

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

141 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02459

Telephone: 617.266.0953 Fax: 857.255.3253 www.bpsi.org

Fall 2016 Theories of Suicide Elective

Mark Goldblatt

I'm looking forward to meeting you and beginning this eight-week elective. I am attaching a chapter I wrote: Psychodynamic Approaches to Understanding Suicidal Behaviors. In Nock, MK ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Suicide and Self-Injury*. Oxford University Press, 2014, 255-264. We will use this as a broad introduction to various theories of Suicide. Each week we will consider suicide from a different theoretical perspective and use our clinical experience to compare, contrast and integrate.

Week I: November 17, 2016 **Overview of theories of Suicide**

Kaslow NJ, Reviere SL, Chance SE, Rogers JH, Hatcher CA, Wasserman F, Smith L, Jessee S, James ME and Seelig B. (1998). An Empirical Study of the Psychodynamics of Suicide. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*. 46:777-796. [PEP Web Link](#)

Hendin H. (1991). Psychodynamics of Suicide with particular reference to the young. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 148:1150-1158 [Available in the [Library](#)]

Week II: December 1, 2016 **Freud's Drive Theory**

Guest Presenter: Stephen Sternbach

Freud S. (1917); Mourning and Melancholia *SE XIV*: 243-258 [PEP Web Link](#)

Freud, S. (1923). The Ego and the Id, *SE 19*, pp. 13-59. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Reading

Briggs, S. (2006). "Consenting to its own Destruction": A Reassessment of Freud's Development of a theory of Suicide. *Psychoanal. Rev.*, 93:541-564 [PEP Web Link](#)

Week III: December 8, 2016 **The Death Instinct.**

Guest Presenter: Cordelia Schmidt-Hellerau

Schmidt-Hellerau (2013). Anxiety in the Negative Therapeutic Reaction. In: Wurmser, L. & Jarass, H. (Eds.) *Nothing Good is Allowed to Stand. An Integrative View of the Negative Therapeutic Reaction*. New York, London, Routledge. S. 149-159. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Suggested Readings

Freud, S. (1923). The Ego and the Id, *SE 19*, Chapter 4. [PEP Web Link](#)

Schmidt-Hellerau, (2006) Surviving in Absence - On the preservative and Death Drives and their Clinical Utility. The Psa. Quarterly, 1057-1095. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week IV: December 15, 2016 **Object Relation Theorists: Winnicott**

Guest Presenter: Rita Teutsch

Winnicott DW (1958). Collected Papers: Through Paediatrics to PsychoAnalysis. London. Tavistock Publications [PEP Web Link](#)

Winnicott, DW (1960). The theory of the parent-infant relationship. In *Maturational Processes and the Facilitating Environment*. New York: Basic Books, 1965, p. 37-55 [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Reading:

Winnicott DW (1965). *The Maturational Processes and the Facilitating Environment: Studies in the Theory of Emotional Development*. The International Psycho-Analytical Library, 64:1-276. London: The Hogarth Press and the Institute of Psycho-Analysis. [PEP Web Link](#)

Winnicott, D.W. (1975). *Through Paediatrics to Psycho-Analysis*. The International Psycho-Analytical Library, 100:1-325. London: The Hogarth Press and the Institute of Psycho-Analysis. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week V: December 22, 2016 **Narcissism, aggression, and the death drive**

Guest Presenter: Elsa Ronningstam

Kernberg O. (2009). The concept of the death drive: A clinical perspective. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 90:1009 – 1023. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Reading:

Rosenfeld H. (1971). A clinical approach to the psychoanalytic theory of the life and death instincts: An investigation into the aggressive aspects of narcissism. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 52:169-178. [PEP Web Link](#)

Green A. (2001). *Life Narcissism, Death Narcissism*. London, Free Association Books. [Available on Reserve in the [Library](#)]

Week VI: January 12, 2017 **Ego Psychology**

Guest Presenter: Mark Schechter

Maltsberger JT. The descent into suicide. *Int J Psychoanal.* 2004;85 (Pt 3):653-67. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week VII: January 26, 2017 **Klein and Bion**

Guest Presenter Larry Brown

Joseph, B. (1982). Addiction to Near-Death. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 63:449-456. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week VIII: February 2, 2017 **Intersubjectivity**

Guest Presenter: Mark Schechter

Learning Objectives:

1. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to list three different dynamics of the suicidal mind.
2. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to identify Freud's two models for suicidal action.
3. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to identify a negative therapeutic reaction.
4. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able identify Winnicott's concepts of self-attack.
5. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to discuss the narcissistic issues related to suicidal actions.
6. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able identify ego functions that deteriorate in a suicidal crisis.
7. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to identify Melanie Klein's clinical approach to the self-destructive patient.
8. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able identify how the intersubjective field influences the suicidal patient.