



The Psychotherapy Institute's Spring Speaker Series with



**Esther Perel, MFT**

*author of*

# Mating in Captivity

## Reconciling the Erotic & the Domestic

*Modern couplehood strives for oneness,  
yet eroticism thrives on the space between self and other.*

How much Esther Perel's quote reminds us of the "space between self and other" that permeates our thought about psychodynamic psychotherapy. It is in this space that the "analytic third" and the space for self-reflection and understanding occur. But Ms. Perel, whose training is rooted in family therapy (she studied with Salvador Minuchin) as well as psychodynamic work, brings the need for space, differentiation, fantasy and even aggression into the domestic life of couples. With only the domestic virtues of attachment and security Perel argues that we risk losing erotic vitality in long-term relationships.

In this presentation, Perel will probe the intricacies of love and desire, how they relate and conflict. She will explore how eroticism lies in the tension between having and wanting. Using case examples and video vignettes, and drawing on Stephen Mitchell's ideas in his book *Can Love Last?*, Perel will demonstrate how couples can draw pleasure from the hidden, the suggestive, and the uncanny while also respecting their needs for safety and stability.

Perel draws from psychology, trauma theory, psychoanalysis, philosophy, anthropology and literature to broaden and enliven our understanding of couples and our practice of couples therapy. Ms. Perel's book, *Mating in Captivity: Reconciling the Erotic and the Domestic* (2006, Harper Collins) is being translated into 25 languages and has been widely reviewed and praised. She has made a number of national television appearances including "NBC'S The Today Show," "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and "CBS This Morning." She lives in New York City with her family.

February 28, 2009

Berkeley Repertory Theater

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m

The provocative title of her book derives from D. H. Lawrence's poem, "Wild Things in Captivity"

Wild things in captivity  
while they keep their own wild purity  
won't breed, they mope, they die...  
The great cage of our domesticity  
kills sex in a man..  
And so, with bitter perversity,  
gritting against the great adversity,  
their young ones copulate, hate it, and want to cry.  
Sex is a state of grace.  
In a cage it can't take place...

*In the afternoon, Ms. Perel will be leading a 2 hour workshop for clinicians entitled, "The State of Affairs, Rethinking Infidelity". Building on her presentation in the morning and combining didactic material, case studies and video vignettes, Ms. Perel will lay out a nuanced therapeutic approach for working with extra-marital relations -- past and present, fantasized or real, disclosed or shrouded in secrecy. The workshop will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.. Space is limited to 60, so early registration is encouraged.*

# Registration form for Esther Perel

## **Mating in Captivity (morning session)**

Early bird registration (before 02/13/2009)

Members \$55                      Non-members \$65                      Student/Interns \$45

After 02/13/2009

Members \$65                      Non-members \$75                      Student/Interns \$55

## **The State of Affairs: Rethinking Infidelity (afternoon workshop)**

Early bird registration (before 02/13/2009)

Members \$45                      Non-members \$55                      Student/Interns \$25

After 02/13/2009

Members \$55                      Non-members \$65                      Student/Interns \$35

\*\*\*\* Psychologists seeking CE credit add an additional \$7.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me for (circle one)

Morning session                      Afternoon workshop                      Both

I am enclosing check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

or

Please charge my (circle one) Visa                      Mastercard                      in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

Card#: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions: please call (510) 548-2250, ext 107 or email us at [tpi@tpi-berkeley.org](mailto:tpi@tpi-berkeley.org)