



bpa
British
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Association

SCIENTIFIC MEETING

2 February 2019

Alison Vaspe

**Whose madness
is it anyway?
Maintaining a
psychoanalytic
relationship in
traumatic
circumstances**

see next page for details



SCIENTIFIC MEETING

2 February 2019

11.00 am – 12.45 pm

Coffee and biscuits from 10.30 am

Alison Vaspe

Whose madness is it anyway? Maintaining a psychoanalytic relationship in traumatic circumstances

Friends Meeting House

17 North Square

Hampstead Garden Suburb

London NW11 7AD

Free parking. Nearest Underground: Golders Green Station – then either a 15-min walk, or H2 bus towards Heathgate (4 mins) plus 7-min walk.

I will present the case of a woman traumatised by her daughter's psychotic breakdown and the subsequent treatment by mental health services, which, far from making the daughter better, at times seemed to have made matters worse. Thus my patient, who grew up trying to be her mother's good undemanding daughter, has brought material about a failing NHS-mother and about her efforts to rescue her daughter from her self-harm and suicidality. At the same time as she has to bear her daughter's need to establish a more independent existence, as a young adult apart from her mother, my patient lives with the memory of her own mother's breakdown and suicide attempt when she herself was a young woman. It has been important to recognise the reality of the ways in which this patient has been and is being failed, together with bearing with her the agonising narcissistic wound of feeling, rather than the

good mother and daughter, a vulnerable woman in her own right. I would like to think about the tensions involved in maintaining a psychoanalytic relationship with our patients in the context of real-life impingements, when services we all depend upon are in such disarray.

Alison Vaspe is a BPA psychoanalyst in private practice in Hampshire. She worked for many years in the public sector and is the contributing editor of a recent book: *Psychoanalysis, the NHS, and Mental Health Work Today* (Karnac 2017).

FUTURE MEETINGS 2019

30 March / **Guest speakers**

Jan Abram & Bob Hinshelwood
Adventurous Dialogues. The Clinical Paradigms of Melanie Klein and Donald Winnicott: comparisons and dialogues

22 June / **Noel Hess**

Making meaningful contact with a schizoid patient

Discussant: Sue Wax

12 October / **Panel discussion**

(Panellists to be announced)
As psychoanalysis is currently practised, are there significant differences in the way negative transference is handled across the theoretical paradigms?

23 November / **Open Meeting**

David Simpson

(Title to be confirmed)

Any queries write to
training@psychoanalysis-bpa.org