



## Lecture will explore shame in child abuse

<http://www.firstlight.cn> 2007-05-18

09 May 2007, Shame will be the focus of the Freud Memorial Lecture, hosted by the Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies next month. Psychoanalyst Donald Campbell will be speaking on 'The breakdown of the shame shield in child sexual abuse.'

He explained: 'Shame, which occurs from an early age, is an affective response to an awareness of a disparity between expectations of the self and behaviour. Shame gives an internal signal and an external one. Internally, shame functions to signal a withdrawal to protect physical and mental attributes that have been, or are in the process of being, integrated into a sense of the self. In this sense shame functions as a psychic shield. Externally, this withdrawal guards the child when an object becomes intrusive or makes premature demands, which threaten to disrupt natural development.

' The protective function of shame as an external signal depends for its success upon the object perceiving the external manifestations of shame as a shield between self and object, which the object recognizes as a signal of failure and respects enough to react sympathetically to the self. When the shame shield has been breached during an act of child sexual abuse, relief may be sought by resorting to actions that project the confusion, betrayal and disgust into others.'

Donald Campbell is a member, training analyst and former President of the British Psychoanalytical Society and former Secretary General of the International Psychoanalytic Association. He worked for 30 years at the Portman Clinic in London where he also served as Chairman and has published on the subjects of suicide, violence, perversion, child sexual abuse, and adolescence.

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