



The Space Between Connection and Differentiation

Saturday 10th October 2026

Time 8.30am-6.00pm

Priest House Hotel,
Kings Mills, Castle Donington,
Derby, DE74 2RR

DATE	REGISTRATION	CONFERENCE	VENUE
 17 Saturday 10th October 2026	 Opens 8:30am	 9:30am — 6:00pm	 Priest House Hotel, Castle Donington, Derby

✦ FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ✦

Internationally Renowned Voices
in Imago Relationship Therapy



IMAGO FOUNDER

Dr. Harville Hendrix

JOINING VIRTUALLY



MASTER TRAINER

Dr. Maya Kollman



✦ MASTER OF CEREMONY

Carol-Ann Dixon

PhD, M.A. Counselling Psychologist

✦ WORKSHOP PRESENTERS ✦



Dr. Maya Kollman



Sophie Slade



Ian Tomlinson



Joanna Groves



Rachel Morris



Lohani Noor



Mihaela Berca

EARLY BIRD

£120

Until 12th July

IMAGO MEMBERS

£130

GENERAL ENTRY

£150

*At this conference, we are bridging the intellectual framework of Imago Relationship Theory with the lived, embodied experience of Connected Knowing. It is not enough to simply understand these ideas from a distance. **We want you to taste the apple.***

Through guided dialogue, experiential exercises, and intentional connection with those around you, we invite you to move from Intellectual Knowing into Connected Knowing — from learning about conscious relationship to actually living it, here, with one another.

*Because as Harville and Helen remind us, we are not just here to gather information. **We are here to be transformed.***

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Morning Session

Choose one workshop



★ KEYNOTE WORKSHOP

Dr. Maya Kollman

PHD · MASTER TRAINER, IITI

From Fusion to Freedom: A Relational Way of Living

We long for closeness—and we long to be ourselves. In today's world, it can feel harder than ever to hold both. Connection and autonomy are often framed as opposing forces—yet healthy relationships require both. In today's cultural climate of disconnection, trauma, and ideological polarisation, this tension is increasingly activated in clinical work, leadership, and everyday relationships.

This 90-minute experiential presentation explores the relational space between connection and autonomy as a developmental, systemic, and cultural phenomenon. Drawing on contemporary relational theory and experiential learning, participants will examine how this dynamic appears in couples and groups, how it becomes polarised under stress, and how clinicians and leaders can help restore balance without collapse into either fusion or withdrawal. The presentation blends theory, lived experience, and practical application to support more resilient, differentiated, and connected relational systems.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Name the tension between connection and differentiation
- Recognise the "space between" as a living relational field
- Differentiate healthy differentiation from emotional distancing
- Identify patterns of fusion, withdrawal or self-erasure
- Practise embodied ways of staying connected while remaining oneself
- Apply principles to parenting, leadership and cultural dialogue



WORKSHOP

Sophie Slade

PHD · IMAGO SENIOR CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

Bridging the Erotic Divide: How Sexual Differences Can Be Additive

So many couples taste the possibility of a deep erotic connection in the early romantic phase of their relationship and then get caught up in a sexual power struggle that leaves them disappointed or disconnected from themselves and each other sexually. The Relationship Vision is a familiar tool that helps partners discover their differentiated self and then build a shared vision.

In this 90-minute workshop Sophie will draw on exercises and dialogues from her book *Satisfying Sex for Committed Couples* so that participants can experience ways to create a shared Sexual Relationship Vision and use scripted Dialogues to explore each item more deeply, whether similar or seemingly at odds, to build bridges of understanding and connection across the differences in levels of desire, and erotic preferences. Couples can learn to experience their differences as additive to their possibilities for physical connection rather than annihilative of the self.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Guide couples in creating a shared Sexual Relationship Vision
- Discuss how to normalise difference in erotic desires and preferences
- Facilitate Dialogues about similarity and difference in Sexual Visions

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Afternoon Session

Choose one workshop



JOINT WORKSHOP

Ian Tomlinson & Joanna Groves

UKCP · CERTIFIED TRANSACTIONAL ANALYST

Difference, Safety, and the Space-Between: An Imago Perspective on Intersectionality

This workshop explores intersectionality through an Imago lens, focusing on how difference and social context shape safety and connection in the Space-Between. We will begin with a clear, shared understanding of intersectionality and how it fits with Imago's view that conflict arises when difference triggers anxiety.

Participants will then be invited into simple, contained reflective exercises to consider their own intersections and how these may influence their therapist stance and use of Imago structure. The workshop will also highlight key points to be aware of when working with couples, including how power, adaptation, and shame can show up relationally. Throughout, the focus remains on safety, dialogue, and supporting connection without pathologising difference.



WORKSHOP

Mihaela Berca

ADVANCED IMAGO THERAPIST

Different Brains, Shared Life: Thriving in Neurodivergent–Neurotypical Relationships

The workshop will introduce key concepts such as the neurodiversity paradigm and the double empathy framework, while exploring the ND–NT escalation cycle in relationships. Participants will be guided to understand how nervous systems interact and how this shapes communication, connection, and conflict. The session will also highlight the principle of "regulate before relate," supporting participants in distinguishing between sensory overload and emotional withdrawal.

Through a combination of brief theoretical input, structured dialogue practice, experiential exercises, and reflective discussions, participants will identify common misunderstandings in neurodivergent–neurotypical relationships and develop greater relational awareness.



WORKSHOP

Rachel Morris

PSYCHOTHERAPIST · CERTIFIED IMAGO THERAPIST

Queer as Folk: A Guide to Working with LGBTQIA+ Couples

The rainbow spectrum can be a confusing and complicated landscape full of the potential for offence and political faux pas. As a marginalised community who are often sexualised and othered, you may find your queer couple are extra sensitive to our unconscious bias and assumptions.

This is an opportunity for you to ask what difference it makes for the couple — and what difference it makes to you. To feel more equipped to work with queer, trans and non-binary couples and bring an understanding of the subtle and not so subtle nuances of difference that creates a sense of allyship.



WORKSHOP

Lohani Noor

PSYCHOTHERAPIST · MSC PST · UKCP · COSRT

The Erotic Third: Navigating the Space Between Connection and Differentiation

This workshop explores the central paradox of erotic intimacy: we need connection (safety, merging, the known) to feel secure enough to be sexual, yet we need differentiation (autonomy, otherness, mystery) to feel desire. The erotic lives in the space between these two poles. When this space collapses, into fusion or into avoidance, desire dies.

The workshop introduces the concept of the Erotic Third: the relational field created between partners when difference is held safely, allowing desire to thrive. We explore the Erotic Blueprint model as a neutral way to understand different expressions of desire — including LGBTQIA+, kink, consensual non-monogamy, and neurodivergence — without shame.

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★ NEW TO IMAGO? ★



Dr. Kalanit Ben-Ari
CLOSING SPEAKER

2-DAY INTRODUCTION TO IMAGO · 8TH & 9TH OCTOBER 2026

Begin your Imago journey before the conference

Dr Kalanit Ben-Ari's 2-Day Introduction to Imago on the 8th and 9th of October will also include a ticket to the conference — a perfect way to experience Imago for the first time and join us for this very special day.

[FIND OUT MORE & REGISTER →](#)

Priest House Hotel

Kings Mills, Castle Donington, Derby DE74 2RR

Nestled beside the River Trent, Priest House Hotel offers a beautifully tranquil setting perfectly suited to a day of reflection and connection. Easily accessible from the M1 and East Midlands Airport, with on-site parking.



Registration opens 8:30am



Conference 9:30am — 6:00pm



www.imagouk.co.uk



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**Dr. Harville
Hendrix**

IMAGO FOUNDER, PH.D.
VIRTUAL SPEAKER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Harville Hendrix, together with his wife Helen LaKelly Hunt, are the co-creators of Imago Relationship Therapy and the concepts of conscious partnership and conscious parenting. They are the authors of nine books about intimate relationships and parenting, three of which have been New York Times Best Sellers, including *Getting the Love You Want*.

Together, they co-founded Imago Relationships International (IRI), an international non-profit offering training, support and promotion of the work of over 2,000 Imago therapists in 30 countries.



Dr. Maya Kollman

MAYA KOLLMAN PH.D.,
MASTER TRAINER, IITI

KEYNOTE SPEAKER & WORKSHOP PRESENTER

Dr. Maya Kollman, PhD is a distinguished psychotherapist and internationally respected Master Trainer with the Imago International Training Institute — the only active Master Trainer certified in Imago Relationship Therapy. Trained directly by Dr. Hendrix, she has taught, coached, and trained therapists, workshop presenters, and couples around the world for over three decades. Dr. Kollman is known for her deep relational insight, empathic teaching style, and ability to make complex theory accessible and transformative.



Carol-Ann Dixon

PHD, M.A. COUNSELLING
PSYCHOLOGIST

MASTER OF CEREMONY

My mission in life has always been clear: to thrive and to bring joy. After fighting for my life during a seven-month hospital stay as an infant, I emerged with a profound appreciation for the gift of vitality. My formal journey began in 1976 at the University of Natal, shaped by passion for psychology and a deep commitment to social justice.

Today, with over 30 years in private practice and a recently completed PhD in Relational Dynamics and Development, I specialise in helping others find “thriving joy.” **Expertise:** Imago Relationship Therapy · Parent-Teen Encounters · Relational Ethics & Supervision



Sophie Slade

IMAGO SENIOR CLINICAL
INSTRUCTOR, PH.D

WORKSHOP PRESENTER

Sophie has been an Imago therapist since 1992, a workshop presenter since 1996, and faculty member since 2004. She presents Imago workshops, Facilitator training, and Advanced clinical trainings in English and French, online and around the world. She and her husband David developed and present the Imago-accredited workshop *Satisfying Sex for Committed Couples*, based on their book of the same name.



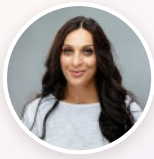
Dr. Kalanit Ben-Ari

CLOSING SPEAKER

CLOSING SPEAKER

Dr. Kalanit Ben-Ari is a senior relationship therapist, international speaker, author, supervisor, and relationship expert on *Married at First Sight Israel*, with more than 25 years of clinical and teaching experience. She holds a PhD in Psychology and serves as a Faculty member at the International Imago Institute. Her work has been featured in BBC, The Sunday Times, The Independent, Stylist, and Evening Standard.

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Lohani Noor

PSYCHOTHERAPIST, MSC
PST, DIP TA, REG UKCP,
ACCRED COSRT

WORKSHOP PRESENTER

Lohani is a Psychotherapist registered with the UKCP and accredited by COSRT, specialising in Psychosexual Therapies. Based in Manchester, she is Director of The Institute for Relational and Sexual Therapies (ThIRST). She is the author of the Audible classic *12 Steps to Sexual Connection* and *Psychosexual Therapies: 100 Key Concepts and Techniques* (Routledge).



Ian Tomlinson

UKCP REGISTERED PSYCHOTHERAPIST

&



Joanna Groves

CERTIFIED TRANSACTIONAL ANALYST,
CLINICAL SUPERVISOR

JOINT PRESENTERS

IAN TOMLINSON

Ian is a UK-based therapist, supervisor, and trainer working with individuals and couples. A member of IITI, he has a particular interest in neurodiversity, intersectionality, and how difference is held in relationship. His work is shaped by clinical experience and lived understanding of neurodivergence.

JOANNA GROVES

Joanna is interested in how social context, power, and difference shape relational dynamics. As well as an Advanced Imago Relationship Therapist and Workshop Presenter, Joanna is a Certified Transactional Analyst, clinical supervisor (PTSTA & UKCP), and teaches regularly in TA, Imago, and Grief Tending practices.



Rachel Morris

PSYCHOTHERAPIST &
CERTIFIED IMAGO
RELATIONSHIP THERAPIST

WORKSHOP PRESENTER

Rachel has been in full-time therapeutic practice for 3 decades. She spent one of those working on TV and radio as a guest expert and wrote the sex & relationship problem page for *Cosmopolitan UK* for 14 years.

These days she lives in West Yorkshire with a special interest in climbing hills, Zen Buddhism, mindfulness and meditation. She identifies as a queer-lesbian-therapist-grandma and is passionate about bringing Imago to a wider, more diverse range of couples.



Mihaela Berca

ADVANCED IMAGO
THERAPIST

WORKSHOP PRESENTER

I am a psychologist and Advanced Imago Therapist dedicated to supporting couples in building deeper, more conscious relationships. My approach is grounded in the principles of Imago Relationship Therapy, viewing relationships as dynamic spaces for healing and development.

I have many years of experience in the UK working with fostering and adoptive families, supporting attachment processes and the impact of early developmental trauma. I love multicultural environments and am particularly interested in how cultural contexts shape relationships and the ways people navigate life and create meaning.