

## THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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Course: Melanie Klein and the neo-Kleinians

Dates: 2/6; 2/13; 2/20; 2/27; 3/6; 3/13; 2/20; 3/27

Place: BPSI Time: 5:00 to 6:30

Instructors: Harry Penn, MD

Sharon M. Roberts, PHD

### Abstract/Purpose of seminar:

Melanie Klein wanted to continue to develop Freud's theories with a focus on unconscious phantasy and object relations. As a consequence, she developed a different theory of the mind focusing on primitive anxieties, defenses and object relations. She conceptualized a psychic organization characterized by dynamic oscillations between the paranoid schizoid and depressive positions. Technically she focused on her view of transference as an expression of unconscious phantasy. Later followers of Klein would expand and elaborate her theories always grounding them in the clinical context. In this course, we will use a chronological approach with a balance of contemporary Kleinian literature. Our focus will be primarily on the London Kleinians and Bion. Included will be an exploration of envy and gratitude as expressions of death and life instincts. Also, we will acquaint ourselves with Kleinian technique. In particular we will give attention to the clinical use of the "here and now" transferences and the interplay between transference and countertransference phenomena in the therapeutic endeavor. The goal of the course will be to give candidates a theoretical understanding of the evolution of Kleinian theory and contemporary Kleinian practice.

### Syllabus:

Week I: Introduction to Klein

Learning objective: To discuss the developmental model as illustrated in the schizoid position and crucial psychic role in the preservation of the good object.

Klein, M. (1946). "Notes on some schizoid mechanisms," *IJP*, 27:99-110. [PEP Web Link](#)

Steiner, J. (1992). "The Equilibrium between the Paranoid-Schizoid and the Depressive positions," *The New Library of Psychoanalysis*, 14: 46-58. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week II: Klein's unconscious, an examination of unconscious phantasy

Learning objective: To demonstrate the place of unconscious phantasy in the composition of the unconscious, in object relations and in the transference.

Ogden, T. (1948). "Instinct, Phantasy, and Deep Psychological Structure – a Re-interpretation of Aspects of the Work of Melanie Klein," *Contemp. Psychoanal*, 20: 500-526. [PEP Web Link](#)

Segal, H. (1955), "Notes on Symbol Formation," *IJP*, 38: 391-397. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Recommended:**

Isaacs, S. (1948), "The Nature and function of Phantasy," *IJP*, 29: 73-97. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week III: The Death Instinct

Learning objective: To investigate the nature of the role of the death instinct in aggression, psychic integration, and in the constructive dimensions of relationships.

Klein, M. (1935). "A contribution to the psychogenesis of manic-depressive states," *IJP*, 16: 145-174. [PEP Web Link](#)

Feldman, M. (2000). "Some views on the manifestations of the death instinct in clinical work," *IJP*, 81: 53-65. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week IV: Envy and Gratitude

Learning Objective: To be able to explain the relationship between envy and gratitude and the death and life instincts from a Kleinian perspective and to compare that perspective with a contemporary view of envy informed by current infant research.

Klein, M (1957), "Envy and gratitude," in *The Selected Melanie Klein*, edited by Juliet Mitchell, 1986, NY, pp. 211-229. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph B. (1986), "Envy in everyday life," in *Psychic Equilibrium and Psychic Change*, edited by Michael Feldman and Elizabeth Bott Spillius, The New Library of Psychoanalysis, London, New York, pp. 181-191. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Recommended:**

Spillius, E. (1997), "Varieties of envious experience" in *The Contemporary Kleinians of London*, International Universities Press, Inc., Madison, Connecticut, pp. 141-170. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week V: Bion and Ogden

Learning Objective: To explain and discuss how Bion's theories of mind articulate an intersubjective dimension that transforms and expands Klein's ideas about symbol formation and the paranoid schizoid and depressive positions.

Bion, W.R. (1959), "Attacks on linking," *IJP*, 40: 308-15. [PEP Web Link](#)

Bion, W.R. (1961), "A theory of thinking," *IJP*, 43: 306-310 [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden T. (2004) "An introduction to the reading of Bion," *IJP*, 85: 285-300 [PEP Web Link](#)

#### Week VI: Transference/ Countertransference

Learning Objective: To describe Klein's concept of transference as it evolved from Freud's and to assess the value it has for current psychoanalytic practice.

Klein M. (1952), "The origins of transference" in *Envy and Gratitude*, London: Hogarth Press, 1975, pp. 48-56. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph B. (1985), "Transference: the total situation" *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 66:447-454. [PEP Web Link](#)

#### Week VII: Clinical applications of a theory

Learning Objective: To explain how the countertransference and the analyst's mind can be used in the service of understanding the patient and the patient's history and to describe how attention to the analyst's mind has an impact on our way of viewing analytic observation and neutrality.

Caper R. (1997), "A mind of one's own" *IJP*, 78:265-278. [PEP Web Link](#)

Feldman M. (2009), "The illumination of history" in *Doubt, Conviction and the Analytic Process*, editor, Betty Joseph, Routledge, London and NY, pp. 72-95. [PEP Web Link](#)

#### Week VIII: Synthesis and Bion

Learning Objective: To discuss what we have explored in our readings and to see how the later work of Bion moved very far Klein and the neo-Kleinians, especially with his thoughts on thinking and dreaming as possibilities for exploring the unconscious interaction with another's mind.

Brown, L. (2011). *Intersubjective Processes and the Unconscious*, Routledge, London and New York, pp. 47-109. [Available in the [Library](#)]