



# CMPS

Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies

Online Presentation (via Zoom)

## Wilfred Bion, His Indian Ayah, and the Social Unconscious

Wilfred Bion produced original psychoanalytic theories and insights. His ideas are rooted in classical analytic theory while being distinctly discontinuous from it. The discontinuity, I conjecture, came from his contact with an Indian ayah (nursemaid) during the first nine years of his life when he lived in Mathura, India. The unconscious is both dynamic/private and cultural/social. We will look at Bion's approach from both vertices — private and social. His theories, on the surface, are focused on the dynamic unconscious — how do we think our feelings, how do we learn from our experience, how do we make meaning in our relationships with others. In addressing these questions, he reproduced social or cultural dispositions acquired during his infancy and childhood that animated and directed his later thinking, theories, and praxis. Bion's work, taken in full, points to novel ways of working with patients and novel ways of reading and understanding psychoanalysis.

2 CE Credits for Psychoanalysts,  
Psychologists, and Social Workers

**SATURDAY, MAY 10 2025 • 9:30 – 11:30 AM (Eastern)**

**To Register: [cmeps.edu/events](https://cmeps.edu/events)**

**For More Information: 212-260-7050 • [cmeps@cmeps.edu](mailto:cmeps@cmeps.edu)**

PRACTITIONERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC: \$40

STUDENTS: Free



**Karim G. Dajani, PsyD** is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst with a specialization in working with issues related to cultural dislocation and displacement. His research and writing include publications on the links between cultural systems and the unconscious of individuals and groups. He sits on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies*. His recent works include a special issue dedicated to the social unconscious and an upcoming chapter on race and ethnicity in contemporary psychoanalytic theories and praxis that will appear in the next edition of the *Textbook of Psychoanalysis*.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Participants will be able to (1) apply Bion's theory of alpha function to their work with patients, (2) define Transformation in K vs. Transformation in O, and (3) define the term "social unconscious" and describe its presence in psychoanalytic theories and its impact on clinical work.

**Psychoanalysts:** The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychoanalysts (#P-0032).

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