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CCIG Keynote Lecture (part of CCIG forum 12)

Tuesday 13th April 2010 15.30-17.00 –The Open University, Walton Hall Campus, Milton Keynes, MYB Rooms 1-4

Deborah P. Britzman, Distinguished Research Professor, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

“Reading Sigmund Freud’s Group psychology today”

Freud’s 1921 study, “Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego” is used as an occasion for raising a number of conundrums for social theory, education, and psychoanalysis. This lecture returns to Freud’s text as a turning point in psychoanalytic theory and as an argument for thinking freedom. I raise a number of questions. Why does Freud turn to mythology and to the poets when constructing affecting problems of identification found in ordinary modes of cultural life? Why do groups create libidinal ties? What counts as group psychology if what also counts is the unconscious and sexuality? Can individual psychology shed light on the analysis of the social order?

Deborah Britzman is Distinguished Research Professor in the Faculty of Education at York University in Canada and a practicing psychoanalyst. Her recent book is *The Very Thought of Education: Psychoanalysis and the Impossible Professions* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2009). Britzman’s current book, *Freud, Psychoanalysis and Education: An Introduction* is due for publication in mid summer, 2010 with Routledge Press.

RSVP Pearl Whitney (p.a.whitney@open.ac.uk) to confirm your attendance. For further information about CCIG Forums and keynotes, please contact James Ash (james.ash@open.ac.uk).