

International Wednesday Lecture

Wednesday, 17. April 2024, 17.00

Prof. Ricardo Ainslie, PhD (Austin/USA)

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The title of the Wednesday lecture:

Psychoanalytically-informed interventions in communities marked by unconscious and disavowed collective processes

Ricardo Ainslie will present his understanding of psychoanalytic ethnography with particular reference to his encounter with a community in Texas. He will describe the racism of a particular era (the Jim Crow era) which remained as a conscious and unconscious residue of toxic race relations. Three interrelated interventions were conducted in Hempstead drawing from psychoanalytic notions of the relationship between trauma and memory, as well as the importance of representation as essential elements of a “healing process” for both individual and collective traumatic experience.

Prof. Ricardo Ainslie, PhD holds the M.K. Hage Centennial Professorship in Education at the University of Texas at Austin, teaching in the department of Educational Psychology. He is also the director of the LLILAS-Benson Mexico Center and director for research and education for Dell Medical School’s Mexico collaborations. He has a private practice in Austin, Texas. He was adjunct faculty at the Center for Psychoanalytic Studies in Houston, Texas, from 1994 to 2011, and founding member and past president of Austin Psychoanalytic.

In books, articles, and documentary films, his work ranges from clinical topics to the application of psychoanalytic ideas to socio-cultural issues by the use of “psychoanalytic ethnography” – a methodology he has used for over two decades to explore communities that have experienced violence, racial tension, and profound social change. He argues that the essential components of psychoanalytic clinical practice, such as empathy, the privileging of the patient’s subjectivity, the creation of a narrative space within which the patient is free to engage and explore experience, and the analyst’s attention to their countertransferential experience, are powerful tools for working outside of the consulting room to understand social contexts and events.