

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE

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Melanie Klein in Contemporary Psychoanalytic Practice

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In this eight- week course we will study how ideas and concepts first introduced by Melanie Klein inform psychoanalytic practice today. We will focus each week on a key Kleinian concept and examine its contemporary psychoanalytic significance. We will read some original Klein texts and the works of those who followed her, for example Betty Joseph, Elizabeth Bott Spillius, Hanna Segal, Judith Mitrani, Ruth Stein, Edna O'Shaughnessy, Priscilla Roth, Catalina Bronstein, Ruth Riesenber- Malcolm, Donald Moss, Ronald Britton. We will finish up with a session on the work of Wilfred Bion. I have included several of the most recent works of these writers to show how much Melanie Klein's ideas continue to inspire clinicians today. A useful reference for each Kleinian concept by R.D. Hinshelwood (1991) is included in the references. There is also a follow-up edition of Hinshelwood's work called: "The New Dictionary of Kleinian Thought" (2011) written by Elizabeth Bott-Spillius, Jane Milton, Penelope Garvey, Cyril Couve, and Deborah Steiner, published by Routledge.

I look forward to a stimulating learning experience together with all of you.

Session 1 (April 6, 2017): Contemporary Readings of Melanie Klein's Theory

Learning Objective: At the completion of the session, the participant will be able to define Klein's concepts of unconscious phantasy, paranoid-schizoid and depressive positions.

Readings:

Stein, R. (1990). A New Look at the Theory of Melanie Klein. *Int. J. Psychoanalysis.*, 71:499-511. [PEP Web Link](#)

Mitrani, J. (2007) Some technical implications of Klein's concept of premature ego development. *IJPA*.88.825-842. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Readings:

Schafer, R. (1994) The Contemporary Kleinians of London. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. 63: 409-432 [PEP Web Link](#)

Spillius. E.B. (1983) Some Developments from Melanie Klein. *Intern. Journal of Psychoanalysis*. 64. 321-332. [PEP Web Link](#)

Spillius, E.B. (1994) Developments in Kleinian Thought: Overview and Personal View. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*. 14. 324-364. [PEP Web Link](#)

Frisch, S and Frisch- Desmarez. (2010) Some thoughts on the concept of the internal parental couple. *IJPA* 91.2. 325-342. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 2. (April 13, 2017) Internal Objects and Unconscious Phantasy

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, the participant will be able to describe two manifestations of unconscious phantasy in clinical material.

Readings:

Bronstein, Catalina. What are Internal Objects? Chapter 8. pp. 108-124. In: *Kleinian Theory- a Contemporary Perspective*. Editor: Catalina Bronstein. Whurr Publishers, 2001. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Hanna Segal: Phantasy and Reality. Chapter 3, pp. 75-96. In: *The Contemporary Kleinians of London*. Edited by Roy Shafer. International University Press. 1997. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Rockwell, S. (2014) Problems of Internalization: A Button is a Button is not. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. Vol.1. 33.1.pp 23- 39. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Suggested Readings:

Hinshelwood, R.D (1991) . Symbol Formation and Internal Objects. In: *A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought*. pp. 444-452 and pp. 68-83. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Isaacs, S. (1948) The Nature and Function of Phantasy. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*. 29.73-97. [PEP Web Link](#)

Riesenberg A and Malcolm R, Interpretation: The Past in the Present. In: *Melanie Klein Today*. Vol. II. Mainly Practice. Pp 73-89. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 3 (April 20, 2017): The Depressive Position

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, the participant will be able to identify three essential characteristics of the depressive position.

Readings:

Klein, M (1940) Mourning and its Relation to Manic Depressive States. In: *The Writings of Melanie Klein*. Vol. 1 Love Guilt and Reparation (1921-1945) The Free Press. Pp 344-369. [PEP Web Link](#)

Likierman, M. (1995). Loss of the Loved Object: Tragic and Moral Motifs in Melanie Klein's Concept of the Depressive Position. *Brit. J. Psychother.*, 12:147-159. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Readings:

Klein, M. (1935) A Contribution to the Psychogenesis of Manic-Depressive States. In: *The Writings of Melanie Klein, Vol I, Love, Guilt and Reparation and other Works* (1921-1945). The Free Press, 1975. pp.262-289. [PEP Web Link](#)

Hinshelwood, R.D (1991). *The Depressive Position*. In: *A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought*. Free Association Books. London. Pp 138-155. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Session 4 (April 27, 2017): The Paranoid-Schizoid Position

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, the participant will be able to describe three essential characteristics of the paranoid-schizoid position.

Readings:

Roth, Priscilla: "The paranoid schizoid position" . Chapter 3, pp.32-46 in: *Kleinian Theory- a Contemporary Perspective*. Editor: Catalina Bronstein. Whurr Publishers, 2001. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Chiesa, Marco. *Envy and Gratitude*. Chapter 7, pp.93-107. In : *Kleinian Theory- a Contemporary Perspective*. Editor: Catalina Bronstein. Whurr Publishers, 2001. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Suggested Readings:

Hinshelwood, R.D. (1991), *The Paranoid-Schizoid Position*. In: *A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought*. Free Association Books, London, pp 156-166. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Klein M.(1946) *Notes on Some Schizoid Mechanisms*. In: *The Writings of Melanie Klein*. Vol. III. London. Hogarth Press. 1975. Pp.1-24. [PEP Web Link](#)

Klein, M.(1975) *Envy and Gratitude*. In: *The Writings of Melanie Klein (1946-1963)* Vol. III. The Free Press, New York. Pp.344-369. [PEP Web Link](#)

Spillius, E.(1993) *Varieties of Envious Experience*. *Intern. Journal of Psychoanalysis.*.. 74. 1199-1212. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 5 (May 4, 2017): Splitting and Projective Identification

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, the participant will be able to identify two clinical manifestations of splitting and projective identification.

Readings:

Bell, D. Projective Identification. In: Kleinian Theory- a Contemporary Perspective. Editor: Catalina Bronstein. Whurr Publishers, 2001. Chapter 9, pp. 125-147. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Joseph, B. (1983) On Understanding and not Understanding- Some Technical Issues. International Journal of Psychoanalysis. 64. 201-298. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Readings:

Joseph, B.(1985) Transference: the Total Situation. IJPA 66. 447-454. [PEP Web Link](#)

Hinshelwood, R.D (1991). Projective Identification. In: A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought. Pp. 179-208. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Joseph, B. Projective Identification. Some Clinical Aspects, In: Melanie Klein Today, Vol. I. Mainly Theory.. E. Bott-Spillius (ed). Pp. 138-150. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Feldman, M. Splitting and Projective Identification. In: Clinical Lectures on Klein and Bion. Chapter 6. Elizabeth Bott Spillius (Editor). 1999, The New Library of Psychoanalysis.. pp. 74-88. [PEP Web Link](#)

Blass, Rachel: Conceptualizing Splitting: On the different meanings of splitting and their implications for the understanding of the person and the analytic process. International Journal of Psychoanalysis (2015) 96. 123-139. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Session 6 (May 11, 2017): Superego Development and Pathology

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, the participant will be able to describe two characteristics of an ego-destructive superego.

Readings:

O'Shaughnessy, E. Relating to the Superego: In: Bion Today. Editor: Chris Mawson. The Institute of Psychoanalysis, London, 2011. [PEP Web Link](#)

DeMasi, F.(2015) Is the concept of the death drive still useful in the clinical field?. International Journal of Psychoanalysis.96.pp.445-458. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Suggested Readings:

Bell, D. (2015) The death drive: Phenomenological perspectives in Contemporary Kleinian Theory. International Journal of Psychoanalysis. 96. 411-423. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Hinshelwood, R.D (1991). Superego. In: A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought. Pp. 94-111. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Klein, M. (1948) On the theory of Anxiety and Guilt. In: The Writings of Melanie Klein. Vol. 3 Envy and Gratitude and Other Works (1946-1963) The Free Press. Pp 25-42. [PEP Web Link](#)

Segal, H (1954). Notes on Symbol Formation. IJPA. 38. 391-397. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 7 (May 18, 2017): Early Stages of the Oedipus Complex

Learning Objectives: At the completion of this session, the participant will be able to identify two pre-genital Oedipal phantasies.

Readings:

Boswell, Jill. The Oedipus Complex. Chapter 6, pp.77-92. In: Kleinian Theory- a Contemporary Perspective. Editor: Catalina Bronstein. Whurr Publishers, 2001. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Britton, Ronald: The Missing Link: Parental Sexuality in the Oedipus Complex. P. 242-258. In: The Contemporary Kleinians of London. Edited by Roy Shafer. International University Press. 1997. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Readings:

Klein, M.(1928) Early Stages of the Oedipus Conflict. In : The Selected Melanie Klein. Edited by Juliet Mitchell, 1986.The Free Press. Pp 69-83. [PEP Web Link](#)

Hinshelwood, R.D (1991). The Oedipus Complex.. In: A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought. Free Association Books. London, pp. 57-67. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Feldman, M. (2008) Grievance: the Underlying Oedipal Configuration. IJPA. 89.4. 743-758. [PEP Web Link](#)

O'Shaughnessy, E. Words and Working Through. In Melanie Klein Today. Vol. II. Mostly Practice. Pp 138-151. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 8 (May 25, 2017): Wilfred R. Bion

Learning Objectives: At the completion of this session, the participant will be able to name three of Bion's core concepts.

Readings:

Riesenberg-Malcolm, R., Bion's Theory of Containment. In: Kleinian Theory- a Contemporary Perspective. Editor: Catalina Bronstein. Whurr Publishers, 2001. Chapter 12. Pp. 165-180. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Bergstein, Avner (2015) Attacks on Linking or the Drive to Communicate? Tolerating the paradox. The Psychoanalytic Quarterly. Vol.84.4.921-942. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Suggested Readings:

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](#)]

Mitrani, Judith: Taking the Transference: some technical implications in three papers by Bion. Chapter. 12, pp.216-243. In Bion Today. Editor: Chris Mawson. Routledge, 2011. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Hinshelwood, R.D. (1991) Wilfred Bion . In: A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought. pp. 231-237. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Grotstein, J. S. (1981) Wilfred Bion: The Man, the Psychoanalyst, the Mystic- a Perspective on his Life and Work. Contemporary Psychoanalysis. 17. 501-536. [PEP Web Link](#)

Charles, M. (2002) Bion's Grid- A Tool for Transformation. Journal of the American Academy Psychoanalysis. 30. 429-445. [PEP Web Link](#)