

Manchester Psychoanalytic Development Trust Conference 2026

Life and Death: Loss and Mourning Across the Life Cycle



We all have to suffer the pain of loss in multiple forms throughout life, from ordinary and expectable developmental and generational losses, to devastating and unforeseen ones. Since Freud's paper Mourning and Melancholia (1917), psychoanalytic clinicians and writers have come to understand more about the emotional experience of loss in everyday life and across the life cycle. This conference provides an opportunity to hear about clinical work and ideas on this most human of experiences, personally, professionally and societally.

The First Absence: How an Infant's Early Loss Resonates Across a Life - Pauline Lee

Dr Pauline Lee is a Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst with the British Psychoanalytical Society and works part-time in private practice. She is also a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and the Strategic Clinical Lead in Parent Infant Mental Health with NHS Greater Manchester. She teaches at the Institute of Psychoanalysis and the International Psychoanalytical Association candidate group in China.

The Irrepressible Brightness of Spring: Life, loss and loneliness in a Looked After Adolescent Boy - Becky Hall

Becky Hall qualified as a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist from the Tavistock Clinic in 2009 after postgraduate studies in literature and postcoloniality. She subsequently trained as a Psychoanalyst with the British Psychoanalytic Association and now works clinically across the lifecycle. She has worked extensively in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and has developed a particular interest in fostering, adoption, intergenerational trauma and parental mental health

Psychic Reality and the Problem of Mourning - Sharon Numa

Dr Sharon Numa trained as a Clinical Psychologist, working in the NHS before training in Adult Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at the Tavistock Clinic. She subsequently trained at the Institute of Psychoanalysis and is a Fellow of the Institute. She has worked in private practice with adult patients for over 30 years, is a training supervisor for the BPF, and teaches in London. She also jointly ran a Klein Workshop in Beijing with Philip Crockatt and has taught Klein in Paris.

The Idea of Progress and the Inability to Mourn - Paul Hoggett

Paul Hoggett is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at UWE, Bristol and a retired psychoanalytic psychotherapist. He founded the Climate Psychology Alliance (with Adrian Tait) and was its first chair. His books include *Partisans in an Uncertain World: The Psychoanalysis of Engagement* (1992), *Politics, Identity and Emotion* (2008) and he was a co-author of *Climate Psychology: A Matter of Life and Death* (2022). His latest is *Paradise Lost? The Climate Crisis and the Human Condition* (2023).

Chair - Todd Hinds

A Fellow and Child Analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society, Todd Hinds works in full-time private practice in Liverpool. He is a Child Psychotherapist, drawn to this training from a teaching background in special schools. Todd works as a consultant to special schools in the Midlands and is particularly interested in the function of school in supporting psychic development.

Saturday 11 July, The St Thomas Centre (Manchester) and online
mpdt.org.uk/conference-2026