

ONLINE

**“I HOPE YOU DIE AND I HOPE IT’S SOON” THE HORRORS OF
INFANTICIDAL ATTACHMENT**

SPEAKER: PROFESSOR BRETT KAHR

A Special Talk in Honour of our Founder, John Southgate

This presentation will be chaired by Tori Settle, CEO of the Bowlby Centre

Saturday, 23 October 2021

11 am to 1pm

ABOUT THE TALK

Do some parents really hope that their babies will die?

In this chilling, but vital presentation, Professor Brett Kahr, a long-standing Consultant in Psychology to The Bowlby Centre, will explore why certain parents harbour either fleeting or sustained murderous wishes (often of an unconscious nature) towards their daughters and their sons. Kahr has defined these secret death wishes as the building blocks of the “infanticidal attachment”, a type of relationship between parent and child which often results in severe madness or criminality.

Drawing upon many decades of work with psychotic and forensic patients, Professor Kahr will investigate the origins of the infanticidal impulse and how these hateful parental feelings become enacted, creating an extremely pathogenic form of disorganised attachment, which he has come to understand as the “infanticidal attachment”. He will consider the different types of such a disturbance and explore why some victims of early death wishes commit suicide, why others become violent criminals, and why others suffer from extreme breakdowns or from eating problems, life-threatening addictions, and a host of other debilitating psychological states.

Kahr will explain how intensive, long-term, attachment-based psychotherapeutic treatment can contribute to the neutralisation of such toxic death wishes and thus offer patients a sense of hope for the future.

SPEAKER

Professor Brett Kahr

Professor Kahr has worked in the mental health profession for over forty years.

He is Senior Fellow at the Tavistock Institute of Medical Psychology in London and, also, Visiting Professor of Psychoanalysis and Mental Health at Regent’s University London. He is also Honorary Director of Research at the Freud Museum London. Additionally, he serves as Consultant Psychotherapist at The Balint Consultancy and, also, as Chair of the Scholars Committee of the British Psychoanalytic Council.

Professor Kahr has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with The Bowlby Centre, having first taught for the organisation back in 1991 and having become its Consultant in Psychology in 1992, nearly thirty years ago.

He is the author of sixteen books and series editor of more than seventy additional titles. His solo books include: *Sex and the Psyche*; *Bombs in the Consulting Room: Surviving Psychological Shrapnel*; and *Dangerous Lunatics: Trauma, Criminality, and Forensic Psychotherapy*. His most recent book, *Freud's Pandemics: Surviving Global War, Spanish Flu, and the Nazis*, will be published by Karnac Books in September, 2021. In 2022, he will publish his book on *Eggshells with Razor Blades: Tales of Extreme Psychological Suffering*.

Professor Kahr works with individuals and with couples in Central London.

DETAILS

This talk will be online

Date:

Saturday, 23 October 2021

Time:

11 am to 1.00 pm

Cost:

£30

£10 - Bowlby Centre members

Bowlby Centre students – free, please contact Carol Tobin carol.tobin@thebowlbycentre.org.uk to book your place.

If you would like to book this talk, please visit www.thebowlbycentre.org.uk.