

54th ANNUAL MARGARET S. MAHLER SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT

## *It's Not All About You: How Cultures Influence Toddlerhood*

Co-Sponsored by The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia &  
The Margaret S. Mahler Child Development Foundation

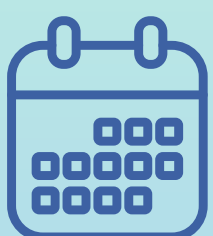
How infants and toddlers separate and individuate from their families has been formally studied largely from a Euro-American viewpoint. This conference aims to bring data from around the world to bear on the separation-individuation process. Separation-individuation occurs simultaneously, and intertwined with, the development of attachment patterns, but has received much less cross-cultural attention, a deficit this conference will attempt to address. Cultures are highly variable in how they influence early child development, and the presenters for this conference are leading experts in the influence of culture on development.

### Presenters:

Bambi Chapin, PhD  
Gillian Gillison, PhD  
Alexandra M. Harrison, MD  
Edward Tronick, PhD

### Moderator:

Lawrence D. Blum, MD



SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025  
8:45 AM TO 1:00 PM EDT  
VIA ZOOM



### Early Bird Admission

(Ends April 1st)

- \$80 for Admission
- \$25 for Full-Time Students, Residents, & Candidates

### General Admission

(After April 1st)

- \$100 for Admission
- \$30 for Full-Time Students, Residents, & Candidates



4 CE/CME's Available

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**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

THE EVENT IS IN EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME (EDT).

8:45 AM	<b>Welcome - PCOP Staff Julia Seixas</b> Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia
8:50 AM	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction - William M. Singletary, MD</b> President, Margaret S. Mahler Child Development Foundation, and Faculty, Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia
9:00 AM	<b>Cross-Cultural Understanding of Separation-Individuation - Lawrence D. Blum, MD</b> Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Adjunct in Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, and Faculty, Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia
9:20 AM	<b>Culturing Autonomy in Relationship: Ethnographic Observations with Sinhala Families in Sri Lanka - Bambi Chapin, PhD</b> Associate Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Public Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).
10:00 AM	<b>Mother/Child Symbiosis in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea: The Myth of Primordial Incest Comes True - Gillian Gillison, PhD</b> Professor Emerita of Anthropology, University of Toronto
10:40 AM	Audience Discussion
10:50 AM	Break - 15 Minutes
11:05 AM	<b>Culture and Parenting - All is Peek-a-Boo - Ed Tronick, PhD</b> Developmental and Clinical Psychologist, Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
11:40 AM	<b>The Psychoanalytic Concept of Intersubjectivity: A Cross-Cultural Perspective - Alexandra M. Harrison, MD</b> Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Part-Time) at Harvard Medical School at the Cambridge Health Alliance and a Training and Supervisory Analyst of Child, Adolescent, and Adult Analysis, at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
12:20 PM	Discussion between presenters and the audience.
12:50 PM	Summary & final observations and questions
1:00 PM	END

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Presenters

#### **BAMBI CHAPIN, PHD**

Dr. Chapin is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Public Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). She is the author of *Childhood in a Sri Lankan Village: Shaping Hierarchy and Desire*.

#### **GILLIAN GILLISON, PHD**

Dr. Gillison is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. She also frequently worked at the Laboratoire d'anthropologie sociale at the Collège de France. She is the author of *She Speaks her Anger: Myths and Conversations of Gimi Women* and *Between Culture and Fantasy: A New Guinea Highlands Mythology*.

#### **ALEXANDRA M. HARRISON, MD**

Dr. Harrison is Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Part-Time) at Harvard Medical School at the Cambridge Health Alliance, a Training and Supervisory Analyst of Child, Adolescent, and Adult Analysis, at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, and Core Faculty at the Early Relational Health course at University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. She is the President and CEO of the non-profit Supporting Child Caregivers, which collaborates with local institutions to offer helpful information to child caregivers, with the goal of supporting healthy development of children across the globe.

#### **ED TRONICK, PHD**

Dr. Tronick is one of the nation's most accomplished and best-known developmental and clinical psychologists. Developer of the Still-Face Paradigm, he is Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. He has published 8 books and more than 300 scientific papers.

### Moderator

#### **LAWRENCE D. BLUM, MD**

Dr. Blum holds appointments as a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, where he helped to initiate and co-directs the undergraduate minor in Psychoanalytic Studies. He also teaches at the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia, where he was recently made an honorary member of the Child Psychoanalytic Faculty.

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe multiple ways in which cultures influence the separation-individuation process.
2. Explain how individuals and societies relate to each other
3. Garner new ways to understand the development of patients and people from other cultures as well as their own.

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION/CONTINUING EDUCATION Continuing Medical Education (CME):

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American Psychoanalytic Association and the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates these Live Activities for a maximum of 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR ALL LEARNERS: Disclosure Statement

The APsA CE Committee has reviewed the materials for accredited continuing education and has determined that this activity is not related to the product line of ineligible companies and therefore, the activity meets the exception outlined in Standard 3: ACCME's identification, mitigation and disclosure of relevant financial relationship. This activity does not have any known commercial support.



## Continuing Education for Psychologists (CE):

The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Every session of this program offers CE credit for psychologists.

## Continuing Education for Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors (CE):

In accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth of PA dated 12/23/06 [PA Code: Title 49, Ch. 47-49], The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors recognizes the American Psychological Association (APA) as a preapproved provider of continuing education programs for social workers and clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors in the State of Pennsylvania. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education programs.

**For more information, please contact the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia:**

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