

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute

Year III Fall Semester, 2014

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As a post-Freudian psychoanalytic theory, self psychology is continually undergoing changes and transformations. These changes have two major sources:

The first is related to the fact that the theory as it was originally articulated by Heinz Kohut over a period of less than two decades, contained ideas the meanings of which could only become clear with time and increasing clinical experience. The best example of this is the selfobject concept: originally a purely intrapsychic concept, the concept now includes intersubjective and relational perspectives.

The second major source of changes is related to the fact that there is a continuous, imperceptible influence that all psychoanalytic theories exert on each other. While each theory attempts to preserve its “purity,” discussions of clinical material reveal that analysts’ private theories (Sandler) have multiple theoretical sources.

This eight one and half hour course can only be an overview in which we will focus on the most essential features of self psychology. We will aim for a systematic presentation recognizing that all psychoanalytic theories have to meet the criteria of inner consistency: all clinical theories are based on clinical observations (transferences) which have to be supported by a theory of development and a theory of psychopathology.

September 18, 2014

Why and how did Heinz Kohut develop a theory of the psychology of the self? What is the place of self psychology in the history of psychoanalysis?

Ornstein, P.H. & Kay, Jerald (1990): Development of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology: A Historical-Conceptual Overview. *Review of Psychiatry* Vol. 9 (eds.) Tasman, A., Goldfinger, S., Kaufman, C., Am. Psychiatric Press, Hillsdale, N.J.
[Available in the [Library](#)]

Learning Objective: Candidates will appreciate the fact that psychoanalytic concepts have to be put into a historical perspective in order to appreciate their meaning at a particular period in the development of the field.

October 2, 2014

The methodological underpinning of self psychology: empathy as a mode of observation and the definer of the field.

Kohut, H. (1959): Introspection, Empathy and Psychoanalysis: an examination of the relationship between the mode of observation and theory. *JAPA* 7:459-483, also in: *Search for the Self* (ed.) P.H. Ornstein, 1978, 1:201-232
[PEP Web Link](#)

Teicholz, J.G. The Analyst's Empathy, Subjectivity, and Authenticity: Affect as the common Denominator, *Progress in Self psychology* 16:33-53 [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning objective: To learn about the close relationship between method of observation and the evolution of a new theory.

October 9, 2014

The basic concepts of self psychology; definitions and developmental considerations.

Tolpin, M. (1986): The Self and Its Selfobjects: a Different Baby, *Progress in Self Psychology* 2:115-128 [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional: Teicholz, J. (1999): The Concept of the Selfobject. In: *Kohut, Lowald and the Postmoderns*, The Analytic Press, Hillsdale, N.J. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective: to learn the language of self psychology and the *definition* of its basic concepts

October 16, 2014

Questions related to the Oedipus Complex

Ornstein, A. (1983): An Idealizing Transference of the Oedipal Phase. In: *Reflections on Self Psychology* (eds. Lichtenberg, J. Kaplan, S. 135-161, The Analytic Press, Hillsdale, N.J. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Optional: Kohut, H. (1997): The Oedipus Complex and The Psychology of the Self In: *Restoration of the Self* Int. U. Press [Available in the [Library](#)]

Learning Objective: Self psychological reformulation the Oedipus Complex, one of the fundamental neurogenetic factors in classical psychoanalytic theory.

October 30, 2014

The psychoanalytic process: the selfobject transferences and countertransference in an intersubjective perspective.

Stolorow, R. & Lachmann, F. (1985): The Transference: The future of Illusion, *Annual of Psychoanalysis* (ed.) The Chicago Inst. for Psychoanalysis 12/13:19-37 Int. U. Press, New York [PEP Web Link](#)

Brandchaft, B (1991): Countertransference in the Analytic Process, *Progress in Self Psychology* 7:99-105 [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective to learn the foundational concepts in the psychoanalytic process when viewed from a self psychological perspective.

November 6, 2014

The Interpretive Process, the Process of Working Through and the influence of the analyst's subjectivity on the analytic process.

Ornstein, P. H. & Ornstein, A. (1985): Clinical Understanding and Explaining: the empathic vantage point. In: *Progress in Self Psychology* (ed.) A. Goldberg, Guilford Press, N.Y. 1:43-61 [PEP Web Link](#)

Jacobs, T.J. (1996): Analysis, Mutual Analysis, and Self-Analysis; on the interplay of minds in the analytic process, *Canadian J. of Psychoanalysis* 4: 255-277 [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective: Deepening the candidates' understanding regarding the analytic process

November 13, 2014

Assertiveness, Anger, Rage and Destructive Aggression; the clinical and theoretical significance of narcissistic rage.

Kohut, H. (1972): Thoughts on Narcissism and Narcissistic Rage, *Psy. S. Child* 27:360-400, also in: *The Search for the Self* (ed.) Ornstein, P.H., 1978 [PEP Web Link](#)

Ornstein, A. (2012): Self-Abuse and Suicidality; clinical manifestations of chronic narcissistic rage, *The Clinical Problem of Masochism* (eds.) D. Holtzman & N. Kulish, Jason Aronson, N.Y. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Learning Objective: Candidates will learn to recognize the *special features* of narcissistic rage and its importance in the clinical situation.