



The Bridge Foundation for Psychotherapy and the Arts
12 Sydenham Road, Bristol, BS6 5SH Tel: 0117 942 4510

Writing the Self

This conference will explore the meeting of literary writing about the self with psychoanalytic understanding. It will attempt to illuminate the idea of psychic development through these writers' search for a new language and vocabulary of self

9.15am – 1.15pm, Saturday, 21st June 2008
The Mansion House, Clifton Down, Bristol, BS8 3LJ

“... creative writers are valuable allies and their evidence is to be prized highly, for they are apt to know a whole host of things between heaven and earth of which our philosophy has not yet let us dream. In their knowledge of the mind they are far in advance of us everyday people, for they draw upon sources which we have not yet opened up for science.”
(Freud, ‘On Jensen’s *Gradiva*’, 1907)

PROGRAMME

- 8.45 **Registration**, coffee and bookstall
- 9.15 Welcome and Introduction
Barbara McNamara
Psychoanalytic psychotherapist and member of Severnside Institute for Psychotherapy
- 9.20 **“I would build that dome in air”**: Coleridge’s Inner Retreat
Paul Cheshire *Trustee of The Friends of Coleridge, writer on the romantic poets, and contributor to the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Coleridge*
- 10.05 Discussion
- 10.15 **“Splinters and Mosaics”**: Virginia Woolf and the Idea of the Self
Alison Light *Writer and critic, author of ‘Mrs Woolf and the Servants’, and Professor at the Raphael Samuel History Centre, University of East London and in the School of English at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne*
- 11.00 Discussion
- 11.10 Coffee and bookstall
- 11.35 **Louis MacNeice and the early or never self**
Melanie Hart *Senior psychoanalytic psychotherapist with a particular interest in the arts, and editor of ‘Generations: Poems between Fathers, Mothers, Daughters, Sons’ published by Penguin Books in 1998*
- 12.20 Discussion
- 12.30 General discussion with panel, introduced by **Barbara McNamara**
- 1.15 Concluding remarks from the Chair