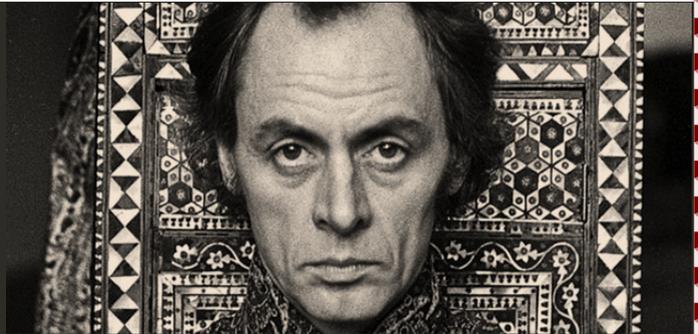


On Wednesday, April 11, 10 am-1 pm, *rams* is happy to invite you to:

**The Road Less Travelled:
R.D. Laing's Approach
to Treating Psychosis**
presented by
Michael Guy Thompson, PhD



Overview of the Training:

Dr. Michael Guy Thompson, a renowned existential psychoanalyst, will talk about his seven-year apprenticeship with radical psychiatrist R. D. Laing as it unfolded in counterculture London of the 1970s.

R. D. Laing's iconoclastic way of thinking challenged the usual assumptions about normal-abnormal, conformist-deviant, and doctor-patient; this manifested most fully in his Kingsley Hall community, where mental health professionals and people with psychotic disorders lived together in the shared household.

Dr. Thompson will begin this two-part presentation with an explanation of the distinction between empathy and sympathy in a clinical setting, a favorite topic of Laing's during Dr. Thompson's supervision with him. In so doing, he will argue that empathy with psychotic clients does not go far enough, and that trust can only be established if the clinician is able to access sympathetic loving kindness.

The lecture will be followed by a screening of a one-hour-long video presentation *Approaches*, featuring Harold Searles and R. D. Laing taking turns interviewing a woman who had been hospitalized each demonstrating their "approach" to healing. The audience will be invited to take part in a discussion distinguishing between Harold Searles' use of empathy, and R.D. Laing's use of sympathy, in treating psychosis.

About the Presenter:



Michael Guy Thompson, PhD, is a Personal and Supervising Analyst and Faculty member at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California in San Francisco, a past President of the International Federation for Psychoanalytic Education (2000, 2001), as well as of the Northern California Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology (2004), and a psychoanalyst in private practice in San Francisco.

Having trained and worked with RD Laing, Dr. Thompson continues to be active in examining his legacy and promoting existential perspective on psychoanalysis. He founded and runs *Free Association*, a psychoanalytic salon devoted to integrating phenomenology and psychoanalysis: lectures extensively throughout the United States and internationally; and serves on the editorial boards of several professional journals, including *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, the *Journal of Phenomenological Psychology*, the *Journal of European Psychoanalysis*, and the *Journal of the Society for Existential Analysis*. A prolific author, Dr. Thompson has written more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, and book reviews on phenomenology, psychoanalysis, and schizophrenia, as well as five books, including *The Death of Desire: The Legacy of R.D. Laing*; *The Ethic of Honesty: The Fundamental Rule of Psychoanalysis*; and *The Truth about Freud's Technique: The Encounter with the Real*. Presently, Dr. Thompson is writing a new book (*Happiness and Chance: The Role of Risk in our Search for the Good Life*) and working on opening a residential therapy center in the San Francisco Bay Area, *Gnosis Retreat Center*, modeled on R. D. Laing's Kingsley Hall and its offshoot, Portland Road.

Location: rams' Conference Room, 3626 Balboa St., San Francisco

On Wednesday, April 11, 10 am-1 pm, RAMS is happy to invite you to:

*The Road Less Travelled: R.D. Laing's approach to treating psychosis
by Michael Guy Thompson, PhD*

This intermediate-level course is intended for psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional clinical counselors who have experience in working with the severely mentally ill patients.

Course Objectives:

- Learn about a little known and poorly understood chapter in the history of psychotherapy that fuelled deinstitutionalization movement and revolutionized treatment of the severely mentally ill
- Deepen understanding of the relational challenges faced by people who live with psychotic conditions and the challenges involved in psychotherapy with them
- Learn about the distinctly different approaches to treatment practiced by the two pioneers of psychotherapy with psychotic patients, R.D. Laing and Harold Searles
- Become able to distinguish between Harold Searles' use of empathy and R.D. Laing's use of sympathy in treating psychosis
- Understand the role of radical acceptance and loving kindness in shaping the therapeutic relationship with a psychotic person

Attendance:

Attendance is FREE. No RSVP is necessary. The training will start at 10:00 am and end at 1:00 pm; there is no planned break. Those arriving more than 15 minutes after the start time or leaving before the workshop is completed will not be able to receive CE credit.

CE Credits:

Three continuing education credits for licensed psychologists, MFTs, LCSWs, and LPCCs are provided for participation in the full three-hour training.

RAMS is approved by the California Psychological Association (RIC121) and California Board of Behavioral Sciences (PCE4601) to provide continuing education for Psychologists, MFTs, LCSWs, and LPCCs. RAMS maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

CE credits are free of charge for RAMS staff; those who are applying for CE credits will need to indicate it on the sign-in/sign-out roster and fill out a course evaluation form.

Please direct any questions regarding CE credits to:

Angela Tang, LCSW

Fax: (415) 751-7336

Mail: RAMS, 639 14th Avenue, SF, CA 94118

Phone: (415) 800-0699 ext. 200

Location: RAMS' Conference Room, 3626 Balboa St., San Francisco