

## Clinical Forum

**Saturday, 7 October 2017**

### **Death Mother/ Life Mother: An anthropological contribution to understanding mother-infant dynamics**

#### **Synopsis:**

This talk will explore the forces that underlie 'Death Mother'. Western culture generally believes that women evolved to love all their children instinctively and unconditionally. Such a view is also implicit in Bowlby's writing. However, anthropological research suggests that throughout our species evolutionary history, being 'a mother' has meant nurturing some infants, whilst abandoning others to die.

Becoming conscious of these dynamics, gives us a better understanding of modern mothers who are struggling to nurture their children. It also contributes to our understanding of the early relational trauma carried by those who grow up under the shadow of struggling mothers. As importantly, it helps us heal the shame intrinsic to these dynamics.

This talk will conclude with a meditation using stone-age tools, providing an opportunity to connect to our evolutionary heritage.

#### **About Daniela F. Sieff, PhD**

Daniela F. Sieff, PhD, is an independent scholar with a doctorate in biological anthropology, and an active interest in the dynamics of emotional trauma and its healing. Her doctoral research explored how evolutionary processes contribute to shaping human behavior. Her research took her to a wilderness region of Tanzania to live with a traditional cattle-herders. In recent years, Daniela has explored emotional trauma and healing by interweaving her own experience with knowledge that comes from depth psychology, neurobiology, evolution, and anthropology. She is the author of *'Understanding and Healing Emotional Trauma: Conversations with Pioneering Clinicians and Researchers'* (Routledge 2015). For more information, visit [www.danielasieff.com](http://www.danielasieff.com).

<b>Time:</b>	11.00am - 1.00pm (Registration 10.45)
<b>Cost:</b>	£30 (Bowlby Centre members and students - free)
<b>Venue:</b>	The Bowlby Centre 1 Highbury Crescent, London N5 1RN
<b>Chair of Clinical Forum:</b>	Helene Everitt, member of the Bowlby Centre
<b>CPD:</b>	2 hours - (CPD certificate provided)