



Conceptualising and Working with the Erotic and Sexual Attraction in Therapy – issues and professional considerations

Dr Maria Luca

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London's National Council for Voluntary Organisations N1 9LR

This workshop will explore conceptualisations of the erotic in therapy, and through therapy vignettes from participants, explore how therapists identify sexual attraction and how they react. Appropriate responses and interventions will be discussed, especially principles of appropriate handling of sexual attraction, client to therapist, therapist to client and mutual. Experiential work on working with the erotic will be facilitated.

Dr Maria Luca is Senior Research Fellow at the School of Psychotherapy & Psychology, Regent's University London. She is Reader in Psychotherapy & Counselling Psychology, Head of the Regent's Reflections Research Centre and Editor of the Journal of Psychotherapy & Counselling Psychology Reflections. Previous administrative roles include Head of School of Psychotherapy and Counselling Psychology at RUL. She worked in the National Health Service for 12 years and currently has a small private practice in London. She is reviewer for various publishers and peer reviewed journals. Her current research projects include: sexual attraction and the erotic in therapy; sexual bullying among University students; the lived experience of migrants; medically unexplained symptoms & grounded theory. She supervises the research of PhD and taught Doctorate students and is external examiner for Doctorate theses. She has given papers widely, both nationally and internationally and run workshops on the handling sexual attraction in therapy. She made a television appearance on Sky News (25/03/2016), discussing sexual bullying among young people. Included in her publications are: Luca, M. (2014) *Sexual Attraction in Therapy: Clinical Perspectives on Moving Beyond the Taboo - A Guide for Training and Practice* London: Wiley. Luca, M. (2004) 'The Therapeutic Frame in the Clinical Context – Integrative Perspectives', London: Brunner-Routledge. Luca, M. (2002) 'Containment of the Sexualized and Erotized Transference', In *Journal Of Clinical Psychoanalysis, Vol. 11 No. 4 Fall 2002. International Universities Press.*