



**CAPCT**

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHOANALYTIC CHILD THERAPISTS

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**CAPCT Committee for Continuing Education and Professional Development**

**Understanding Projection & Projective Identification  
in Work with Marital Couples**

**PRESENTER**

**Kas Tuters, M.D.**

**TIME AND PLACE**

**Monday, March 27, 2017  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
8 Rean Drive, Meeting Room  
Toronto, Ontario**

**ABSTRACT**

In this seminar I will discuss **two commonly occurring dynamics** that marital or couples therapists encounter when clients seek their help. The first one has to do with externalizing one's own difficulties, and attributing those to the other person, and then entrapping that person in a dual bind (mostly at the unconscious level). This is the dynamic of **projection and projective identification**. Another frequent dynamic that is associated with the above is the phenomenon of **attraction of opposite personality types**, where the conscious or unconscious fantasy is to "round out one's own functioning by incorporating the missing parts that one has found in a romantic partner". The combined, hoped-for fantasy is that together they will make a wonderful unit. If the two personalities are flexible and open to growth, the result can be an enriching one. However, if one or both partners possess a rigid, defensive personality make-up, the result can be an unhappy impasse, or even a destructive demolition of the dyad. These dynamics will be presented through clinical case illustrations, as well as outlining some helpful strategies when working with couples. The hope is that this material will resonate with the participants' own clinical work, and will allow for a lively discussion.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. To understand more clearly the complex dynamics of Projection and Projective Identification in intimate relationships.
2. To become more aware of factors that determine a positive relational growth, or on the other hand, cause mutual destructiveness.
3. To be able to format helpful intervention strategies when working with couples.



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## **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**

**Kas Tuters, M.D.**, Psychoanalyst in private practice; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Toronto; Faculty, Toronto Psychoanalytic Society & Institute; Visiting Professor of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Latvian Academy of Medicine. His current teaching activities include: running T.P.S. Outreach Courses for mental health professional in the community; teaching a seminar on Couples & Marital Therapy; teaching a course on “Psychoanalysis & Culture” for the Toronto Psychoanalytic Institute. He has a special interest in how cultural factors impact psychoanalytic work and the psychological/psychoanalytic understanding of New Media, both digital and social.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

These continuing education hours can be used toward the required “750 hours of practice in the Profession” when applying for the Grandparenting option to the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO)

Please Note: Open only to CAPCT members. Registration is FREE.  
For more information and to RSVP please contact 416.690.5464 or [EMAIL](#)

RSVPs appreciated.