Syllabus for BPSI Elective April 16 - June 2, 2015

**Psychoanalytic Theories on Narcissism and their Application to Personality and Treatment**
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General Objectives:
1. Provide overview of theoretical conceptualizations of narcissism and narcissistic personality from Freud to most recent contributions
2. Identify narcissism in terms of conceptual identifiers and personality functioning
3. Discuss treatment implications and strategies with clinical case examples

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**Session 1**

**Theories on Narcissism: overview from Freud to object relations motivation and intersubjectivity**

Objective 1: Identify the conceptual development of narcissism within different theoretical traditions
Objective 2: Connect theoretical models with treatment approaches and interventions.

**Suggested Reading**


**Optional**:


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Session 2
Narcissism: the range from normal to pathological and malignant - developmental aspects and implications for treatment

Objective 1: Differentiate normal from pathological and malignant narcissism in developmental theory and personality functioning
Objective 2: Discuss implications for integrating normal and pathological aspects of narcissism in treatment

Suggested Reading:


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Session 3
Identifiers of narcissism I:
Self -agency - authorship of own actions, internal control and goal directedness

Objective 1: Identify theoretical definitions and clinical indicators of self-agency
Objective 2: Discuss strategies to attend to and engage patients' sense of agency in psychoanalytic treatment focused on narcissism
Suggested Reading


Optional

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Session 4
Identifiers of narcissism II:
Empathy - empathic competence, motivation and functioning, and a psychoanalytic treatment strategy

Objective 1: Integrate psychoanalytic perspectives on empathy with recent neuropsychological research on empathic functioning and pathological narcissism
Objective 2: Discuss implications for treatment interventions addressing empathic functioning

Suggested Reading


Optional
To be added

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Session 5
Identifiers of narcissism III:
Self-esteem – ideals, perfectionism, self-criticism and vulnerability


Objective 2: Discuss psychoanalytic strategies for increasing patients' ability to recognize their patterns of self-esteem regulation and to chose alternatives.

Suggested Reading


Optional


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Session 6
Identifiers of narcissism IV:
Emotion regulation - fear, shame, envy and rage in narcissistic personality functioning

Objective 1: Define and recognize the most essential emotions in narcissistic personality functioning
Objective 2. Discuss psychoanalytic strategies to integrate patient's emotional reactions and experiences in treatment

Suggested Reading


Ronningstam E, Baskin-Sommers AR (2013). Fear and decision-making in narcissistic personality disorder—a link between psychoanalysis and neuroscience. Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience - Vol 15 . No. 2. 2013. Link to Online Publication (fulltext available for all)


Optional


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Session 7

Narcissistic trauma - developmental aspects and implication for treatment

Objective 1. Identify and compare different psychoanalytic conceptualizations of narcissistic trauma

Objective 2: Discuss treatment strategies for addressing narcissistic trauma in psychoanalytic treatment

Suggested Reading


Session 8
Narcissistic susceptibility to suicide - eminent risk or life sustaining fantasy

Objective 1. Identify narcissistic regulatory functions and contributing factors to suicide
Objective 2. Describe and apply suicide risk assessment and treatment strategies to address patients' suicidal ideations and intents.

Suggested Reading:


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