HYSTERIA: PAST AND PRESENT
Spring 2014 BPSI Elective
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We encourage you to buy a copy of the Bollas book as well as Ian McEwan's book On Chesil Beach. We will be reading a substantial amount of the Bollas book, and it is well worth adding to your library. The McEwan book is a quick and amazing read and is available at any library if you do not want to purchase it. It is a painful and exquisite rendering of two latter day hysterics as they grapple with their sexuality and coming of age. We will be intertwining a discussion of the two characters in On Chesil Beach throughout the course, as they beautifully illustrate and articulate many of the theoretical concepts and notions of hysteria we will be reading about.

The Guttman article (for week two) is an extensive and comprehensive survey of the psychoanalytic literature on hysteria, from early Freud to contemporary thinkers. We do not expect you to read the article in its entirety, although you are welcome to do so. Dipping in to it here and there, focusing on some parts and passing by other parts is fine. Given the volume of reading, the article is assigned in the spirit of taking as much in as you can so that we share a common conceptual framework about what we mean when we talk about 'hysteria'.

WEEK ONE: CHRISTOPHER BOLLAS


WEEK TWO: DEFINING HYSTERIA


WEEK THREE: FREUD'S HYSTERIA

WEEK FOUR: EXTENDING FREUD’S VIEWS


WEEK FIVE: CONVERSION


WEEK SIX: DOES SEX HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HYSTERIA?


Optional Reading:


WEEK SEVEN: HYSTERIA WITHOUT SEX


WEEK EIGHT: DISSOCIATION AND REPRESSSION


Another article tbd.