



# Uninvited guests from unremembered pasts: Clinical explorations of intergenerational trauma in working with both children and ourselves



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Presented By: Michael O'Loughlin, Ph. D  
 Saturday, January 23, 2021

9:00AM—12:30PM  
 8:50AM Registration

3 CE CREDITS AVAILABLE

ZOOM Virtual Conference

## THE PRESENTATION

In the first part of the presentation I will begin with an exploration of Ireland's Great Hunger. Looking particularly through the prism of my own family experience growing up in Ireland, I will illustrate the ways in which the psychological sequelae of that trauma live on in the psychic lives of Irish people and the Irish diaspora. I will explore the implications of spectral presences, ghostly echoes, and uninvited guests in our lives, and in our patients' lives. I will examine the consequences for the future professional and relational life of a child who, growing up in the shadow of psychic deadness, is, in the words of Andre Green, simply "forbidden to be". What kind of relational conundrums does such a child—later adult—present in therapy as she/he grapples with impossible mourning for an inherited loss?

Following discussion, I will move to the second part of my presentation, which will focus on clinical work with children. Drawing on my own clinical work, including slides of children's drawings, I will illustrate the ways in which the suffering of parents is, in the words of Judith Kestenberg, *transposed* into the child. I will offer clinical examples of how desire may be fostered in a child who has previously failed to experience his or her own experience, and whose only form of living is through ventriloquation of parental desire—a desire experienced by the child as an anxiety-producing demand.

## THE PRESENTER

Michael O'Loughlin, is a professor in the College of Education and Health Sciences and in Derner School of Psychology at Adelphi University, as well as faculty in the Postgraduate Programs in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. He has conducted asylum evaluations since 2005, and he has trained hundreds of physicians and mental health workers in asylum evaluation processes. In 2017 he founded the Adelphi Asylum Project which has permitted doctoral students to engage in asylum work under supervision. He is co-editor of the journal *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society*. He has written and edited books on childhood subjectivity, on intergenerational trauma and historical memory, on cultural issues in psychotherapy, and on the psycho-social origins of psychosis and severe psychic distress. His most recent book, written with Secil Arac-Orhun and Montana Queler, and released in 2019, is *Lives Interrupted: Psychiatric Narratives of Struggle and Resilience*. He edits a book series, *Psychoanalytic Studies: Clinical, Social, and Cultural Contexts*, which currently has 13 titles published or in preparation, and he is co-editor with Awad Ibrahim, Gabrielle Ivinson and Marek Tesar of a second book series, *Critical Childhood & Youth Studies: Clinical, Educational, Social and Cultural Inquiry*. He has a private practice for psychotherapy and psychoanalysis on Long Island, New York. He is currently working on a book on the traumatic sequel of Ireland's Great Hunger. Website: <http://michaeloloughlinphd.com>

## OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation participants will:

1. Be able to explain the relationship between trauma, history and memory, and articulate how this relationship might present with patients in the consulting room.
2. Be able to identify 3 leading theorists who have applied intergenerational understanding to clinical work with children, and what their key contributions were.
3. Formulate 3 clinical implications arising from considering the transposition of parental or ancestral trauma into children.

### EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS 1/20/2021

Membership Category	Early Bird Rate	Day of Event
Professional Member	\$65	\$80
Non-Member	\$95	\$110
Student Members	Free	\$15
Student Non-Member <small>(Student ID required)</small>	\$15	\$30

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