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 – both in 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


November 21, 2013
Class II: Ogden and Britton on Bion


December 5, 2013
Class III: Who is Wilfred Bion? Early papers


December 12, 2013
Class IV: Bion on Thinking and Understanding


December 19, 2013
Class V: Bion on Dreaming

(Entries from Bion’s notebooks about “dreams and dreaming”)
[Available in the library]

January 9, 2014
Class VI: Ogden on Dreaming and Not Dreaming


January 23, 2014
Class VII: Bion’s Clinical Papers


**January 30, 2014**

Class VIII: Transformations in O
