



**the philadelphia association  
2025**

**60 years on  
THE POLITICS  
OF ENGAGEMENT**

Dear friends,

You are welcome to attend a series of events at Marty's Yard, Hampstead, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Philadelphia Association.

See the Programme below for events on July 19 2025 and September 20 2025

More events and details to follow....

If you intend to come along please email Josh at the PA office: [office@philadelphia-association.org.uk](mailto:office@philadelphia-association.org.uk)

**Saturday 19 July 2025**

Introduction to the day - Josh Foyster

**I – 2:30**

## **The Concrete World: Hauntology, Archaeology and the Anthropocene.**

**Miles Clapham**

There is more concrete, poured by humans, than there are living organisms on this Earth. We humans seem to insist we are not part of nature, and in this state of madness seem also to be driving ourselves towards extinction, along with many other companions, although we must acknowledge the drivers are mostly huge vested interests. Not just...

It seems true to say we are at a critical moment in global history, whichever way you look. As Franco Berardi puts it seems we are sliding into geopsychosis, overwhelmed by information, the infosphere full of viruses invading the psychosphere, our social unconscious exploding, the human constructed world fragmenting, the Earth which we actually inhabit, or could inhabit, often left out of our considerations. I feel deeply, here I face my own limits, including mortality, that in this situation psychotherapy reaches the limits of what it can deal with. We are not actually living in an oppressed and exploited colony, but there are some strong parallels, and as Fanon said, I paraphrase, with a gun at your head, lying on the couch to talk about it doesn't reach the right corners.

Freud, himself interested in archaeology, used it as a metaphor for uncovering the unconscious. If we stay with the metaphor, what is uncovered would be dead and dried up. And it could be said that Freud's archaeological method depended on always reaching the same fixed truths. Wittgenstein added his thought, "psychoanalysis buries its truths under geological layers of ways of speaking." Although there are phenomenological archaeologies that look for the lived landscape in what is being uncovered.

Hauntology which is no definite thing imagines the spirits, lost voices, lost futures, which haunt the present. We are all inhabited by other creatures, literally and metaphorically. Some of these past presences have opened doors for us, some slammed them shut, both personally and politically. In this critical moment, I want to reflect a little on the spirit that brought me here, that stays with me, and a kind of hope that involves, as Merleau-Ponty puts it rather beautifully, "wild perception", that is perception which sees through – perhaps never fully possible – all the many layers of thought, and what Wittgenstein termed "ways of speaking" that bury or misalign the "two spheres or two vortices" of our seeing and the world.

## Biog

Miles Clapham trained in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the 1980s when family therapy and psychotherapy were the main approaches to working with young people and their families, and at the same time trained in psychotherapy at the Philadelphia Association, influenced by R D Laing, John Heaton and the philosophy of Wittgenstein, Merleau-Ponty and recently Franco Berardi, amongst others. He worked in CAMHS, including some years in inpatient and forensic adolescent services, but mostly in the community, and also saw people for individual psychotherapy privately. Now mostly retired although still doing a little psychotherapy and supervision, he lives in Spain with his wife and works on a permaculture project in the impending desert of Andalucia, planting and caring for trees with a spirit of hope.

3 - 5 pm

# Why the Houses?

## *Open Doors and Lost Keys*

Chris Oakley and Paul Zeal, introduced by James Mann

We will discuss the 1960's Zeitgeist which included various ventures in radical and anti - psychiatry; Laing and the PA were in the thick of it.

In particular, we will recall Drs Cooper, Crawford and Laing – as we remember them (and as they may have been).

We will then segue into discussion of houses we were involved in as therapists. We are aware that others present may have contributions to make.

### **Relevant bios:**

CHRIS OAKLEY trained with, and was a member of the PA for a number of years, being the sole house therapist at De Beauvoir Square, before joining the group of therapists involved with the Shirland Road Community. He, now a member of the Site for Contemporary Psychoanalysis, has worked in private practice since the early 1970s, and has written extensively on psychoanalysis with his book, a psychoanalytic approach to the question of what we use football to do for us, *Football Delirium*, being shortlisted for the 'Football Book of the Year' in 2008.

PAUL ZEAL lived in Kingsley Hall for fourteen months from June 1966. He trained with, and was a member of the PA for many years. and worked as a therapist in several of the households, from setting up the Archway Community in 1970, until 1988 when he stepped away from the Shirland Road Community. He left London for the SW and chaired the Severnside Institute for Psychotherapy for six years. He has had several papers published in various books and journals. He is a founder member of Climate Psychology Alliance, and now lives on Dartmoor.

**6pm onwards**

Exhibition Opening

## The Insomnia Series

Andrea Heath in conversation with the Artist

“I am a resident at the PA community house, and a large part of my mental health struggles is chronic insomnia. The artworks that will be on display are autobiographical symbolist paintings, portraying my nightly struggles with very little sleep. I have suffered from insomnia for over thirty years. Together, they form a body of five paintings, wherein I am the central figure in each. They are a portrayal of my experience of being an insomniac – a desperate and lonely world where time stands still and the endless long nights dwindle away...”

Followed by Drinks & Refreshments

**Saturday 20 September 2025**

From 3pm

Introduction to the day - Andreas Constandinos

**Provenance... what we still value**

Panel discussion

**Panel discussion chaired by Barbara  
Latham and senior PA members**

A conversation about what endures and still  
holds value, individually and collectively, within  
the work and life of the PA

Luke Heaton will be speaking on the legacy of  
John Heaton

6pm Onwards

# PA Gathering

Music and refreshments



We hope to see you there  
The Philadelphia Association