



OPUS: An Organisation for Promoting Understanding of Society

AN OPUS SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The Psychodynamics of Social Networking: Connected-up Instantaneous Culture and the Self

Wednesday 27 April 2016, 18.30 - 20.30
(Registration and coffee from 18.15)

**Woburn Room, Senate House, University of London, Malet Street,
London WC1E 7HU**

Presenter

Aaron Balick, PhD, is a psychotherapist, cultural theorist, media consultant, and author of *The Psychodynamics of Social Networking: connected-up instantaneous culture and the self*. For more than a decade he has been taking psychological findings from the clinic and the University and transforming them into useful concepts that can be applied to individuals, organisations and culture. Aaron is also an active communicator and international speaker, a writer for publications including Wired, BBC Online, and The Guardian. He is a regular voice on BBC Radio 1 and has consulted on a variety of projects that bring psychological and emotional insight to younger people through the media.

Chairs: Anna Reali and Bronwen Williams, OPUS

Over the past decade the very nature of the way we relate to each other has been utterly transformed by online social networking and the mobile technologies that enable unfettered access to it. Our very selves have been extended into the digital world in ways previously unimagined, offering us instantaneous relating to others over a variety of platforms like Facebook and Twitter among others. While in many ways this introduces a seemingly new paradigm of relating, these new tools still operate on the basis of the same psychological motivations that have always been present.

Drawing on findings from his book *The Psychodynamics of Social Networking: connected-up instantaneous culture and the self*, Aaron Balick will apply psychodynamic thinking to understanding today's digital society from a digital-relational perspective. Broadly, this seminar and discussion will be an application of psychotherapeutic thinking to culture — a necessary angle on today's digital world that is largely missing from social discourse.

Fees: £15 OPUS Associates and full-time Students; £30 Others. Please book online at opus.org.uk or fill in the booking form below. For information please contact Anna Reali at annareali1@gmail.com or admin@opus.org.uk

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