

MISA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025



Celebrating
25 years of
the Massage
In Schools
Programme!

November 15-16 | Online conference

1pm to 4pm London UK time (Please check your local time zone)

Nov 15, Saturday Open to MISP™ Instructors and Public

Nov 16, Sunday Open to MISP™ Instructors only (free)

Keynote Presentation:



PROFESSOR MICHAEL BANISSY

Michael is an award-winning Professor of Psychological Science at the University of Bristol (where he is also Head of Psychology). He is an author and science communicator who regularly participates in public events, podcasts, radio, and television.



JANET A. COURTNEY

Janet A. Courtney, PhD, LCSW, RPT-S is Founder of FirstPlay Therapy®. She is a Registered Play Therapy-Supervisor, TEDx Speaker and past Chair of the Association for Play Therapy Ethics and Practice Committee and past President of the Florida Association for Play Therapy,

MEET OUR SPEAKER



Professor Michael Banissy

Title:

“The Power of Touch”

A social neuroscientist and professor of Psychological Science blends expert scientific insights drawn from his book *When We Touch* and his latest research.

Michael is a social neuroscientist with over ten years of experience. He has published more than 100 studies on affection, communication, emotion, empathy, and touch. His work has appeared in many media outlets.

He has won two major science awards:

- **British Psychological Society Medal for Early Career Contributions**
- **Bertelson Award from the European Society of Cognitive Psychology**

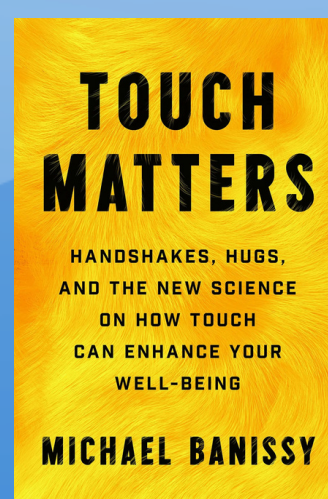
Michael is also active outside research. He works with companies to improve creativity, empathy, teamwork, and social connection. He is a member of the Royal Society Industry Fellows College.

In Spring 2023, he released his first book: *When We Touch* (UK) / *Touch Matters* (US). It explores how human touch affects health, relationships, and communication.

Author of :



When We Touch
HANDSHAKES, HUGS,
HIGH FIVE AND
THE NEW SCIENCE
OF WHY TOUCH
MATTERS (2023)



TOUCH MATTERS
HANDSHAKES, HUGS,
HIGH FIVE AND
THE NEW SCIENCE
ON HOW TOUCH CAN ENHANCE
YOUR WELL-BEING (2023)

MEET OUR SPEAKER



Janet A. Courtney, Ph.D., LCSW, RPT-S

Title:

“Safe Touch with Children: Exploring Research Insights and Ethical Guidelines”

BIO:

Janet A. Courtney, PhD, RPT-S, is the Founder of FirstPlay Therapy®, and past Chair of the APT Ethics and Practice Committee, and former President of FAPT. Dr. Courtney is the author of the books, “Infant Play Therapy;” “Healing Child and Family Trauma through Expressive and Play Therapies;” “Nature-based Play & Expressive Therapies;” and “Touch in Child Counseling and Play Therapy.”

Brief Description:

This training will draw from Dr. Janet Courtney’s research on the complexity of touch in therapeutic work with children. Participants will gain insights into the latest findings on the role of touch in neuroscience, attachment, and healing, while also exploring the ethical considerations necessary for safe and effective practice. Practical guidance will be offered for creating clear, ethical, touch-based guidelines that support practitioners in fostering safety, trust, and attunement in their work with children.

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CONFERENCE 2025



Day 1
15/11/2025 (Saturday)

Conference and Open Day

Conference Speakers:



Janet A. Courtney
Ph.D., LCSW, RPT-S



Professor Michael Banissy

Day 2
16/11/2025 (Sunday)

MISP™ Instructors Day

(MISP™ Instructors only)

- Presentations by MISP™**
- Instructors from around the world**
- Stroke Review**

Conference Fees & Registration

15/11/2025 (Day 1)	
General public	CAD \$50
MISP™ Instructors	CAD \$30
MISP™ Trainers in good standing	Free

[registration before 6/11/2025](#)

16/11/2025 (Day 2)
For MISP™ Instructors and Trainers only: Free

[registration before 6/11/2025](#)

Register Now

<https://forms.gle/n7InZpwspqDUxkW6A>

Link for payment through PayPal:

https://www.paypal.me/MISAIInternational?locale.x=en_CA

Terms & Conditions

- Registration is confirmed only upon payment received.
- Conference fees will only be refunded if the conference is cancelled by MISA International.