

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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November 8, 2013

Dreaming the Patient: an Introduction to the Work of Bion and Ogden

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Course Description:

What does the psychoanalyst do with what the patient evokes in him? Evoke is a gentle word for the inevitable psychic turbulence the analyst needs to experience and transform. The concepts of countertransference, projective identification, unthought known, unformulated experience, enactment, and dreaming the patient awake are all attempts to talk about what is unconscious – in both the patient and the analyst – and how it is delivered into the treatment. What is required of the analyst to recognize, hold, and transform this unconscious/unrepresented experience and what happens when holding fails? This course focuses on the ideas of Wilfred Bion and Thomas Ogden who pose original and creative responses to these questions. Bion viewed projective identification not just as a defensive operation but also as an essential aspect of human relatedness, our first language. His concepts of alpha function and container-contained have been instrumental in providing psychoanalysts with a means of understanding how one unconscious communicates with another.

Whereas Bion is an enigmatic writer, Ogden is a poet of psychoanalysis. He is also the leading interpreter of Bion in the United States. When you read Ogden, you wake up. You cannot stop thinking about your patients and yourself in surprising ways. Ogden shows the reader his portal to the unconscious: reverie or waking dreaming. This seminar will begin with Ogden's concept of reverie and the analytic third. The last segment of many classes will be devoted to our own adventures with reverie, metaphor, or sleeping dreams. Participants will have an opportunity to present such clinical moments. The subsequent seven classes will explore many of the key concepts that Bion developed over the course of his career, with a special emphasis on the clinical implications of these ideas.

November 14, 2013

Class I: Reverie, Metaphor, and Ogden's Analytic Third

Ogden, T. (1997). Reverie and Metaphor: Some Thoughts on how I work as an Analyst. *IJP*, 78: 719-732. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden, T. (1994). The Analytic Third: Working with Intersubjective Facts. *IJP*, 75: 3-19. [PEP Web Link](#)

November 21, 2013

Class II: Ogden and Britton on Bion

Ogden, T. (2004). An Introduction to the Reading of Bion. *IJP* 88: 353-370. [PEP Web Link](#)

Britton, R. (1992). Keeping Things in Mind. *New Library of Psychoanalysis* 14: 102-113. [PEP Web Link](#)

December 5, 2013

Class III: Who is Wilfred Bion? Early papers

Bion, W.R. (1958) On Arrogance. *IJP* 39: 144-146. [PEP Web Link](#)

Bion, W.R. (1959) Attacks on Linking. *IJP* 40: 308-315. [PEP Web Link](#)

December 12, 2013

Class IV: Bion on Thinking and Understanding

Brown, Lawrence J. (2012) Bion's Discovery of Alpha Function: Thinking Under Fire on the Battlefield and in the Consulting Room. *IJP* 93: 1191-1214. [*Available in the [library](#)*]

December 19, 2013

Class V: Bion on Dreaming

Bion, W.R. (1992) *Cogitations*. London: Karnac Books. 38-69. (Entries from Bion's notebooks about "dreams and dreaming") [*Available in the [library](#)*]

January 9, 2014

Class VI: Ogden on Dreaming and Not Dreaming

Ogden, T. (2004). This Art of Psychoanalysis: Dreaming Undreamt Dreams and Interrupted Cries. *IJP* 85: 857-877. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden, T. (2003). On Not Being Able to Dream. *IJP* 84: 17-30. [PEP Web Link](#)

January 23, 2014

Class VII: Bion's Clinical Papers

Bion, W. (1967) Notes on memory and desire. In E.Spillius (Ed.) *Melanie Klein Today, Volume II: Mainly Practice*. NY:Routledge, 1988. Pages 17-21. [*Available in the [library](#)*]

Bion, W. (2013) First Seminar – 12 April 1967: memory and desire. In J.Aguayo and B Malin (Eds.) *Wilfred Bion: Los Angeles Seminars and Supervision*. London: Karnac Books, pages 5-9. [*Available in the [library](#)*]

Bion, W. (1997). *Taming Wild Thoughts*. London: Karnac Books, pages 27-51.
[Available in the [library](#)]

January 30, 2014

Class VIII: Transformations in O

Bion, W. (1976) Emotional Turbulence. In *Clinical Seminars and Other Works*. London: Karnac Books, 1994. Pages 295-305. [Available in the [library](#)]

Hartke, R. (2013) Psychological turbulence in the analytic situation. In H. Levine and L. Brown (Eds.) *Growth and Turbulence in the Container/Contained: Bion's Continuing Legacy*. New York: Rutledge Press. [Available in the [library](#)]