



MPhil in Psychoanalytic Studies



The Dissertation

For our students, the dissertation is often the most challenging as well as the most rewarding part of the course. We provide our students with opportunities to explore and think through various ideas they have and we help them to narrow down toward a particular question which they then explore under the supervision of one of the course tutors. The dissertation is relatively brief – between 14,000 and 16,000 words – and may deal with any subject as long as it is viewed through a psychoanalytic lens.

Students bring their own interests to this and many bring subjects they have looked In some situations, where students have an interest in this, we help our students toward publication of their dissertations as journal papers as well as helping them to develop ideas beyond the course and toward doctoral research in the same or a connected area. To show the breadth of subjects explored in the dissertation, please see the list of titles from our most recent graduating group:-

Recent Titles

- ❖ The midwife-mother relationship: Containing birth
- ❖ Why do Cod fall in love? Psychoanalytic ideas on love as applied to the 21st century phenomenon of “catfishing”
- ❖ Serial homicide: A psychoanalytic review
- ❖ Arrested identity development: The modern millennial moratorium in psychoanalytic terms
- ❖ The process of symbolization as appropriation of meaning: The eloquence of the silence
- ❖ The phenomenology of fetishism in ‘objectum sexuals’
- ❖ An object relations critique of psychiatric diagnosis
- ❖ A proposal for the identity ambivalence theory: A contributing factor of the mother-daughter relationship in anorexia
- ❖ What is love?: A psychoanalytic exploration of the nature of romantic love and a discussion of Erich Fromm’s concept of mature love.
- ❖ The paternal silence: A psychoanalytic exploration of inhibition in Irish father-son relations.
- ❖ “In the intimacy of my ‘enaction’”: Modelling Kohut's ‘Bipolar Self’ as a molecular autopoietic system.
- ❖ The living image in Michelangelo: The dyadic communion through a Winnicottian lens.
- ❖ Fairy tales, a personal escape – along the path of child development.