



**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2015**

**SCIENTIFIC MEETING:  
Social Defences: Revisiting the Paradigm  
Between Theory and Practice. An Idea On the 'Move'**

**Saturday 31 January 2015, 9.30 - 17.00  
(Registration and coffee from 9.00)**

**Small Hall, Friends Meeting House  
173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ**

**Fees: £45 Full-time Students  
£65 OPUS Associates  
£85 Others  
(Fee includes refreshments and lunch)**

**NB. You can become an Associate  
when booking for this event  
OPUS Associate Membership**

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**Speakers:** David Armstrong, Tim Dartington, Maxim de Sauma, Peter Elfer, Jo Finch, Paul Hoggett, Aideen Lucey, Susan Long, Anton Obholzer, Michael Rustin, Mannie Sher, Jon Stokes, Simon Tucker.

**Chairs:** David Armstrong and Michael Rustin with Olya Khaleelee (OPUS) and Anna Reali (OPUS)

David Armstrong and Michael Rustin are the editors of the book *Social Defences against Anxieties* recently published by Karnac.

David Armstrong is an Associate Consultant at Tavistock Consulting and the author of *Organization in the Mind: Psychoanalysis, Group Relations and Organizational Consultancy*.

Michael Rustin is Professor of Sociology at the University of East London and the author of *The Good Society* and *the Inner World*.

Speakers include practitioners and professionals distinguished for their contributions to the fields of organisational consultancy, applied socio-psychoanalytic thought, and research.

Isabel Menzies Lyth developed her paradigm of social anxieties and defences in the context of her work in a hospital ward in the late Fifties. More than half a century later how do we relate to her idea? To what extent is it still relevant to our experience and practice with groups and

organisations? The aim of this event is to provide an opportunity to revisit Menzies Lyth's idea today, share experiences and encourage further thinking. Contributors from the book *Social Defences against Anxieties* (2014) will offer presentations, followed by responses from discussants and open discussion. Working in groups, there will be ample chance to consider how the concept of social anxieties and defences has adapted to the changing social and working environments, to raise questions and propose alternative views. Our hope is that this day meeting will open up new routes to think about and apply the social defences idea - an idea that, like our experiences and practices, is not forever fixed but constantly 'on the move'.