montagna, Vivienne Pasieka, Annelise Scappaticci, Alison Vaspe**  
*The Work Group: Bion's autobiographies as inspiration for introspective associations in clinical work.*  
*The panel will explore individual experiences in the light of Bion's autobiographical thinking.*

Hybrid meeting:

89 Prince of Wales Road  
London NW5 3NT

& Online via Zoom

[Click here to book your place](#)

(tickets include both Friday and Saturday):

Lecture, film & panel discussion - £45

Online only - £40

Candidate/student ticket - £35

(contact [lukeperry@psychoanalysis-bpa.org](mailto:lukeperry@psychoanalysis-bpa.org))

**Meg Harris Williams** offers a particular perspective not only on the genesis of Bion's ideas as reflected in his autobiographical writings, but on the way in which we may read and identify with them to enrich our own personal experience. Proof of the life of an idea is that it can enter into other people and their 'becoming'. The theme of this lecture and conference is to illustrate how 'meeting oneself' can be, as Bion says, a passionate learning experience.

A film based on Bion's autobiographies, *The Becoming Room*, written and directed by Meg Harris Williams, will be shown online on Friday evening. This will form the starting point for her lecture on Saturday, followed by a panel discussion with Vera Regina Fonseca Montagna, Vivienne Pasieka, Anne Lise Scappaticci and Alison Vaspe, who will each present their own review of specific clinical situations as filtered through both the film and Bion's ideas, in a way which clarifies their autobiographical significance. A book is forthcoming using these ideas and experiences, entitled *Our Eternal Home: Bion's Idea of the Self*, published by Routledge.

### **Biographies:**

**Meg Harris Williams** is a writer on literature and psychoanalysis and a visual artist. Her books include *The Aesthetic Development: The Poetic Spirit of Psychoanalysis*, *Bion's Dream: A Reading of the Autobiographies*, and *The Becoming Room: Filming Bion's Memoir of the Future*.

**Vera Regina Fonseca Montagna** is a Clinical Psychologist with pre-clinical training at the Tavistock Clinic (1975-1976) and experience as a Child Psychotherapist at the Epsom Child Guidance Clinic, Surrey. A Full Member of the Brazilian Psychoanalytic Society of São Paulo (IPA), she teaches at the Institute of Psychoanalysis and maintains a private practice. Additionally, she is a visual artist and has published essays on psychoanalysis, aesthetic experience, and creativity.

**Vivienne Pasieka** is a psychoanalyst and clinical psychologist in private child and adult practice. Trained in Ireland and Canada, she is a member of the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society (IPA), faculty member of the Toronto Psychoanalytic Institute and Chair of *Between Hours: Inter-disciplinary Dialogues*, Toronto Psychoanalytic Society, and *Freud Café Canada*.

**Anne Lise Scappaticci** is a clinical psychologist trained at La Sapienza University of Rome, a Full Member and Training Analyst of the Brazilian Psychoanalytic Society (IPA), and former Editor of *IDE* (2021–2024). She holds a PhD in Mental Health from EPM-Unifesp and completed postdoctoral studies in Clinical Psychology at IP-USP. Her publications include *Bion and Child Psychoanalysis* and *Psychoanalysis: An Emotional Experience* (Blucher, Brazil; Alpes, Italy).

**Alison Vaspe** is a fellow of the BPA and chair of its Scientific Meetings Committee. She is a psychoanalyst in private practice, contributing editor of *Psychoanalysis, the NHS and Mental Health Work Today* (2018) and author of a children's book, *Edie-Puss and Me* (2026).