

KEYNOTE

Friday 10 November 2017
Nuffield Hall 09.30 – 11.00

Rethinking embodiment: a route to relating meaningfully

Marianna Fotaki

Marianna Fotaki is Professor of Business Ethics at Warwick Business School.

She has a PHD from the London School of Economics and Political Science and was an Edmond J. Safra Network Fellow at Harvard University (2014/15).

Before joining academia, she worked for Médecins Sans Frontières and Médecins du Monde in Turkey, Iraq and Albania and as EU residential senior advisor to governments of Russia, Armenia and Georgia for ten years.

Marianne has published over 50 papers on the marketization of public services, health inequalities, gender and otherness in organisations and business in leading international journals.

Her recent books include *The Psychosocial and Organization Studies: Affect at Work* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, with Kate Kenny) and *Gender and the Organization. New ways of working and working lives* (Routledge, with Nancy Harding forthcoming in 2017).

Currently she works on ESRC funded projects on whistleblowing, British Academy funded project on corruption and conducts pilot projects on solidarity responses and migration in Greece

The precariousness and vulnerability of our existence are the defining features of the human condition that consumerist societies work hard to evade and avoid recognizing. Neoliberalism encourages and gives us moral licence to reject and stigmatise the weak (i.e. refugees or mentally ill) and worship strong and insensitive leaders that enact for us our desire for invincibility. The image of a disembodied and disembedded individual whose needs for social bonding have been replaced by the commandment to consume enjoyment, sustains this neoliberal fantasy.

I will draw on various feminist psychoanalytic approaches developed by Judith Butler, Jessica Benjamin and Bracha Ettinger to propose an ethics of relationality, allowing us to consider the ways in which our embodiment inextricably links us all to others and to all lives. By way of conclusion, I will argue for utilizing psychoanalytic conceptions of human development and affect to better understand why relating others through compassionate care gives meaning to our individual experiences and transforms us into social beings.