

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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PSYCHOPATHOLOGY I

Seminar Year II, 2015-2016

Neurotic Psychopathology and the so-called higher functioning patient.

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Freud's psychological work began with the study of the neuroses and developed into a unique – psychoanalytic – perspective on these mysterious disorders. This psychoanalytic perspective, in turn, changed the very way we think of and define neurosis and, in addition, showed how it can be treated through psychoanalysis. What Freud discovered is that neurotic symptoms and behavior had a meaning – were a complex mixture that at one and the same time both expressed and defended against unacceptable impulses, thoughts, and wishes, which, most importantly, were largely unconscious, typically involved sexuality and aggression and originated in childhood. In this course we will examine the various neuroses and the distinct mechanisms that they each employ. We will read about hysteria and obsessional neurosis, and explore what they reveal about psychic functioning. Finally, we will examine the relationship between neurosis and character.

SESSION 1 (Sep 17): Introduction to Hysteria.

1. Breuer, J., Studies on Hysteria, Anna O., S.E. 2. Pp. 21-47. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Breuer, J. and Freud, S., (1893) Studies on Hysteria, Chapter I, On the Psychological Mechanism of Hysterical Phenomena: Preliminary Communication, S.E. 2. Pp. 3-17. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning objective: To review the early psychoanalytic thoughts about the concept of hysteria and the discovery of the “talking cure.”

SESSION 2 (Sep 24): Hysteria and its Etiology. Introduction to the psychoanalytic concept of neurosis and its place in the landscape of psychopathology.

1. Freud, S. (1895) Studies on Hysteria, Chapter 4, The Psychotherapy of Hysteria, S.E. 2. Pp. 255-305. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Freud, S., (1917) Introductory Lectures, Lecture 23: The Paths to the Formation of Symptoms, S.E. 16. Pp. 358-377. [PEP Web Link](#)

Supplemental Reading:

Freud, S., (1917) Introductory Lectures, Lecture 24: The Common Neurotic State, S.E. 16. Pp. 378-391. [PEP Web Link](#)

Grubrich-Simitis, I., (1997) Early Freud and Late Freud, The Primal Book of Psychoanalysis: Studies on Hysteria a hundred years on, Pp. 15- 52. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning objective: To review the psychoanalytic view of hysteria and its treatment - the nature of conversion and the specific psychical mechanisms at play in hysteria. To examine the concept of neurosis including symptom formation, unconscious conflict and defense and their role in psychopathology.

SESSION 3 (Oct 1): Hysteria (continued)

1. Britton, R. (1999) Getting in the Act: The Hysterical Solution, IJPA 42:385-404. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Green, A. (1996) Has Sexuality Anything To Do with Psychoanalysis? IJPA 76:871-883. [PEP Web Link](#)
3. Freud, S. (1908) Some Hysterical Fantasies and their Relationship to Bisexuality, S.E. 9, Pp. 157-166. [PEP Web Link](#)

Supplemental Readings:

1. Yarom, N. (1997) A Matrix of Hysteria. IJPA 78:1119-1134. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Freud, S. (1908) On the Sexual Theories of Children, S.E. 9. Pp. 207-226. [PEP Web Link](#)
3. Fenichel, O. (1945) The Psychoanalytic Theory of Neurosis, Chapter 12, Conversion, Pp. 216-235. [PEP Web Link](#)
4. Freud, S., (1917) Introductory Lectures, Lecture 20: The Sexual Life of Human Beings, S.E. 16. Pp. 303-319 [PEP Web Link](#)
5. Freud, S., (1917) Introductory Lectures, Lecture 21: The Development of the Libido, S.E. 16. Pp. 320-338. [PEP Web Link](#)
6. Rangell, L. (1991) Castration. JAPA, 39:3-23. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning objective: To understand the relationship of psychosexual development, sexuality and bodily functions to symptom formation and the theory of the neuroses.

SESSION 4 (Oct 8): Hysteria and Dissociation

1. Lyons-Ruth, K. (2003) Dissociation and the Parent-Infant Dialogue: A Longitudinal Perspective from Attachment Research. JAPA, 51:883-911. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Loewald, H. (1955) Hypnoid States, Repression, Abreaction and Recollection, JAPA 3:201-210. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning objective: To examine the role of trauma in hysteria and to explore the relationship between hysteria and dissociation. To compare and contrast the difference between the repression model with the dissociation model.

SESSION 5 (Oct 15): Obsessional Neurosis

1. Freud, S. (1909), Notes upon a case of obsessional neurosis, S.E. 10, 153-249. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Fisch, Marcia (1999 unpublished), Rat Man: The case. [*Available in the [Library](#)*]

Learning objective: Learning objective: To review the psychoanalytic view of obsessional neurosis and its treatment – the nature of obsessions, compulsions, isolation of affect and the specific psychological mechanisms at play in obsessional neurosis. To discuss the relationship between obsessional neurosis and the Oedipus conflict.

SESSION 6 (Oct 22): The Rat Man Reconsidered: Revisions of Freudian Theory and contemporary issues.

1. Brandchaft, B. (2001) Obsessional Disorders: A Developmental Systems Perspective. Psychoanalytic Inquiry, 21: 253-288. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Osman, M.P. (2009) Freud's Rat Man from the Perspective of an Early-Life Variant of the Oedipus Complex. Psychoanalytic Quarterly, 78: 765-790. [PEP Web Link](#)
3. Bechdel, A. (2006) Fun Home – A Family Tragicomic. Pp. 135-149. (A contemporary case example.) [*Available in the [Library](#)*]

Learning objective: To review contemporary psychoanalytic views of obsessional neurosis and its treatment—a re-evaluation of what was therapeutic in the Rat Man case (Osman) and the role of developmental trauma in the formation of obsessional symptoms (Brandschaft). Bechdel provides a contemporary, and creative, example of the development of OCD symptoms and their transformation.

SESSION 7 (Oct 29): Neurosis and Character

1. Chasseguet-Smirgel, Janine (1978), Reflections on the Connections Between Perversion and Sadism, IJP, 59 Pp. 27-35 [PEP Web Link](#)

2. Abraham, Karl (1921), Contributions to the Theory of Anal Character, Selected Papers on Psychoanalysis, 1948, Pp. 370-392 [PEP Web Link](#)
3. Freud, S. (1908) Character and Anal Erotism, S.E. 9. Pp. 168-175 [PEP Web Link](#)
4. Freud, S (1907) Obsessional Acts and Religious Practices. S.E. 9. pp. 116-127 [PEP Web Link](#)

Supplemental Readings:

1. Tyson, P. (1996), Neurosis in childhood and in psychoanalysis: a developmental reformulation, JAPA 44: 143-165. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning objective: To review and discuss the psychoanalytic view of character and psychological structure and its relationship to the neuroses. To explore the concept of neurotic character focusing on obsessional character and its various manifestations including in everyday life.

SESSION 8 (Nov 5): Neurosis and Character Continued

1. Easser, B.R., Lesser, S.R. (1965). Hysterical Personality: A Re-Evaluation. Psychoanal Q., 34:390-405. [Pep Web Link](#)
2. Baudry, Francis (1984) Character: A Concept in Search of an Identity. JAPA, 32:455-477. [PEP Web Link](#)

Supplemental Reading:

1. Fenichel, Otto (1945) The Psychoanalytic Theory of Neurosis, 527-531. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Learning Objective: To further investigate the concept of character and its relationship to neurosis focusing particularly on hysterical character.

The seminar is relevant for clinicians in that it provides an introduction to the psychoanalytic understanding and treatment of the neuroses (hysterical and obsessional) and other neurotic level disorders. Candidates will learn about symptom formation and the basic mechanisms of action of these disorders and how these inform treatment. The seminar will cover both theory and clinical practice and the discussion will be closely tied to clinical observations. Candidates will be encouraged to relate the theories to their clinical practice.