

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS



Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups  
Twentieth-Anniversary Conference

*On the Drive*

Dublin, Ireland  
Friday to Sunday, 14 – 16 June 2019

Keynote Speaker: Russell Grigg

Over one hundred years of psychoanalytic drive theory has left us where? What can we say about the drive today? This fundamental concept still requires elucidation, and at the twentieth-anniversary conference of Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups, Freudian-Lacanian clinicians from around the world will take up again the question of the drive.

Until 1915, Freud relied on the libido theory and the “obvious” distinction between love and hunger to ground his theory of human motivation and his distinction between erotic drives and self-preservation drives. It is only after he frankly acknowledged problems with his libido theory in “On Narcissism” in 1914 that Freud attempted a fully developed theory of the drive in “Drives and Their Vicissitudes” (1915). This theory was then superseded only five years later by the publication of *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* and the introduction of a new binary of the drives: Eros and Thanatos.

Lacan likewise ignored the drive in his early career—or rather he failed to distinguish carefully between drive and desire. Then in 1964, he announced the drive—not desire!—as one of *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*. But as soon as his thorough re-reading of Freud’s drive theory was completed, Lacan seemed to drop the concept in favor of jouissance.

The drive has been called a frontier between body and mind, a myth, a foundational concept, and a capstone theory. Over the course of psychoanalytic history, it has appeared and disappeared, at times crucial and necessary, at times taken for granted. It has been reduced to mere instinct and—on the second level of Lacan’s big graph—elevated to the level of the treasury of the signifier. Rarely discussed in practice, it is the foundation of clinical experience. Our twentieth-anniversary conference is an opportunity to consider once again the elusive notion of the drive.

APW invites paper submissions that consider any aspect of the drive from a clinical or theoretical point of view. Please send proposals of approximately 500 words to [dcollins716@verizon.net](mailto:dcollins716@verizon.net) by 15 March 2019.

For updates on the conference and further information, visit [apwonline.org](http://apwonline.org).