

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

MELANIE KLEIN AND THE NEO-KLEINIANS

Instructors: James Barron, PhD & Stephen Kerzner, MD

Dates: 2017 - February 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Time: 5:30 – 7:00PM

Course Description

Melanie Klein boldly reimagined the developing mind of the infant and child and the powerful influence of the early maternal-infant dyad in shaping the mind of the adult. Klein and her followers described phantasies as psychic representations of libidinal and aggressive drives and expressions of primitive anxieties and terrors, as well as defenses against them. Differing from Freud, Klein proposed that the infant has the capacity for phantasy formation from birth on and experiences precursors of the Oedipus complex in the first year of life.

In this course, we will focus on a selection of Klein’s writings as well as on some creative elaborations by several “Neo-Kleinians”. We will explore key concepts: the internal object world populating the theater of the mind; processes of introjection, projection, and projective identification; and dynamic oscillations between paranoid-schizoid and depressive positions. We will also consider how projective identification shapes the unconscious mutual influencing in the therapeutic dyad. Throughout the course we will discuss clinical examples from the readings and from our own work with patients that illustrate these theoretical concepts.

Syllabus

Session 1: 2/9/17 Klein’s Conceptualization of Early Ego Development

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to summarize Klein’s conceptualization of early ego development, including the infant’s introjection of ‘good’ and ‘bad’ objects and the beginning of symbol formation.

Klein, M. (1930). The Importance of Symbol-Formation in the Development of the Ego. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 11:24-39. [PEP Web Link](#)

Segal, H. (1964) Introduction to the Work of Melanie Klein, New York, Basic Books, 1-10. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Klein, M. (1935). A Contribution to the Psychogenesis of Manic-Depressive States. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 16:145-174. [PEP Web Link](#)

Recommended:

Klein, M. (1928). Early Stages of the Oedipus Conflict. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 9:167-180. [PEP Web](#)

[Link](#)

Session 2: 2/16/17 The Depressive Position

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to explain Klein's view of the early precursors and anxieties associated with the Oedipus Complex and the characteristics of the depressive position.

Klein, M. (1940). Mourning and its Relation to Manic-Depressive States. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 21:125-153. [PEP Web Link](#)

Segal, H. (1989). The Depressive Position. In Klein, London: Karnac Books, 78-90. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Recommended:

Klein, M. (1945). The Oedipus Complex in the Light of Early Anxieties. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 26:11-33. [PEP Web Link](#)

Segal, H. (1955), Notes on Symbol Formation, *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 38: 391-397. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 3: 2/23/17 The Paranoid Schizoid Position

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to define the characteristics of the paranoid-schizoid position and identify the oscillation between the paranoid-schizoid and depressive positions.

Klein, M. (1946). Notes on Some Schizoid Mechanisms. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 27:99-110. [PEP Web Link](#)

Segal, H. (1989). The Paranoid-Schizoid Position. In Klein, London: Karnac Books, 112-121. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Winnicott, D.W. (1945). Primitive Emotional Development. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 26:137-143. [PEP Web Link](#)

Recommended:

Steiner, J. (1992). "The Equilibrium between the Paranoid-Schizoid and the Depressive positions," *The New Library of Psychoanalysis*, 14: 46-58. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 4: 3/2/17 Klein's Concept of Phantasy

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to discuss how Klein's concept of phantasy encompasses the infant's experience of libidinal and aggressive drives, primitive anxieties and terrors, and defensive mechanisms.

Isaacs, S. (1948). The Nature and Function of Phantasy. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.* 29:73-97. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden, T.H. (2011). Reading Susan Isaacs: Toward a Radically Revised Theory of Thinking. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 92:925-942. [PEP Web Link](#)
Grosskurth, P. (1986). Warring Women. In *Melanie Klein: Her World and Her Work*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 310-333. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Recommended:

Ogden, T. (1984). "Instinct, Phantasy, and Deep Psychological Structure – a Re-interpretation of Aspects of the Work of Melanie Klein," *Contemp. Psychoanal*, 20: 500-526. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 5: 3/9/17 Projective Identification as Unconscious Communication

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to discuss the connections among projective identification, unconscious communication, and therapeutic action.

Ogden, T.H. (1979). On Projective Identification. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 60:357-373. [PEP Web Link](#)
Feldman, M. (1997). Projective Identification: The Analyst's Involvement. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 78:227-241. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 6: 3/16/17 Klein's Concept of Envy

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to utilize Klein's concepts of envy and gratitude in a clinical example.

Klein, M (1957), "Envy and gratitude," in *The Selected Melanie Klein*, edited by Juliet Mitchell, 1986, NY, pp. 211-229. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]
Joseph, B. (1986). Envy in Everyday Life. *Psychoanal. Psychother.*, 2:13-22. [PEP Web Link](#)

Recommended:

Spillius, E.B. (1993). Varieties of Envious Experience. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 74:1199-1212. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 7: 3/23/17 Bion's Concept of Container and Contained

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to compare Klein's conceptualization of early ego development to Bion's concept of container and contained.

Bion, W.R. (1958). On Arrogance. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 39:144-146. [PEP Web Link](#)
Bion, W.R. (1959). Attacks on Linking. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 40:308-315. [PEP Web Link](#)
Brown, L.J. (2013). The Development of Bion's Concept of Container and Contained. In *Growth and Turbulence in Container/Contained: Bion's Continuing Legacy*, edited by H.B. Levine and L.J. Brown, Routledge: London and New York, 7-22. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Recommended:

Brown, L. (2011). *Intersubjective Processes and the Unconscious*, Routledge, London and New York, pp. 47-109. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Levine, H.B. (2010). The consolation which is drawn from truth: the analysis of a patient unable to suffer experience. In: C. Mawson (Ed.), *Bion Today* (pp. 188-211.) London: Routledge. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Session 8: 3/30/17 Implications of Bion's Thought: Waking Dreams and Meaning Making

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to discuss Bion's theory of thinking and how it applies to waking dreams, meaning making and affective experience.

Bion, W.R. (1962). The Psycho-Analytic Study of Thinking. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 43:306-310. [PEP Web Link](#)

Bion 1967: Notes on Memory and Desire. In. Melanie Klein Today. Vol.2. Elizabeth Bott Spillius (ed). Pp 17-21 [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Ferro, A. (2002). Some Implications of Bion's Thought: The Waking Dream and Narrative Derivatives. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 83:597-607. [PEP Web Link](#)