

COVID, CONTAGION AND THE ORGANISATIONAL CONTAINMENT OF ANXIETY



Saturday 15th May, 2021 (Aust EST schedule)

18.00 Welcome Dr Christine Hill

Presentations Chair: Dr Peter Smith

18.10 – 19.10 Dr Jo O'Reilly

Fear, Loss and Estrangement: the emotional impact of the covid pandemic upon staff working in mental health and how the organisation can help.

Mental Health staff work at the coalface of human distress. Their work involves offering themselves as containers of mental disturbance in order to process and to understand this distress. Under ordinary conditions their places of work provide conditions to support them with this task. But what happens when a global pandemic places staff, organisations and the usual sources of support and containment under threat? This presentation will describe how the ability of the organisation to support staff and contain anxiety can be maximised and what we have learnt about the importance of healthy organisational functioning during the pandemic.

15 minute break

19.25 - 20.25 Phil Stokoe

**The impact of Covid on the healthy function of organisations and teams:
Recognising isolation and its effects?**

This presentation describes a model for healthy function in organisations and the impact of Covid on teams and larger systems. Consideration will be given to how the need for organisations to allow the upward passage on anxiety has been affected in the face of the pandemic, and how the isolation of the individual worker is often disguised by the apparent meeting of people on zoom and similar platforms. Finally, a way to think about the specific reorientation required by work-places to maximise healthy functioning in employees and, therefore, for the organisation, will be outlined.

15 minute break

20.40 – 22.00

Open Forum Chair: Dr Rob Gordon

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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