**BADth CONFERENCE 2019**

**Psychological Trauma and Resilience**

‘When words are not enough’

*‘Planting the Alder’*

**Friday 6, Saturday 7, Sunday 8 September 2019**

**The University of Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester, Cheshire CH1 4BJ**

**CALL FOR**

**PAPERS/WORKSHOPS/INSTALLATIONS/PERFORMANCES/POSTERS ON THE CONFERENCE THEME**

Dramatherapists work with many individuals and groups who have experienced trauma either in childhood or as adults. Trauma may be the result of physical; emotional; psychological or institutional abuse; assault; combat and war; accident; criminal activity; birth; bereavement. The client may experience symptoms of disturbance soon after the event or it may be suppressed for many years. The therapist, too, may have their own personal story of trauma, which can impact the therapeutic relationship.

Traumatic memories are often buried beyond words, yet the imprint on the psyche replays itself through the limbic system. Freeze, flight, fight and fragmentation can all be responses when an individual re-experiences traumatic reactions, stored in the body.

There is a renewed focus on supporting children and adults who live with Adverse Childhood Experiences (Hughes, et.al. 2017). Health, education, social care, third sector and local and national governments are now impacted by increased demands for assistance and support by those affected and their carers.

The BADth Work Survey, 2017 found that literature around trauma was the most cited by Dramatherapists. Yet, what are the current models being used in dramatherapy practice and what do we know about them? How does process and performance impact the client and witness?

The prevalence of trauma presents practitioners with a number of persistent and uncompromising questions. Above all, has the experience of trauma become normalised and are the pathways to recovery saturated by our culture, or are these pathways being thwarted by an underlying inertia?

In his poem, Planting the Alder, Seamus Heaney reminds us that not only are the regenerative and resilient properties of nature innate – as so aptly imbued in his image of the alder tree - but so too is hope and healing, if we only harness our agency and get ‘planting’.

This conference will explore the part dramatherapy can play in building resilience, health and change.

Heaney, S. (2006). The Alder Tree in *District and Circle: Poems*. Faber p.60.

Hughes, K., Bellis, M.A., Hardcastle, K.A., Sethi, D., Butchart, A., Mikton, C., Jones, L. and Dunne, M.P. (2017). The effect of multiple adverse childhood experiences on health: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *The Lancet Public Health*, *2*(8), pp.356-366

**Information for submissions:**

BADth welcomes submissions in the categories of theory, research, practice and policy. All proposals must have a direct relationship to the conference themes.

BADth particularly welcomes submissions from client and therapist collaborations, the arts therapies and practitioners from the wider psychological modalities.

It is intended that proceedings of the conference will be published, and all presenters should be prepared to consent to contributing an outline of their contribution to the publication. An opportunity to discuss publication will be offered during the conference.

Please submit completed proposals (Microsoft Word attachment) to Heidi Jockelson at: [info@badth.org.uk](mailto:info@badth.org.uk)

**Deadline for submissions is midnight on 14th January 2019.**

**General Information**

* Travel expenses will not be paid but a standard fee of £50 will be offered to each presenter of papers, workshops, installations and performances (not posters). However, if a presentation involves more than two people a maximum fee of £100 will be equally divided between them. As presenters are expected to attend the full conference this fee can be deducted from the cost of their individual conference place.
* The conference programme is subject to change at any point before or during the conference should unexpected problems arise. We are unable to accept responsibility for changes made which are outside of our control. The organising team will endeavour to ensure that all requirements and requests are met, but this cannot be guaranteed.
* The expectation of BADth is that presenters are willing to accommodate any special or particular accessibility needs that participants have, for example, the use of microphones where appropriate.
* The duration of presentations will be set in relation to the conference programme, and is non-negotiable.
* The organising team will endeavour to ensure that sessions are as evenly attended as possible and suitable for available room size.

**Proposal Guidelines**

1. Submissions must be of clear relevance to the conference theme and presented in a coherent manner which illustrates the theory and practice of the subject matter.
2. Please ensure the submission form has all information clearly provided.
3. The description of the contribution and the mini-biography must be within the word count. i.e. 250 words for abstract and 50 words mini-biography. Please ensure your submission is proofread. BADth reserves the right to edit submissions and biographies prior to publication.
4. Presenters must have obtained prior consent for all case-studies or examples from their practice, including supervision and/or work undertaken with organisations.
5. Poster presentations should be A1 size and it is the presenters’ responsibility to mount their work on display boards. Consent, as above, applies to posters.

**Submission Form for BADth 2019 Conference**

**Title of Presentation:**

**Format of Presentation:**

Paper

Workshop

Performance

Installation

Poster

**The duration of presentations will be structured by the organisation in relation to the complete conference programme.**

**Please specify equipment requested\*:** *(NB: There is no access to theatre lighting but sound systems can in some cases be provided)*

**\*If you specifically require access to PowerPoint/Data Projector or a DVD player/speakers for iPod etc. indicate with X below**

**PowerPoint/Data Projector \_\_\_ DVD-player/speakers \_\_\_**

**Description of contribution (250 words maximum):**

**Names of presenter(s) and mini-biography(s) (50 words maximum):**

**E-mail:**

**Phone number(s):**

**Are there any dates or times you will be unable to present?**

Please submit completed proposals (Microsoft Word attachment) to Heidi Jockelson at: [info@badth.org.uk](mailto:info@badth.org.uk)

**Deadline for submissions is midnight on 14th January 2019.**