

The Canberra Branch of the Clinical College of the APS, in association with the Cannan Institute, is pleased to convene the workshop:

## **Selfhood and Dissociative Defences: Understanding the Challenges**

Adjunct Professor Warwick MIDDLETON, MB BS, FRANZCP, MD  
FRIDAY 13 APRIL 2012 at UNIVERSITY HOUSE, ANU, CANBERRA

### **Workshop Overview**

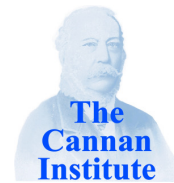
This workshop/master class will offer a practical and clinically relevant overview of selfhood against the backdrop of compartmentalization, amnesias, automatons, re-enactments, flashbacks, depersonalization/derealization and alternative identity states frequently seen in individuals with complex trauma syndromes/dissociative disorders. The workshop will offer as an orientating reference point, an analysis of the defining characteristics of the abuse suffered by those where incestuous abuse continued into adult years as well as outlining the particular psychological challenges faced by those so effected.

The workshop will provide an overview of treatment options and the sorts of clinical challenges associated with the treatment of such individuals where the development of selfhood has been so impacted upon by pervasive ongoing incest. Such individuals form a reference point for the assessment of other individuals whose abuse was perhaps not as enduring or as extreme. The clinical challenges represented by such patients are illustrated by selected representative clinical vignettes and case studies. It is envisaged that the workshop will incorporate substantial time to discuss issues brought up by those attending. Background reading will be made available to enhance the learning/interactive opportunity.

Adjunct Professor Warwick Middleton is an internationally renowned clinician, researcher and author in the field of trauma studies. He is the Director of the Trauma and Dissociation Unit, Belmont Private Hospital, Brisbane. He is also Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Associate Professor in Psychiatry, University of Queensland. He has made substantial and ongoing contributions to the bereavement and trauma literatures and was with Dr Jeremy Butler author of the first published series in the Australian scientific literature detailing the abuse histories and clinical phenomenology of patients fulfilling diagnostic criteria for Dissociative Identity Disorder. He chairs The Cannan Institute as well as its research and conference organizing committees. He is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of

Psychiatry and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Trauma and Dissociation as well as being a regular reviewer for a number of psychiatric journals.





## Plan for the Day

**8:30 am - 9:00 am** - Registration & Morning Coffee.

9:00 am - 10:40 am - Complex trauma, dissociation and dissociative disorders; an overview of the current landscape, including research directions and controversies. An introduction to the concept of selfhood and how it is to a large degree defined by developmental trauma.

**10:40 am - 11:00 am** - Morning Tea.

11:00 am - 12:45 pm - An overview of the particular issues of those victims of childhood abuse where the trauma has never stopped.

**12:45 pm - 1:40 pm** - Lunch.

**1:40 pm - 3:10 pm** - Selected contemporary clinical challenges in treating patients with DID/Complex trauma syndromes. This session would be based around selected de-identified case studies and clinical vignettes.

**3:10 pm - 3:30 pm** - Afternoon Tea.

**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm** - What a society and mental health care system would perhaps look like if we put into practice what we already know about the prevention and treatment of complex trauma syndromes. This includes an appraisal of trauma informed care and the role trauma plays in mental health and medical presentations and ongoing morbidity.

**5:00 pm - Close.**

## Registration Details

Pre-reading papers will be distributed prior to the Workshop. Additionally, selected readings, including pre-readings will be provided to participants on the day.

The cost for the day's training is \$295.

To register for the training, please go to:

<http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?ID=9514>

Places are limited, so register early. Hope to see you there!