

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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Melanie Klein in Contemporary Psychoanalytic Practice
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In this eight- week course we will examine how ideas and concepts first introduced by Melanie Klein inform psychoanalytic practice today. We will focus each week on a key Kleinian idea/concept and examine its contemporary psychoanalytic significance. We will read some of Klein's original texts and also the works of those who followed her, for example Betty Joseph, Herman Rosenfeld, Elizabeth Bott Spillius, John Steiner, Martin Feldman, Judith Mitrani, Ruth Stein, Ronald Britton. We will finish up with an introduction to the work of Wilfred Bion. 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.

Session 1 (April 7, 2016): Contemporary Readings of Melanie Klein's Theory

Learning Objective: To discuss the importance of affects and unconscious phantasy in Klein's theory and Kleinian concepts: paranoid-schizoid and depressive positions,, combined parent-figure; splitting and projective identification, death instinct, early Oedipus complex, premature ego development,

Readings:

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

Suggested Readings:

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

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

Session 2 (April 14, 2016): The Paranoid-Schizoid Position

Learning Objective: To explain essential characteristics of the paranoid-schizoid position: persecutory guilt and anxiety, the importance of sadistic and aggressive phantasies, fear of annihilation and disintegration, a depleted self, defenses of splitting and projective identification.

Readings:

Rosenfeld, H. (1983) Primitive Object Relations and Mechanisms. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 64:261-267. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Suggested Readings:

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

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](#)

Session 3 (April 21, 2016): Splitting and Projective Identification

Learning Objective: To identify clinical examples of the defenses of splitting and projective identification

Readings:

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

Feldman, M. Splitting and Projective Identification. In: Clinical Lectures on Klein and Bion. Chapter 6. Elizabeth Bott Spillius (Editor). 1992, The New Library of Psychoanalysis. pp. 74-88. [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 in the [Library](#)]

Joseph, B. The patient who is difficult to reach. In: Melanie Klein Today, Vol.2, pp.48-60. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Session 4 (April 28, 2016): The Depressive Position

Learning Objective: To review essential characteristics of the depressive position: recognition of and fear for the whole object; the importance of the good object, manic and paranoid defenses against depressive anxiety, guilt and remorse for having harmed the good object in phantasy, reparation.

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](#)

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 in the [Library](#)]

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

Session 5 (May 5, 2016): Symbols, Symbolic equations and Premature Ego Development

Learning Objective: To recognize the clinical difference between the patient's use of true symbols and symbolic equations; to describe defenses against introjection and recognize these phenomena in conditions of premature ego development.

Readings:

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

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

Segal, H (1957) Notes on Symbol Formation. IJPA. 38. 391-397. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested reading:

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

Session 6 (May 12, 2016): Early Stages of the Oedipus Complex

Learning Objective: To demonstrate the importance of pre-genital components (oral and anal) in oedipal phantasies; the importance of the inverted Oedipus complex; unconscious phantasies of part-objects; the early superego in Oedipal conflicts.

Readings:

Britton, B. The Oedipus Situation and the Depressive Position. In.: Clinical Lectures on Klein and Bion. R. Anderson (Ed). The New Library of Psychoanalysis, 14, pp. 34-45. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Session 7 (May 19, 2016): Pathological Organizations

Learning Objective: To analyze pathological organizations as somewhat stable but also fragile defensive structures in severe personality disorders, and as in-between-positions between the paranoid schizoid and depressive positions dominated by an excess of envy and negative narcissism.

Readings:

Joseph, B. Addiction to Near Death in: *Melanie Klein Today, Developments in Theory and Practice*, Edited by Elizabeth Bott Spillius, 1988. Vol. I, pp 311-323. [PEP Web Link](#)
Steiner, J. (1982). Perverse Relationships Between Parts of the Self: A Clinical Illustration. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 63:241-251. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Readings:

Hinshelwood, R.D (1991) Pathological Organizations. In: *A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought*. Pp. 381-387. [Available in the [Library](#)]
Rosenfeld, H. (1971) A Clinical Approach to the Psychoanalytic Theory of the Life and Death Instincts: an Investigation into the Aggressive Parts of Narcissism. *IJPA*, 52.169-178. [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. [Available in the [Library](#)]
O'Shaughnessy, E. Words and Working Through. In *Melanie Klein Today*. Vol. II. Mostly Practice. Pp 138-151. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Session 8 (May 26, 2016): Wilfred R. Bion

Learning Objective: To review several of Bion's core concepts: container/contained, alpha function, beta elements, his theory of thinking.

Readings:

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

Suggested Readings:

Hinshelwood, R.D. (1991) Wilfred Bion . In: *A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought*. pp. 231-237. [Available in 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](#)