“Recovered Memory: What does it all mean?”
Professor Warwick Middleton MB BS, FRANZCP, MD
(Email: warmid@tpg.com.au)

Trauma & Dissociation Unit Belmont Hospital, Brisbane
Freud: The Assault on Truth
Freud’s Suppression of the Seduction Theory
J M Masson

FREUD
The Assault on Truth
Freud’s Suppression of the Seduction Theory
Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson

For Warwick
Dear Ms. [Handwritten note]
Wish you all the best.

Warwick Middleton, 2019
“In one instance, the brother... of his own accord... confirmed for me ... [sexual abuse] scenes of this kind from their later childhood and the fact of sexual relations dating further back. Another time it happened that two women whom I was treating had as children had sexual intercourse with the same man, when certain scenes had occurred in which all three took part. A particular symptom which could be traced to these childish experiences had been developed in both cases and bore witness to this common experience.”

SIGMUND FREUD, 1896
Warwick Middleton,
2019
“Two equally terrified children who compare their experiences, and because of their common fate understand each other completely and instinctively.”

Sandor Ferenczi
Warwick Middleton, 2019

Wilhelm Fliess’s son, Robert Fliess, age six

PSYCHOANALYTIC SERIES: VOLUME III

SYMBOL, DREAM and

PSYCHOSIS

Robert Fliess
In his 1956 volume Robert Fliess observed that, “amnesia removal uncovers much more frequently than Freud’s writings lead one to expect, **memories** of which there can be no doubt as to their authenticity, yet which are of **so bizarre a nature that, if one followed the general trend in these writings, one would declare them – erroneously – as **fantasies of the polymorphously perverse child**. Finding this, I found also the cause. It lies in the unbelievable frequency of the (undiagnosed) ambulatory psychosis. When one is able to diagnose it, one sees relatively few families of one’s patients that are entirely free of it; and one recognises that the patient in need of a long and thorough analysis would appear to be, by and large, someone who had been damaged by and has identified with a psychotic parent.

There is no place here to deal with the inexhaustible subject of the psychosis; I can therefore say only in passing that the child of such a parent becomes the object of substantially defused aggression (maltreated and beaten almost to within an inch of his life), and of a perverse sexuality that hardly knows an incest barrier (is seduced in the most bizarre ways by the parent and, at his instigation, by others)…." (pg xvii).
"It is impossible for a physician...to treat such a case [Bertha Pappenheim] without having his practice and private life completely destroyed by it. At the time, I swore never again to submit to such an ordeal."

Josef Breuer

Warwick Middleton, 2019
“Michelle Remembers” 1980

Dr. Pazder, with Michelle, in a typical attitude—listening (but in atypical dress—coat and tie).

*Photo by Beuford Smith/Cesaire.*

Warwick Middleton,
warmid@tpg.com.au 2019
In parting, please at least consider treating yourself to Masson's new work entitled: *The Assault on Truth: Freud's Suppression of the Seduction Theory*. However one feels about the controversy that has arisen around Masson (a psychoanalyst who was dismissed as interim curator of the Freud Archives for his views), his book is scholarly and well-argued. The gist is that Freud caved into pressures from his peers when he first described sexual molestation and similar activities in children as being the traumatic genesis of hysteria, changing his views that such memories obtained during treatment were fantasies derived from oedipal drives. Since most of us working with multiples tend to believe in the veracity of at least many of the accounts we here—indeed some of us have independently verified some of these accounts as did Freud—this book presents a refreshing new look at the seduction theory.

Best regards, George B. Caradonna
Zena LaVey & Michael Aquino
“Exposing Satan’s Underground”, 1988

Warwick Middleton 2019, warmid@tpg.com.au
Peter Freyd, Pamela Freyd
Harrison Pope
Paul McHugh
August Piper
Martin Orne
Frederick Crews
Harold Merskey
Hollida Wakefield
Richard Offshe
Loren Pankratz
George Ganaway
Elizabeth Loftus
Harold Lief
Richard Green
“Paedophiles can boldly and courageously affirm what they choose. They can say that what they want is to find the best way to love. I am also a theologian and as a theologian I believe it is God’s will that there be closeness and intimacy, unity of the flesh, between people. A paedophile can say: ‘This closeness is possible for me within the choices I have made.’”

Ralph Underwager (Quoted in J. Geraci), 1993
“The options for those taking sides in this debate are unambiguous: the mind either has the ability to repress vast numbers of events, as described by recovered memory therapists, or it does not. The satanic cults, which have been reported by a substantial percentage of recovered memory patients and their therapists, either exist or have been created in therapy. The therapy setting and the special techniques used either access life histories previously unknown to the patients, or these procedures create pseudomemories. Because of the clear nature of these positions, this professional debate is not likely to be settled amicably or on some mutually agreed upon middle ground.”

Richard Ofshe & Ethan Watters, 1994
I don't wish to create trouble with this message, but (watch out for those 'buts' - a noteworthy expert claims they always reverse the meaning of the preceding statement) I refuse to be intimidated into not confronting the increasing troubles in our field. We are 'in it,' so to speak, deep. If you don't believe me, check recent adjudications, not to mention multimillion dollar settlements, against therapists.

The trouble we need to address, which is how to serve not only our clients, does not stem solely from efforts of our major detractors in the false memory syndrome movement; it has been lurking in our field from the beginning.

There is an urgent need for therapists to become sophisticated enough to provide treatment without presupposing that clients' reports or 'memories' are in accordance with fact, and without assuming that only one (or even several) interpretation(s) can explain even the most suggestive symptoms or dreams.
Ross Cheit - The Recovered Memory Project

“The memories of Satanic ritual abuse survivors, if they are even partially real, pose a major challenge to our usual beliefs about human history and the cultural evolution of our race. I have met dozens of people who claim to have participated in ritual cannibalism, drinking of human blood, and human and animal sacrifice, and who believe themselves to be demon-possessed.”
Colin A. Ross, 1995

"From my perspective, the best example of the creation of clinically and legally significant pseudomemories involves allegations of satanic ritual abuse (SRA). Such allegations are defined here as claims that a vast, international, multigenerational conspiracy is practicing religious worship of Satan or the devil through rituals involving sex, death, torture, incest, human sacrifice, cannibalism, and necrophilia. With the exception of a few isolated 'copycat' incidents, there is no credible evidence that actual SRA is occurring or ever has occurred."
Frank W. Putnam, 1997
Dr. Masserman went on to write a book in collaboration with his wife that was published by Regent in 1994 under the title "Sexual Allegations and Social Turmoil: What Can Be Done." The Massermans said that medical and police investigations had proved the allegations by Ms. Noel to be false.

Ms. Noel filed a complaint with the Illinois Psychiatric Society, which found cause for sanctions, and voted to suspend Dr. Masserman's membership in the society for five years. Dr. Masserman appealed unsuccessfully to the parent group, the American Psychiatric Association. A spokesman for the national group declined to discuss the specific grounds...
"Ten years ago, people rarely considered the possibility that some of our patients' memories of abuse might be distorted or completely inaccurate. I believe we were incredibly myopic not to have considered this possibility. After all, we have daily evidence that DID patients' memories are not always accurate: The commonly have distorted memories of therapy sessions, sometimes accompanied by grossly inaccurate misperceptions of their therapists."

Peter Barach - ISSD President
"I’ve known Jeff for 15 years. Terrific guy," Trump told New York Magazine back in 2002. "He’s a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it — Jeffrey enjoys his social life."
Jennifer Freyd, UO psychologist honoured for her work on betrayal trauma. ISSTD Life Time Achievement Award, San Francisco ISSTD Annual Conference 2016

Warwick Middleton, warmid@tpg.com.au 2019
PROFESSOR WARWICK MIDDLETON

CONTACT

Contact Details:
Email: warmid@tpg.com.au
Phone: 07 38314466
Fax: 07 38314477
Postal: Suite 4D, 87 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane 4000, Australia
Warwick Middleton Linkedin
Warwick Middleton Researchgate