

CONFERENCE:

RE-DRAWING IDENTITY

HELP ME FEEL DIFFERENT,
DON'T CHANGE WHO I AM

DATE: THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2023

VENUE: LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE, LS2 7PD

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#ReDrawingIdentity

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RE-DRAWING IDENTITY



At around the age of 18 months a child will first grasp the idea that an image of themselves in a mirror is not only distinct from the rest of the environment, but a representation of themselves.

The sense of 'self' continues to develop until at around the age of 4, the image of the child in the mirror becomes not only 'me' but the 'me that everyone else sees' and self-consciousness emerges. Growing up, our identity forms as we integrate our life experiences into an ever evolving, internal story. This is the story of 'who I am'. It has characters, episodes, imagery, a setting, plots, and themes; a beginning, a middle and eventually, an end. The story gives us a sense of unity and purpose in life, It will change over time as the world and our place within it changes.

In our conference, we will explore what happens when the continuity of the 'who I am' story is abruptly interrupted, fractured by a catastrophic event that forever changes the story, whether through pain, trauma, loss of function, severe psychological distress, or in the case of acquired brain injury, damage to the very mechanisms which generate the sense of self in the first place.

The fundamental tension embedded in the challenge to identity that a catastrophic event can bring, and the desire to move forward without losing the sense of self, will be explored through our presenters who will highlight collaborative practices, new approaches, experiential learning and opportunities for change.

A fresh approach to content presentation will immerse the audience in the client experience, providing a unique learning experience for delegates (with a few surprises along the way). We hope you will join us for...

Re-Drawing Identity: Help Me Feel Different, Don't Change Who I am.



Vicki Gilman

Case Manager & Managing Director
Social Return Case Management Ltd.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION



[Click Here](#)

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Date: Thursday 27th April 2023

Venue: Leeds Conservatoire, Ls2 7pd

Further Information:

connect@social-return.co.uk

Delegate Rate: £90

Social Media: @SocialReturnCM /
#ReDrawingIdentity

LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE



A contemporary complex at the heart of the city's Cultural Quarter, Leeds Conservatoire provides excellent facilities, including 'The Venue', our main conference space, and the Rooftop Café, where we will be providing lunch & Refreshments and where you can visit our conference exhibitors.

[Find out More Here.](#)

TRAVEL

Leeds has excellent transport links to the rest of the UK via rail, road and the city's international airport.

Rail

15-20 minute (0.8 miles) walk from Leeds Train Station.

Bus

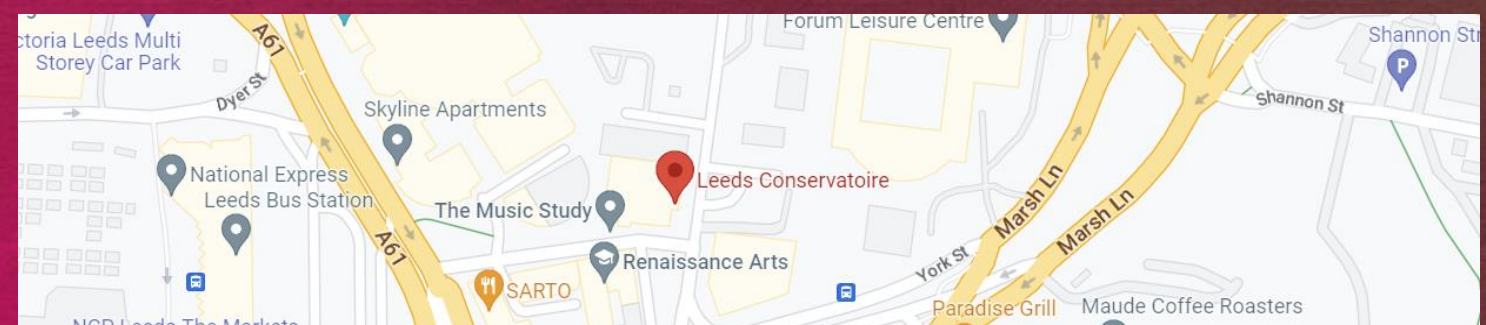
Leeds conservatoire is opposite the city's central bus station, with an extensive local bus network and coach links throughout the country.

Parking

There is a nearby NCP Multi-story Car park 'The Markets', on New York Street (Ls2 7EA), near Leeds Kirkgate Market.

Air

Leeds Bradford international airport is roughly 8 miles with bus transfer (no. 757) which travels to Leeds Central Bus Station.



[View Map Here](#)

PRESENTERS

This year we have brought together a diverse range of presenters to co-produce a unique and engaging programme:



James Piercy

Science Communicator and Trainer, Public Engagement Consultant



Matthew Nakonesky

Speech & Language Therapist, Speech Therapy North East



Dr Melanie Lee

Clinical Psychologist, Trust Psychology Ltd.



Dr Graeme Flaherty Jones

Clinical Psychologist, Author, Clarity Psychology Ltd.



Lucy Fallon

Service Development Director, Ariya Neuro Care



Thom Harrison

Financial Planner, Perspective Financial Group Ltd.

JAMES PIERCY

James Piercy is a Science Communicator, trainer and public engagement consultant who has worked within science communication and public engagement for over 20 years, bringing complex scientific ideas to audiences of all ages.

James experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in January 2011. Since his injury James has returned to the vocation that is his passion; training people, speaking publicly, and sharing information on his experiences since his brain injury.

In James's presentation he will discuss his own lived experience of brain injury and how it can challenge the sense of personal identity. James will discuss his recovery and the substantial challenges he faced including his memory deficits, fatigue and loss of self-confidence. We will learn how he has harnessed his pre-existing skills, along with the experience of his injury to expand and enhance his work, sharing his journey and insights with diverse audiences around the globe.

From James's perspective, the process of 'restoring' his pre-injury identity has been central to meeting the ongoing challenges posed by his injury. We will hear about some of the key milestones in his recovery; the new projects and opportunities to collaborate with others which have helped to rebuild his confidence and sense of identity.

Science Communicator
and Trainer, Public
Engagement Consultant



MATTHEW MAKONESKY

Matthew is an experienced Speech and Language Therapist who has worked primarily with adult clients who have experienced communication and/or swallowing difficulties as a result of a neurological event or condition. He has worked in a range of clinical settings including large acute teaching hospitals, community-based work and at a regional neurological inpatient rehabilitation centre.

We can all intuitively understand the role that communication plays in our sense of who we are. The way we speak, the unique ways with which we express ourselves, how we receive, understand and interpret the communication of others. We can see that, should our ability to communicate change, this would have profound implications for how we view ourselves.

In his talk, Matthew will explore the use of communication groups as a therapeutic tool for creating environments for authentic, genuine communication. In particular, Matthew will focus upon a particular case example, where the using communication groups and 'communication partners' have improved not only the client's therapeutic outcomes, but also helped to create new opportunities for the client to rebuild a positive self-image and consolidate their identity following a serious injury.

Speech & Language
Therapist, Speech Therapy
North East



DR MELANIE LEE

Dr Melanie Lee is an experienced Clinical Psychologist, Cognitive Analytic Therapy (CAT) Practitioner and Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing (EMDR) therapist with a passion for integrating the mind and the body and working with repeating relationship patterns in therapy.

Conversations with Melanie inspired the title of our conference, when she suggested that a pervasive theme in most clients' recovery is an appeal to the practitioner to "please make me feel different, but don't change me"; the interplay between the desire for input, help, support and wanting to feel "different" and move forward with their lives, whilst simultaneously wanting to remain "who I am" and to retain their identity.

In Melanie's presentation, she will explore identity in relation to a new approach in her practice which has enhanced her work with clients and patients. Somatic Integration Processing (SIP) is an interpersonal neurobiology-based conceptualisation tool which assists clinicians in their ability to understand, interpret and utilise diagnostic information about their clients. Melanie will consider how SIP can accelerate the process of getting to the root of unspoken issues which are 'in the room', name them, and bring them to the fore.

Clinical Psychologist, Trust
Psychology Ltd.



DR GRAEME FLAHERTY JONES

Dr Graeme Flaherty Jones is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Director, and Author, with extensive experience of working with complex neurological disorders across independent and NHS care sectors. At the heart of Graeme's work is a passion for developing trusting relationships with others that can be used to bring about meaningful change.

Understanding a person's identity can be complex and difficult, but crucially important. Ensuring that we are sensitive to preserving those aspects of the client's identity that are dear to them, while at the same time, enabling them to adjust, adapt and change is essential to effective rehabilitation.

Drawing on an impactful recent case example of working collaboratively with a client, Graeme's presentation will provide delegates with insights into the importance of personal identity as a guiding principal in therapeutic interventions. As Graeme explains, "My client's story will be absolutely central to the whole of my talk, and within that, I'll share my eye-opening experiences and enlightenment about the importance of not ever letting identity off the radar".

Graeme will explore how we can gain an understanding of a person's identity, so that we can then maintain, embellish and preserve the really important parts of who they are, through the journey of rehabilitation, whilst also helping them to adjust to what is a new experience of life after an injury.

Clinical Psychologist and
Author, Clarity Psychology
Ltd.



LUCY FALLON

Lucy Fallon is Service Development Director for Ariya Neuro Care, providing highly personalised supported living and outreach support to individuals with an Acquired Brain injury (ABI) across South Yorkshire and the neighbouring counties, she has a passion for developing appropriate and creative community-based support for post-injury.

While the sense of identity is an internal experience, it is shaped by the ways in which the individual interacts with the wider world, something which can be altered substantially following a catastrophic injury. Adapting to these changes and forming a new sense of who you are and your place in the world requires a special kind of support, delivered by a special kind of person.

In her presentation, Lucy will consider the often-overlooked positive impact of specialist support workers as client's navigate a life which is often very different to their pre-injury world; support workers who understand not only what their client needs, but also 'who' their client is and who they want to be. Lucy considers the notion 'investment' in the right support for the client and how, far from being interchangeable cogs in a client's care and rehabilitation, support workers can be pivotal to a client's progress through the development of long term, close and supportive working relationships.

Service Development
Director, Ariya Neuro Care



THOM HARRISON

Thom Harrison is an experienced Financial Planner who specialises in providing holistic financial planning advice to individual clients, many of whom have survived catastrophic injury and who, as a result of litigation, have secured funds which need to be invested, managed and utilised wisely to provide for their long term wellbeing.

Numbers can tell us a lot, but beyond what is quantifiable there is another story. Thom considers that while it is relatively easy to 'count the money', it is not always so easy to 'count the impact' of how money is spent. We know that litigation funds can support the client's independence and financial security, but how can they be utilised to bring more joy and meaning to life? can we choose where to spend our happiness?

Drawing parallels between the trusting, confidential relationships clients build with health care professionals, Thom explores the role of the financial planner supporting decisions, considering the client's 'wants and needs' which often change over time and looks at how the client's sense of personal identity can shape how money is used to promote happiness now and in the future.

Financial Planner,
Perspective Financial
Group Ltd.



GUEST PRESENTERS



We like to provide our delegates with a few little surprises along the way!

So, not to give too much away..

...we will be exploring the theme of identity using a range of media, supported by our talented guest presenters!

ABOUT US

SOCIAL RETURN CASE MANAGEMENT



Social Return Case Management provides case management for clients with a wide variety of complex conditions.

We carry out comprehensive assessment to gain a full understanding of each of our client's past, present, potential and aspirations for their future.

Detailed analysis, collaborative goal setting and planning leads into a responsive service which supports, coordinates and develops the plan for each client, working with families, services and suppliers toward meaningful and sustainable outcomes, demonstrated by clear robust reporting and feedback.

PERSPECTIVE FINANCIAL GROUP



Our Purpose is to enable you to make full and effective use of your financial resources, so you can plan for and achieve the future you desire.

You, your family, your trust or your company can benefit from the expert, specialist, holistic financial planning advice that our financial planning firms offer.

Perspective Financial Group Ltd is a parent company which fully owns all our financial planning firms, giving us a network of over 20 local offices across the UK. All our firms are authorised to give financial planning advice.