**The Diagnosed Adolescent**

Many adolescents who are referred for psychotherapy have been previously labelled with a neurodevelopmental disorder such as autism or ADHD, or with a psychiatric disorder such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or EUPD. Or perhaps the therapist considers the adolescent’s presentation as warranting assessment.

A compromised capacity for contact is the fundamental essence of each of these presentations. Clinical diagnosis may create relief and understanding for some, though it also runs the risk of further isolating and pathologising the adolescent. Diagnosis has implications for the adolescent’s self-experience. It is important that the therapist remains mindful of the possibility that developmental contexts may be shaping the adolescent’s presentation. Her starting point is *always* the conceptualisation of creative adjustments in non-pathological terms.

Therapeutic intervention ought not be primarily concerned with symptom management but should support the adolescent to access their humanity beyond the diagnosis, so that the lifespace does not become defined by a label. This one-day workshop will explore the principal diagnostic categories related to adolescence and will emphasise therapeutic and case management considerations.

**Date: Thursday 01 December 2022**

**Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm**

***Online Event***

**Fee: £120**

**CPD: 5 Points**

***Registration Link:*** *https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_wnNsxjcNSZWdLtPJaKzIuA*

**About The Presenter:** Bronagh Starrs is Programme Director for the MSc Adolescent Psychotherapy in Dublin Counselling & Therapy Centre in partnership with University of Northampton and Founder & Director of Blackfort Adolescent Gestalt Institute. She maintains a private practice in Omagh, Northern Ireland, as a psychotherapist, clinical supervisor, writer and trainer, specialising in working with adolescents, emerging adults and their families. Bronagh is an adolescent development specialist and has considerable experience as a trainer in adolescent development and therapy throughout Ireland. She also teaches and presents internationally on the developmental implication of trauma on the adolescent journey. Her recent publication Adolescent Psychotherapy - A Radical Relational Approach (Routledge, London) has received international acclaim.