

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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MELANIE KLEIN AND THE NEO-KLEINIANS

Instructor: James Barron, PhD

Dates: February 11,18,25, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2016

Time: 5:30 – 7:00PM

This seminar will examine some of the major innovations to psychoanalytic thinking and practice contributed by Melanie Klein and the elaborations by several of her followers. Paradoxically her ideas are now widely accepted while continuing to stir up controversy between detractors and adherents. In our readings and discussions, we will strive to achieve optimal tension between empathic identification with and critical reflection upon her ideas. Although the focus will be on theory, we will invite all participants to contribute clinical examples that illustrate elate the theory to clinical practice whenever possible.

Session 1 (Feb. 11) Freudian Origins of Object Relations Theory

Learning Objective: Illuminate key aspects of the origins of object relations theory in Freud's 'Mourning and Melancholia'

Ogden, T.H. (1983). The Concept of Internal Object Relations. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 64:227-241. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden, T.H. (2002). A New Reading of the Origins of Object-Relations Theory. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 83:767-782. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

Hinshelwood, R.D. (1997). The Elusive Concept of 'Internal Objects' (1934-1943): Its Role In the Formation of the Klein Group. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 78:877-897. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 2 (Feb. 18) Depressive Position

Learning Objective: Describe the depressive position as the capacity to experience a whole object along with the emerging recognition that feelings of love, hate, guilt, and concern are directed toward that object.

Klein, M. (1935). A Contribution to the Psychogenesis of Manic-Depressive States. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 16:145-174. [PEP Web Link](#)

Klein, M. (1940). Mourning and its Relation to Manic-Depressive States. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 21:125-153. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

Bion, W.R., Rosenfeld, H., Segal, H. (1961). Melanie Klein. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 42:4-8. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 3 (February 25) Paranoid-Schizoid Position

Learning Objective: Examine the paranoid-schizoid position as a constellation of anxieties, defenses, and object relationships emerging in earliest infancy, oscillating with the depressive position, and continuing throughout life.

Klein, M. (1946). Notes on Some Schizoid Mechanisms. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 27:99-110. [PEP Web Link](#)

Winnicott, D.W. (1945). Primitive Emotional Development. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 26:137-143. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 4 (March 3) Unconscious Phantasy

Learning Objective: Describe unconscious phantasy as the psychic representative of instinct that is linked to internal objects and external reality.

Isaacs, S. (1948). The Nature and Function of Phantasy. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.* 29:73-97. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden, T.H. (2011). Reading Susan Isaacs: Toward a Radically Revised Theory of Thinking. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 92:925-942. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

Spillius, E.B. (2001). Freud and Klein on the Concept of Phantasy. *Int. J. Psycho- Anal.*, 82:361-373. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 5 (March 10) The Child's Primitive Object Relations and the Early Precursors of the Oedipus Complex

Learning Objective: Connect the child's capacity to experience unconscious phantasy to the early development of Oedipal dynamics.

Klein, M. (1945). The Oedipus Complex in the Light of Early Anxieties. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 26:11-33. [PEP Web Link](#)

Britton, R. (1992). The Oedipus Situation and the Depressive Position. *New Library of Psychoanalysis*, 14:34-45. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 6 (March 17) Projective Identification

Learning Objective: Compare the healthy and pathological uses of the mechanism of projective identification

Ogden, T.H. (1979). On Projective Identification. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 60:357-373. [PEP Web Link](#)

Feldman, M. (1997). Projective Identification: The Analyst's Involvement. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 78:227-241. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

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

Spillius, E.B. (1992). Clinical Experiences of Projective Identification. *New Library of Psychoanalysis*, 14:59-73. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 7 (March 24) Projective Identification and Theory of Thinking

Learning Objective: Describe the difference between symbol formation in the paranoid-schizoid position and symbol formation in the depressive position; explain the function of projective identification in the development (and destruction) of the capacity to think.

Segal, H. (1957). Notes on Symbol Formation. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 38:391-397. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Bion, W.R. (1962). The Psycho-Analytic Study of Thinking. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 43:306-310. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 8 (March 31) Transference Viewed through a Kleinian Lens

Learning Objective: Describe how primitive defenses of splitting and projective identification influence the meaning and use patients make of our interpretations.

Joseph, B. (1985). Transference: The Total Situation. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 66:447-454. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph, B. (2013). Here and Now: My Perspective. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 94:1-5. [Available in [Library](#)]

Suggested:

O'Shaughnessy, E. (1983). Words and Working Through. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 64:281-289. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph, B. (1982). Addiction to Near-Death. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 63:449-456. [PEP Web Link](#)