



Conference
of the International School
of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy

20
25

New Directions
in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy.
*The Neurodevelopmental Perspective
in Individual Therapy and Couples
Therapy in the TFP Model*

15–16.11.2025 – **Wrocław, POLAND**



konferencja2025.msppd.pl



International
School of Psychodynamic
Psychotherapy

MSPPd 2025 Conference

The International School of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy together with the Department and Clinic of Psychiatry of the Wrocław Medical University cordially invite you to the conference: *New Directions in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy. The Neurodevelopmental Perspective in Individual Therapy and TFP Couples Psychotherapy.*

We cordially invite you to participate in a conference dedicated to contemporary directions in the development of psychodynamic psychotherapy, featuring lectures, workshops, and clinical supervisions conducted by experienced specialists.

This unique event combines the latest achievements in neuropsychanalysis with practical applications in therapy.

Why is it worth participating in the conference?

You will discover innovative methods that combine classical psychodynamic approaches with the latest findings in neuroscience. You will gain practical tools for working with couples and in individual therapy. You will have the opportunity to meet renowned experts from around the world, including Mark Solms – the father of neuropsychanalysis.

Innovation

A pioneer of neuropsychanalysis in Poland!

Mark Solms – lecture – discover how the brain influences our emotions and relationships.

Practicality

Concrete tools for therapists

Workshops, supervisions, and case analyses that will enrich your work. You will return from the conference with inspiration and proven methods to apply.

Experts

World-class speakers

International experts in TFP, neuropsychanalysis, and couples therapy. Direct contact with leading authorities in the field.

Networking

Community of professionals

Meet psychotherapists from all over Poland. Exchange experiences, establish collaborations, and expand your network of contacts.

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you to participate in the first conference organized by our community – brought together around clinical practice, psychotherapy research, and theoretical reflection on the functioning of the mind.

Every day, we co-create a space where psychotherapy develops both through direct work with patients and through scientific research conducted in collaboration with academic centers in Poland and around the world. We believe that the combination of practice and science forms the foundation of reliable and effective psychotherapeutic care.

Our conference is a meeting place for practitioners and theorists – a space for exchanging experiences, inspiration, and joint reflection on the challenges posed by contemporary psychotherapy. It is also an opportunity to present new directions in therapeutic work, to examine current diagnostic dilemmas, and to learn techniques that can enrich our daily practice.

We hope that this gathering – among people united by passion and commitment to therapeutic work – will become a stimulus for further development, both individually and for our entire community.

See you there!

The Scientific and Organizing Committee of the conference

The conference provides a space for the exchange of ideas, deepened reflection, and joint professional development in the spirit of integrating clinical knowledge with the latest scientific achievements.

Scientific Committee of the Conference

- Prof. habil. Błażej Misiak
- Prof. habil. Tomasz Pawłowski
- Dr Katarzyna Poniatowska-Leszczyńska
- M.A. Andrzej Trzęsicki
- M.A. Piotr Musiał

Organizing Committee of the Conference

- M.A. Andrzej Trzęsicki
- Dr Katarzyna Poniatowska-Leszczyńska
- M.A. Piotr Musiał
- M.A. Anna Przygodzka-Gacek



Neuropsychanalysis and the Neurodevelopmental Perspective

One of the main assumptions of the conference is to demonstrate how knowledge of neuropsychanalysis and the neurodevelopmental perspective influences the understanding of psychotherapeutic phenomena, highlighting their innovative potential in the approach to understanding personality pathology and its treatment.

A world-class neuropsychologist and founder of neuropsychanalysis, Prof. **Mark Solms** integrates neuroscience and psychoanalysis in a groundbreaking way. His presence at the conference is connected to the launch of the first Polish edition of the book *Hidden Spring: A Journey to the Sources of Consciousness*, which will soon be published by the Lower Silesian Center of Psychodynamic Studies.

Dr. **Katarzyna Poniatowska-Leszczyńska** combines the non-normative persistence of the Moro reflex with the dominance of the Kleinian schizoparanoic position as a consolidated organization of experience, which not only explains psychoanalytic theories in the light

of knowledge about neurodevelopment but also indicates ways of working in the field of psychotherapy. Together with Dr. **Iwona Palicka**, they will address the question of to what extent seemingly stable temperamental predispositions can be modified, what they may be related to, and how this knowledge can be useful for psychotherapeutic practice. Alongside Prof. **Tomasz Pawłowski** and the Department of Psychiatry at the Piastów Śląskich Medical University in Wrocław, they conduct research on the connection between primary neurological reflexes and psychological symptoms and personality pathology.

Andrzej Trzęsicki will introduce contemporary theories of the embodied mind and their significance in psychodynamic psychotherapy. Among others, the concepts of Beatrice Beebe, Daniel Stern, and Vittorio Gallese will be discussed, with particular emphasis on the role of affective attunement, pre-verbal communication, and embodied simulation. He will demonstrate the practical application of these ideas in working with patients with personality disorders.



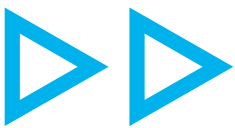
Couples Therapy in the TFP Model

During the conference, for the first time in Poland, the theoretical and practical model of psychotherapeutic work with couples in the TFP (Transference-Focused Psychotherapy) approach will be presented.

This innovative model, developed within the evolving field of transference-focused psychotherapy, will be introduced by Prof. **Barry Stern** from New York and Prof. Nestor Kapusta from the Medical University of Vienna. **Anna Przygodzka-Gacek**, who works

therapeutically with couples on a daily basis using a clinical model based on psychoanalytic couples therapy and the TFP approach, will also participate as a moderator.

The lectures, workshops, and supervisions will offer a unique opportunity to explore a new concept of working with couples from a psychodynamic perspective – one that is based on personality structure, transference, and the analysis of the dyadic relationship.



STIPO-R-PL - Structural Personality Diagnosis

The lecture will be dedicated to the Polish adaptation of the STIPO-R-PL tool – an interview used for diagnosing the structural level of personality organization.

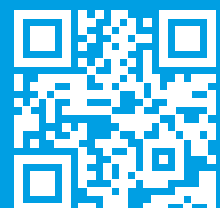
Emilia Soroko and **Piotr Musiał** will present its theoretical foundations, connections with the diagnostic models ICD-11 and DSM-5 AMPD, as well as practical applications in the context of psychodynamic psychotherapy. A special value of the lecture will be the

integration of quantitative research results on the psychometric properties of STIPO-R-PL with qualitative research findings on its clinical utility. Participants will learn not only statistical data but also reflections and experiences of therapists who use STIPO-R-PL in their daily practice. The entire presentation will be placed in a broader clinical context – aimed at those working therapeutically and diagnosing personality disorders.

Register *today*

Registration for the conference *New Directions in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy. The Neurodevelopmental Perspective in Individual Therapy and Couples Therapy in the TFP Model* is now open.

Enrollment for both in-person and online participation is available at: msppd.pl/sklep



Conference Program

Lectures

New Perspectives on the Understanding of Mental Disorders

Błażej Misiak

Framework for Couples Therapy Based on the TFP Model

Barry Stern, Nestor Kapusta

Can Temperament Be Modified? The Influence of the Moro Reflex on Psychological Symptoms and Personality Development

Iwona Palicka,
Katarzyna Poniatowska-Leszczynska

Introduction to Strategies and Techniques of Couples Therapy Based on the TFP Model

Barry Stern, Nestor Kapusta

Embodied Language – The Usefulness of the Concept in Treating Personality Pathology

Andrzej Trzęsicki

Polish Version of the Revised Structured Interview for Personality Organization (STIPO-R-PL)

Emilia Soroko, Piotr Musiał

The Influence of Neuroscience on Psychotherapy – A Practical Perspective

Mark Solms

Workshops

Workshops on Applying the Principles and Techniques of Couples Therapy in the TFP Model Based on Video Material

Barry Stern, Nestor Kapusta,
Anna Przygodzka-Gacek

Individual TFP Psychotherapy

Andrzej Trzęsicki

Neurodevelopmental Deficit in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy

Katarzyna Poniatowska-Leszczynska

Structural Diagnosis Using the STIPO-R-PL Questionnaire

Emilia Soroko, Piotr Musiał

Supervision

TFP Couples Psychotherapy

Barry Stern, Nestor Kapusta

Individual TFP Psychotherapy

Katarzyna Poniatowska-Leszczynska,
Andrzej Trzęsicki

Discussion Panel

New Directions in Psychotherapy

Mark Solms, Barry Stern, Nestor Kapusta,
Katarzyna Poniatowska-Leszczynska,
Andrzej Trzęsicki, Piotr Musiał

Our conference is a meeting place for practitioners and theorists—a space for exchanging experiences, inspiration, and joint reflection on the challenges posed by contemporary psychotherapy.

Speakers



Mark Solms

Professor Mark Solms is a member of the British Psychoanalytical Society as well as the American and South African Psychoanalytic Associations. He is the Director of Neuropsychology at the University of Cape Town's Institute of Neuroscience. He is an honorary member of the American College of Psychiatrists. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the Sigourney Prize. He has published 350 scientific articles and eight books, the most recent of which is *The Hidden Spring* (Norton, 2021). He is the authorized editor and translator of the *Revised Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud* (24 volumes) and the forthcoming *Complete Neuroscientific Works of Sigmund Freud* (4 volumes).



Barry Stern

Barry L. Stern is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is the Deputy Director and Chair of the Psychology Department at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, as well as a senior research scientist at the Institute of Personality Disorders. He writes, lectures, and conducts training on topics related to personality disorders and transference-focused psychotherapy (TFP), including the assessment and treatment of borderline and narcissistic personality disorders and the extension of TFP to work with couples.



Nestor Kapusta

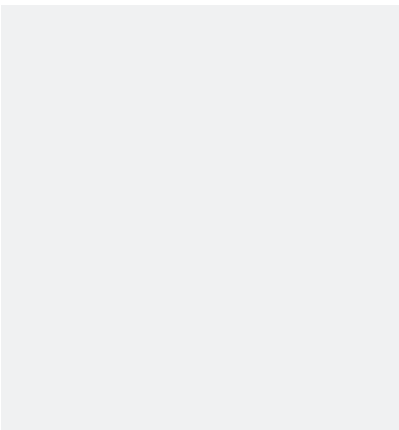
Nestor D. Kapusta is a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and specialist in TFP therapy and couples therapy based on object relations theory. He works as an Associate Professor at the Department of Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy at the Medical University of Vienna, where he conducts research on partner relationships and serves as the clinical director of the outpatient psychoanalytic couples therapy clinic. He initiated the establishment of the Working Group for Psychoanalytic Couples Therapy in Austria (www.agpp.at), which offers a three-year postgraduate program in couples therapy accredited by the German organization BvPPFT and the Austrian Ministry of Health. He is actively involved in TFP-based couples therapy in German-speaking countries. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the psychoanalytic couples therapy program at IPI Washington (theipi.org) and co-chairs the TFP-based couples therapy working group with Barry Stern at ISTFP.

Speakers



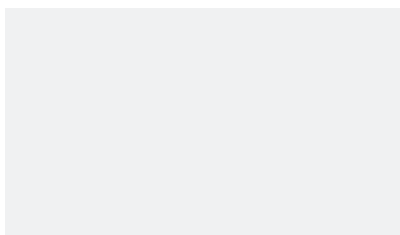
Katarzyna Poniadowska-Leszczynska

Katarzyna Poniadowska-Leszczynska – M.D., Ph.D. Certified psychotherapist and supervisor of the Polish Psychological Association and the Polish Society of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, certified supervisor-teacher of Transference-Focused Psychotherapy (TFP) at the International Society of Transference-Focused Psychotherapy (ISTFP). Director and founder of the Poznań Psychotherapy Workshop. Certified sociotherapist and supervisor of sociotherapy at PTP and PSS. Co-founder of the International School of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy. She is engaged both scientifically and practically in psychodynamic psychotherapy, differential diagnosis, and the impact of neurodevelopmental disorders on psychological symptoms as well as on the etiology and treatment of personality pathology.



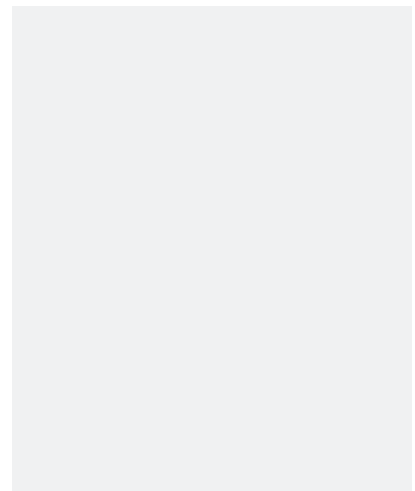
Andrzej Trzescicki

Andrzej Trzescicki is a certified psychotherapist and supervisor of the Polish Psychological Association and the Polish Society of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, as well as a certified supervisor and teacher of TFP. He is a publisher of literature in the field of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis. Founder and owner of the Lower Silesian Psychodynamic Center. Co-founder of the International School of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy. He gained professional experience working, among others, in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Department at the Lower Silesian Pediatric Center, in the Psychological and Pedagogical Clinic, and collaborating for 16 years with the Krakow Psychodynamic Center. He is the originator and founder of the Supervision School and the post-graduate course in transference-focused psychotherapy. His interests include comparative analysis of therapeutic models based on psychoanalytic concepts and neuroscience research on the mind-brain relationship in the context of psychodynamic psychotherapy.



Piotr Musiał

Piotr Musiał, M.A. in Psychology, assistant at the Department of Psychiatry of the Piastów Śląskich Medical University in Wrocław, specialist in child and adolescent psychotherapy, certified psychotherapist of the Polish Society of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy (PTPPd) and Transference-Focused Psychotherapy (TFP) at the International Society of Transference-Focused Psychotherapy (ISTFP), trainee-supervisor. Publisher of literature in the field of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis, co-owner of the Lower Silesian Psychodynamic Center. Co-founder of the International School of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy. His research interests include the diagnosis and treatment of personality disorders, with particular emphasis on the adolescent period.

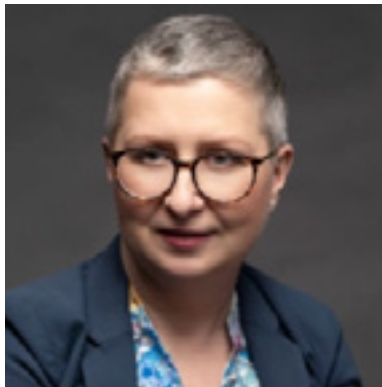


Speakers



Błażej Misiak

Prof. habil. M.D. Błażej Misiak is a specialist in psychiatry and the Head of the Department and Clinic of Psychiatry at the Piastów Śląskich Medical University in Wrocław. He is the author of over 200 internationally recognized publications. In 2023–2024, he was ranked among the top 2% most cited scientists worldwide (according to the Stanford University ranking in cooperation with Elsevier). He has repeatedly led research projects funded by the National Science Centre and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. He has received numerous prestigious national and international awards and scholarships, including the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Fellowship Award (ECNP Fellowship Award), the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry Young Investigator Award (WFSBP Young Investigator Award), and the START Scholarship from the Foundation for Polish Science (twice). Prof. Misiak's clinical and scientific interests focus on the biological basis of mental disorders, the application of big data analysis methods in psychiatry (network analysis, machine learning), and early intervention in psychiatry, with a special emphasis on psychotic disorders.



Iwona Palicka

Doctor of Health Sciences, Specialist in Clinical Psychology with a focus on Neuropsychology (area of interest: developmental neuropsychology), therapist of neurodevelopmental methods (SI, INPP, BI, Johansen-IAS), diagnostician, specialist in diagnosing developmental disorders such as FASD, trauma therapist using the psychoneurophysiological model (Somatic Experiencing™, NARM™, SOMA-Embodiment™, NAPD, Brainspotting®), academic lecturer, director of the Child Development Stimulation Center in Poznań, member of the Board of the Fastryga Foundation, President of the Polish Society of Sensory Integration, Founding Member and former Secretary of the Polish Somatic Experiencing Association; author and co-author of numerous scientific and popular science publications concerning FASD, Sensory Integration, neurodevelopmental disorders, and developmental trauma.



Emilia Soroko

Emilia Soroko, Ph.D., habilitated, Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University, in the Department of Health Psychology and Clinical Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology and Cognitive Science. She heads the Laboratory of Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research in Clinical Psychology. Her interests include personality psychopathology, narrative psychology, autobiographical stories, as well as qualitative and mixed approaches regarding methods of eliciting verbal data and their analysis. She is the author of numerous articles in this field, as well as the monograph *Autonarrative Activity of Individuals with Different Levels of Personality Organization. Stories about Close Relationships* (2014).

MSPPd CONFERENCE

New Directions in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy. *The Neurodevelopmental Perspective in Individual Therapy and Couples Therapy in the TFP Model*

15–16.11.2025 – Wrocław, POLAND

During the event, we will address current issues that connect classical psychodynamic thought with new diagnostic and neurobiological perspectives. Our main focus will include:

*Application of the
neurodevelopmental perspective*
in psychodynamic diagnosis and psychotherapy

*The paradigm of embodied
language and mind*
and its implications for clinical practice

Structural diagnosis
using the STIPO-R-PL questionnaire

The influence of neuropsychanalysis
on therapeutic technique and the understanding
of unconscious processes

The model of couples therapy
within the transference-focused
psychotherapy (TFP) approach

Supervisions in the TFP model
including presentations of psychodynamic
psychotherapy sessions

Submission and Registration

Registration for in-person participation in the conference on November 15–16, 2025, in Wrocław, Poland, as well as online participation, is available at: msppd.pl/sklep



Conference Organizer

International School
of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Ltd.

Department and Clinic of Psychiatry
Piaśtów Śląskich Medical University
in Wrocław, Poland

Contact

konferencja@msppd.pl

konferencja2025.msppd.pl

Conference Venue

Medical Information Center
2–6 Marcinkowskiego Street
Wrocław, Poland

Submission and Registration

msppd.pl/sklep

Benefits of Participating in the Conference

The Latest Knowledge
in Neuropsychanalysis and TFP

Networking with professionals from
across the country

Certificate
of Attendance

Practical Workshops
with Renowned Experts

Clinical case
supervisions

Conference Materials
for Further Use