

## **The End of Psychotherapy**

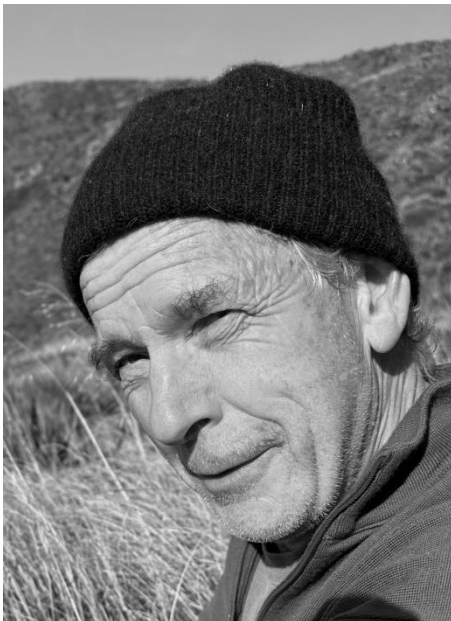
To misquote Clement and Waititi's 2014 mockumentary "What We Do in the Shadows", "... being a psychotherapist is very ... sexy." We spend a lot of time alone in our rooms with our patients, over significant periods of time, hearing about the most intimate moments of their lives and, insofar as we are concerned with the ways the unconscious shapes these lives, everything about our work takes place "in the shadows".

In this paper I am interested in how difficult it may be to find an ending to this intimate work and what can be considered our purpose? Do we, like the vampires in the film, feed on people with the aim of wanting them to be like us.

I will refer to the thinking of Freud and Lacan and my own experience both as a patient and as a psychotherapist, and more latterly as a psychoanalyst.

### **Bio:**

Crispin Balfour practices as a Psychoanalyst based in Hataitai, Wellington / Whanganui-a-Tara. He is a Member of the Forum of Aotearoa New Zealand and a Member of the School of the International Forums in the Lacanian Field. He is currently Representative of the English-Speaking Zone to the College of Representatives to the School.



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