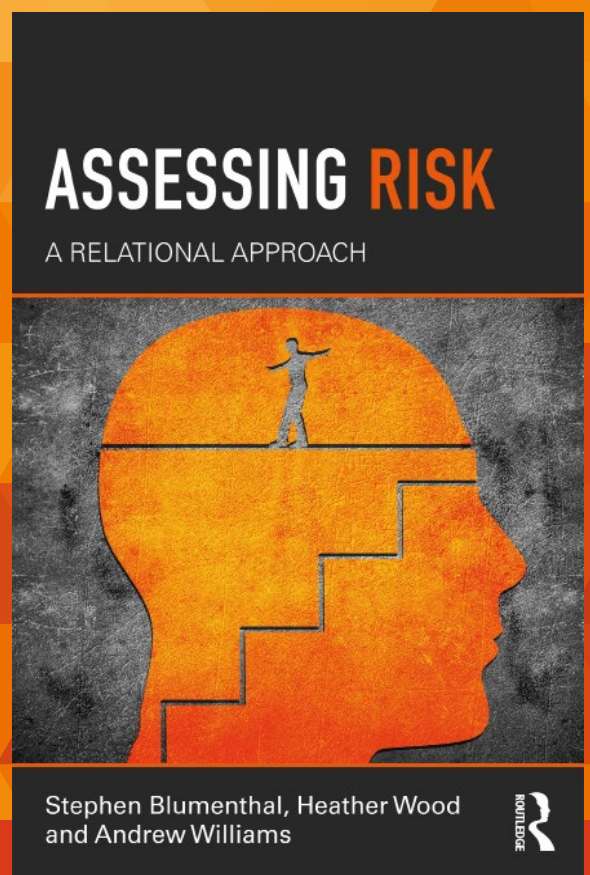


Assessing Risk in Mental Health and Criminal Justice Settings

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Friday 5 October 2018 De Vere West One Conference Centre, London



Speakers include:

Professor Nicola Gray
Swansea University

Professor Bob Snowden
University of Cardiff

Dr Jackie Craissati, MBE

Dr Stephen Blumenthal
Dr Heather Wood
Dr Andrew Williams
The Tavistock and Portman
NHS Foundation Trust
and Authors of Assessing
Risk - A Relational Approach

Chaired by:
Dr Jessica Yakeley
Director of the Portman Clinic
The Tavistock and Portman NHS
Foundation Trust

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"We need to revisit the concept of 'risk' to ensure that there is real substance to it"

Professor Sir Simon Wessely, The independent review of the Mental Health Act, May 2018

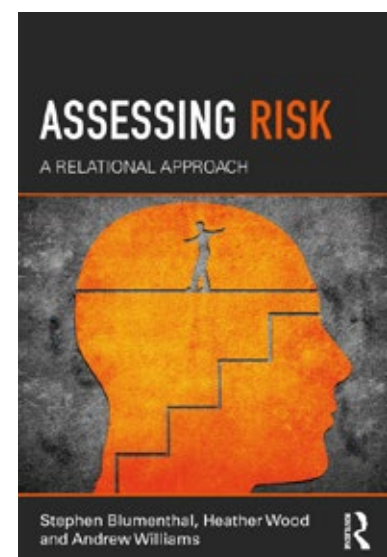
Practitioners in health, social care and the criminal justice system have to manage challenging risk issues in their day to day work, often without the necessary tools for doing so. This can be a daunting task in a culture which attributes blame when things go wrong. It can lead to defensive practice and detracts from understanding the complex and subtle issues involved in making sense of why people engage in behaviours which are harmful to themselves and others, when they are likely to carry out such acts and interpersonal context of managing them.

This conference marks the launch of a new book, *Assessing Risk: A Relational Approach*, which offers a novel framework for making sense of assessing and managing risks relating to violent and sexual offending. The speakers will draw on mainstream empirical research relating to risk and present new research findings using innovative implicit association techniques for studying links between violence and excitement. The conference will address intrapersonal and interpersonal dimensions in managing risk and highlight the significance of childhood development in understanding violent and sexually violent acts, and the complicated interpersonal processes involved in managing individuals who have a propensity to violent enactment. These dynamic processes between people impact on risk and risk perception, and can distort judgement if not recognised and understood. The speakers will discuss the problematic issues in communicating risk to the general public and the institutional context of managing such people.

The speakers will draw on their considerable experience working with and undertaking research with high risk individuals. The conference would be of interest to clinicians and practitioners in mental health services, social care and the criminal justice system.

Benefits of attending:

- You will learn about new innovations in assessing and managing risks of harmful behaviour.
- Presented with up to date developments in research relating to violence and cognition.
- Gain knowledge on a variety of approaches to risk assessment and obtain an understanding of the limitations of different methods.
- Develop insight into clinical and practical applications of knowledge relating to risk.
- Reflect on risks relating to internet pornography users.
- Engage with the complicated issues associated with the perception of risk and communication of risk related issues to the general public.
- Consider a framework for thinking about the challenging interpersonal issues involved in managing high risk individuals.
- Think about the organisational aspects of managing high risk people in institutional settings and in the community.



10.00 Introduction to the conference

Dr Jessica Yakeley - Consultant Psychiatrist in Forensic Psychotherapy, Portman Clinic & Director of Medical Education and Associate Medical Director, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust; Fellow of the British Psychoanalytic Society, & Editor of the journal Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy

10.10 Refining risk assessment: Associations between violence and excitement

Dr Stephen Blumenthal

Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalyst
The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust

There are different types of violence based on different motives, including self-preservation, predation, sadism and male dominance. This is based on evidence from neuroscience and psychological studies. These types of violence will be described using video recorded clinical vignettes based on a group treating violent men. This will be used to set the scene for our research on the relationship between violence and excitement using implicit methods.

10.50 Use of implicit methods in risk assessment

Professor Robert Snowden

School of Psychology, Cardiff University

Cognitions about violence are important in the aetiology and maintenance of violent behaviours. However, such cognitions may not be available to introspection or the person may not wish to divulge them. Implicit measurement techniques have been used to measure a range of implicit cognitions that a person may now wish to report (such as attitudes to racial groups). Our laboratory has developed test of implicit cognitions towards violence, such as does the person like violence, find it exciting, etc. The paper will report on our findings in a population with personality disorder and a history of serious offending.

11.30 Questions and panel discussion, followed by teas and coffees at 11.40

12.00 Assessing and managing clinical risks for all core professions: WARRN - the first 15 years

Professor Nicola Gray

Professor of Clinical and Forensic Psychology
Swansea University

WARRN is a skills-based biopsychosocial clinical risk evaluation that combines an in-depth assessment of clinical need while also simultaneously focussing on clinical risks. The WARRN protocol is based on developing the skill-base of the workforce and assesses the individual through a "formulation-based" approach, focusing on the 'why' of clinical risk and not just the 'what'. WARRN was commissioned by Welsh Government and developed following the perceived need to give clinical staff in mental health services a structure and common language for evaluating clinical risks in mental health service users and a structure for developing safety plans based upon the individualised clinical formulation. WARRN is now embedded in all Health Boards in Wales, across both adult services and CAMHS. All core professions are trained using this approach. The workforce training programme is via a train-the-trainer model of delivery and implementation, which can be sensitive to the local context. This has prudent healthcare at its core and is delivered at minimal cost by senior clinical staff based within the organisation. I will describe the components of the WARRN training programme, its benefits and limitations, and our model of service implementation.

12.40 Questions and panel discussion, followed by lunch at 12.50

14.00 Risk assessment and public opinion: Communicating counter-intuitive ideas

Dr Jackie Craissati, MBE

Consultant Clinical & Forensic
Psychologist Psychological Approaches CIC

Professionals have resisted accepting some of the evidence-based risk factors for sexual offenders, because they are counter-intuitive; the public's hostility and rejection of such ideas reflects a similar struggle, exposing shared moral dilemmas. Desistance theory helps us to understand these counter-intuitive risk factors, but it challenges traditional risk management approaches. The talk addresses the question: Is it possible that the public's unwavering hostility towards sex offenders, and their rejection of 'objective expert opinions' actually increases the risk of recidivism?

14.40 Anxiety and confusion in determining risk of internet offending

Dr Heather Wood

Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist and Consultant Adult
Psychotherapist
The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust

Sexual offences can evoke strong emotional reactions which may distort judgements about risk. This is evident in inconsistent reactions to internet offending. A model of internet offending will be presented, with a case illustration, which distinguishes between enduring paedophilia and 'paedophilic breakdown'.

15.20 Questions and panel discussion followed by teas and coffees at 15.40

15.50 Distress Flares and Canaries in Coalmines : Institutional Factors and Risk

Dr Andrew Williams

Consultant Psychiatrist in Forensic Psychotherapy
The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust

The capacity of secure institutions to safely contain the individuals for whom they cater is frequently undermined by consequences of the reverberations of these individuals' psychological disturbance throughout the setting. Through the lens of reflective practice provided to secure institutions, this presentation will explore some of the common challenges facing the staff groups who work within them.

16.30 Plenary and panel discussion

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Venue

De Vere, West One, 9-10 Portland Place, London, W1B 1PR. A map of the venue will be sent with confirmation of your booking.

Date

Friday 5 October 2018

Conference Fee

- ☐ £250 + VAT (£300.00) for NHS, Social care, private healthcare organisations and universities.
- ☐ £200 + VAT (£240.00) for Voluntary sector and charities
- ☐ £495 + VAT (£594.00) for Commercial organisations

The fee includes lunch, refreshments and a copy of the conference handbook. VAT at 20%.

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