

FREUD CONFERENCE 2014

# a stranger in my own body

a day with  
Drs Domenico Di Ceglie  
& Giovanna Rita Di Ceglie

The 2014 conference examines the psychoanalytic and developmental understanding, and psychosocial impact, of Transsexualism and Atypical Gender Identity Development.

Between now and the conference we will be posting articles and media on transgender issues as they arise, and Domenico and Giovanna will post viewpoint.

The best attribute of the blog is its ability for you to post a reply, and we welcome your input.

for updates:  
<http://freudconference.wordpress.com>



8.30 – 17.00 Saturday 17th May  
The Melbourne Brain Centre  
Kenneth Myer Building, 30 Royal Parade, Parkville

**ORGANISED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF**

Australian Association of Group Psychotherapists •  
Australian Psychoanalytical Society •  
Victorian Association of Psychoanalytic  
Psychotherapists (for the Psychoanalytic  
Psychotherapy Association of Australasia)

#### BOOKING ENQUIRIES

Freud Conference Administrator  
PO Box 583  
Bridge Road  
Richmond 3121

#### CONFERENCE ENQUIRIES

christine.hill@monash.edu  
Mobile: 0411 556 205  
[www.freudconference.com](http://www.freudconference.com)

#### CANCELLATION POLICY

Refunds (less \$50.00 administration fee)  
will only be given for cancellations received by  
Thursday 1st May, 2014. No refunds after this date.

Cover montage by Damien Pierce

08.30 Registration & Coffee  
09.00 Welcome: Dr Christine Hill

**MORNING SESSIONS:**

09.10 – 10.45 Chair: Mrs Helga Coulter

**DR DOMENICO DI CEGLIE**  
**THE USE OF METAPHORS IN UNDERSTANDING**  
**ATYPICAL GENDER IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT AND**  
**ITS PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT**

Over the years Domenico has found a number of metaphors which have helped him deal with particular dynamics in therapeutic work with young people with gender dysphoria, and with group and institutional conflicts involving the Gender Identity Development Service. In this presentation he describes those metaphors which relate to particular problems or conflicts stimulated in his mind, and how they are linked to the vicissitude of identity development, in particular that of atypical gender identity, and issues regarding symbolisation or symbolic thinking. He will use clinical material, observation, and DVD clips to illustrate his points.

10.45 – 11.15 Morning tea  
11.15 – 12.45 Chair: Mrs Maria Teresa Hooke

**DR GIOVANNA DI CEGLIE**  
**STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE BODY IN**  
**THE DEVELOPMENT OF SYMBOLIC THINKING**

This paper explores the importance of viewing mental representations of the body as having structural and functional characteristics. It considers the dynamics of linking and unlinking

structural and functional representations in the development of symbolic thinking. Clinical material will demonstrate how the body can be subjected to a variety of processes including splitting, equations and linking the structure of one organ with the function of a different one. Finally, the paper suggests that the emergence of symbolic thinking has increased understanding of a number of psychological conditions, the expanding of artistic endeavours and the development of new identities, including atypical gender identities.

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS:**

14.00 – 15.30 Chair: Dr Christine Hill

**DOCUMENTARY FILM**

A film will be shown which illustrates issues involved in the transition from infancy to puberty in transgender children, as presented during the papers. This will be followed by discussion led by Dr Domenico Di Ceglie and Dr Campbell Paul, Professor of Infant Psychiatry, RCH, Melbourne, and a specialist working locally with transgender children and families.

15.30 – 16.00 Afternoon break

16.00 – 17.00 Chair: Dr Frances Thomson-Salo  
Panel discussion with Drs Domenico and Giovanna Di Ceglie, and Dr Campbell Paul

17.00 – 18.00 drinks & nibbles

Readings Bookstore available at the Conference

**about the speakers**



**DR DOMENICO DI CEGLIE**, M.D. Dip. Psychiat (It), FRCPsych, is Director of Training, Development and Research, Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS) at the Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust, London, a service which he founded, 1989. He is also Consultant Child and Adolescent

Psychiatrist, Honorary Senior Lecturer, Department of Clinical, Educational and Health Psychology, University College London; Honorary Senior Lecturer, The Royal Free and University College Medical School, London; Visiting Professor in Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Perugia, Italy (1992-1996); and Member of the Tavistock Society of Psychotherapists. Domenico has published numerous papers, and edited a book “*A Stranger in My Own Body – Atypical Gender Identity Development and Mental Health*” (Karnac Books, London). He was highly commended in the Health & Social Care Awards, 2004, and gives frequent lectures in the UK and abroad.



**DR GIOVANNA DI CEGLIE**, is a training analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society. She trained in Medicine and Psychiatry at the University of Perugia (Italy) and worked in the NHS both in adult and child psychiatry. She currently works in private psychoanalytic practice, teaches and supervises. Giovanna has a

longstanding interest in the development of thinking and its disturbances. She has published numerous papers on clinical work and in the area of symbolization, and regularly lectures in the UK and abroad.