



Organized Abuse

October 30, 2020 | 10:00AM – 5:30PM Eastern Daylight Time



Professor Warwick
Middleton



Valerie Sinason, PhD



Dr. Richard J. Loewenstein



Michael Salter, PhD

Presentation Title: Ongoing incestuous abuse during adulthood and its relevance to understanding organised abuse, & Jeffrey Epstein, Les Wexner, Prince Andrew and two American Presidents: High level organised abuse and the debunking of "conspiracy theory".

Presenter: Warwick Middleton, MB BS, FRANZCP, MD

Presenter Biography: This workshop explores the pervasive nature of the organized abuse of minors and how society interfaces with this uncomfortable reality, presented by the last three successive Chairs of the ISSTD RAMCOA SIG. The workshop situates the last three decades of clinical practice and criminological study of organized abuse within contemporary developments, including the recent Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the case of Jeffrey Epstein and the sexual trafficking of children, the rise of the #MeToo movement, numerous scandals involving the organized sexual abuse of children associated with mainstream churches, and increasing attention on the ways some parents expose their children to various forms of organized abuse. It will be argued that society has reached an unprecedented tipping point, with national leaders, royalty, prominent entertainers/movie industry heavyweights, law enforcement officers and high-level churchmen, not to mention family-men, being exposed by credible allegations of involvement in the sexual abuse of minors.

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Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Identify the key events in the emergence of a balanced knowledge of the nature of organized abuse
- Identify the key dynamics operating in families characterized by the reality of ongoing incest that extends into adulthood
- List a range of common responses professionals have when asked to engage with accounts of extreme trauma involving organised abuse
- Identify the principals and enablers in a range of politically-connected child sexual abuse groupings
- Evaluate the role of the press in enabling child-exploitation systems to exist and indeed flourish

Presentation Title: Problems in work with Organised Abuse: complex links between inner, outer and societal reality

Presenter: Valerie Sinason, PhD

Presenter Biography: Dr Sinason is a poet, writer, child psychotherapist and adult psychoanalyst. She founded the Clinic for Dissociative Studies (where she is now Patron) and was Consultant at the Tavistock Clinic, In London and Consultant Psychoanalyst at the University of Cape Town Child Guidance Clinic . She has published over 15 books and 200 papers and chapters

Abstract: It will be argued that society has reached an unprecedented tipping point, with national leaders, royalty, prominent entertainers/movie industry heavyweights, law enforcement officers and high-level churchmen, not to mention family-men, being exposed by credible allegations of involvement in the sexual abuse of minors. What is the impact on the clinician of the complex link between internal, external and societal reality? What is the societal impact of the victim-perpetrator.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Identify the key events in the emergence of a balanced knowledge of the nature of organized abuse
- List a range of common responses professionals have when asked to engage with accounts of extreme trauma involving organised abuse
- Describe the extra pressures that come when an alleged abuser named by a patient is known in wider life outside of the therapy room
- Recognize the fear caused by victim-perpetrators who often receive the most severe custodial sentences
- Articulate the problems of being involved in this work

Presentation Title: Thirty-five Years' Experience in the Treatment of Patients with a History of Organized Sadistic Abuse

Presenter: Richard J Loewenstein, MD

Presenter Biography: Richard J. Loewenstein M.D. is the founder and was the Medical Director of The Trauma Disorders Program at Sheppard Pratt, Baltimore, MD, from 1987-2020. He is rated by U.S. News and World Report as among America's top 1 % of psychiatrists. He is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Founded in 1992, the Sheppard Pratt Trauma Disorders Program includes a 22-bed inpatient unit, an outpatient program, a fellowship program, and research, consultation and teaching components. Dr. Loewenstein did a research fellowship at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, MD. He is the author of over 100 papers and book chapters on delirium, dementia, consultation-liaison psychiatry, dissociation, dissociative disorders and trauma disorders. He is the Section Editor, Dissociative Disorders, DSM-5 Text Revision, and Co-editor of the 4th revision of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD) Guidelines for Treatment of Dissociative Identity Disorder, both currently in development. He is a distinguished life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and has received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the ISSTD

Abstract: I review the impact of the phenomenon of organized sadistic abuse (OSA) on the dissociative disorders field, as well as in my own clinical work. I first heard OSA described in 1984, at the 1st annual meeting of what was then the International Society for the Study of Multiple Personality and Dissociation (ISSMP&D), now the ISSTD. I had treated my first DID patient in 1981 and began the treatment of patients reporting a history of OSA early in 1985. From 1987-2020, I was Medical Director of The Trauma Disorders Program (TTDP) at Sheppard Pratt Health System. A conservative estimate is that I have directly treated, consulted on, and/or been head of inpatient treatment teams for at least 10,000 DID patients. I estimate – again, conservatively - that about 1/3rd of these patients reported histories of OSA. I have treated patients with histories of OSA in long-term outpatient psychotherapy, with outcomes including full fusion/integration as well as stable resolution. This talk is an attempt to help clinicians with a pragmatic treatment approach developed in the TTDP. Other experienced DID experts have reported independently arriving at a similar approach. Fundamentally, OSA is a criminal enterprise, primarily involving trafficking of children and adults, as well as – at least in some cases – drug-dealing, blackmail, and other organized criminal activities. We view most, if not all, reports of OSA involving occultist practices, "government mind control", etc. as deliberate attempts to confuse victims to more successfully conceal these criminal activities, rather than as the essential part of OSA. We have found that it is more helpful to reframe these issues as covers for the criminal nature of the reported OSA. We focus on the dynamics of extreme coercive control through torture used by perpetrators, and the similarities of OSA to the dynamics of early life maltreatment reported by virtually all DID patients. In general, we have found it more effective to bypass the reported occultist belief systems and the intricacies of the so-called government mind control. We pay more attention to the reported dynamics of power, control and domination, fueled by continual extreme humiliation. We have found it more helpful for patients to understand these dynamics, rather than solely attend to the reported belief-systems that rationalize and justify OSA. In addition, I will discuss the complex issue of assessment of the trauma reports of these patients. These include perpetrator manipulation of apparent reality and memory, as well as difficulties DID patients may have in distinguishing outside reality from the inner ("third") reality of the actions and interactions of the DID self states, often mixed with complex PTSD intrusive symptoms, as well as other factors. Reported ongoing, contemporary enmeshment with perpetrators needs to be assessed with the latter issues in mind, as there may be ongoing revictimization; interactions of self states that are subjectively experienced as current revictimization; or both.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Describe the history of OSA in the DD field
- Discuss the rationale to reframe treatment of OSA as primarily involving criminal activity
- Describe the complexity of assessment of memory reports in DID patients reporting a history of OSA

- Describe how the subjective interactions of self-states in the "the 3rd reality", can assist with assessment of current revictimization in individuals reporting a history of OSA

Presentation Title: The role of parents in the production of child sexual abuse material of their children

Presenter: Michael Salter, PhD

Presenter Biography: A/Prof Michael Salter is a criminologist and Scientia Fellow at the University of New South Wales. His research is focused on child abuse, gendered violence and complex trauma, particularly organised abuse and technologically-facilitated abuse. He is the author of Organised Sexual Abuse (Routledge, 2013) and Crime, Justice and Social Media (Routledge, 2017) as well as numerous papers. He sits on the board of directors of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation, and he is an advisor to the Australian Office of the eSafety Commissioner and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

Abstract: This webinar will present the findings of a German project with individuals disclosing organized and ritual child sexual abuse (ORA) as well as mental health professionals who have supported ORA survivors. Organized abuse refers to the sexual abuse of multiple children by multiple perpetrators acting coordinately, whereas ritual abuse can be defined as an ideological, more violent and more family-associated subtype. Qualitative content analyses reveal which elements ORA consists of and which factors contribute to impeding the uncovering of perpetrator groups. Further, quantitative studies, capturing the experiences of 165 survivors and 174 health care professionals shed a light on perpetrator strategies as well as on the psychiatric impact of extreme abuse and a lack of professional support for those affected. Awareness of ORA in society and especially amongst health care professionals is crucial for implementing more adequate supply structures for survivors in the future.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Identify the role of parents in the creation and distribution of CEM
- Describe the key scenarios of parental CEM perpetration identified in legal cases
- Discuss the responses of children to parental CEM perpetration
- Analyze the challenges to investigation and prosecution of parental CEM offending

Can't Make It?

If your schedule won't allow for you to attend, the webinar will be recorded and made available for purchase approximately three weeks after the live event. The recordings cost is \$25 for ISSTD Members and \$45 for non-members. The webinar recording can be accessed on the CE-Credit.com website or in ISSTDWorld for ISSTD members. Exam fees for Continuing Education credits start at an additional \$10.46.

References

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Continuing Education

ASWB

The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD), #1744, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. ISSTD maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 08/20/2020 – 08/20/2021. Social workers completing this course receive 6 continuing education credits.

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