

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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PSYCHOPATHOLOGY I

Seminar Year II, 2013-2014

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.

SESSION 1 (Nov 14): 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 gain an understanding of early psychoanalytic thoughts about the concept of hysteria and the discovery of the “talking cure.”

SESSION 2 (Nov 21): 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 gain a further understanding of the psychoanalytic view of hysteria and its treatment - the nature of conversion and the specific psychological 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 (Dec 5): Hysteria (continued)

1. Britton, R. (1999) Getting in the Act: The Hysterical Solution, IJPA 42:385-404. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Freud, S. (1908) Some Hysterical Fantasies and their Relationship to Bisexuality, S.E. 9, Pp. 157-166. [PEP Web Link](#)
3. Green, A. (1996) Has Sexuality Anything To Do with Psychoanalysis? IJPA 76:871-883. [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 (Dec 12): Hysteria, sexuality and the relation to the body

1. Van der Kolk, B.A. and Van der Hart, O. (1991) "The Intrusive Past: The Flexibility of Memory and the Engraving of Trauma." American Imago 48: 425-454. [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 understand the difference between the repression model with the dissociation model.

SESSION 5 (Dec 19): Hysteria Lost and Found

1. Mitchell, Juliet (1991) Mad Men and Medusas, Ch 1 pp 1-42. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning objective: To review what we have learned about hysteria and to understand the universality both culturally and historically of the concept of hysteria.

SESSION 6 (Jan 9): 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: To gain an understanding of the psychoanalytic view of obsessional neurosis and its treatment – the nature of obsessions, compulsions, isolation of affect and the specific psychical mechanisms at play in obsessional neurosis. To gain an understanding of the relationship between obsessional neurosis and the Oedipus conflict.

SESSION 7 (Jan 23): 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 gain an understanding of 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 (Brandchaft). Bechdel provides a contemporary, and creative, example of the development of OCD symptoms and their transformation.

SESSION 8 (Jan 30): 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 (1931) Libidinal Types. S.E. 21. pp. 215-220 [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 gain an understanding of the psychoanalytic view of character and psychological structure and its relationship to the neuroses. We will explore the concept of neurotic character and its various types.

The seminar is relevant for clinicians in that it provides an introduction to the psychoanalytic understanding and treatment of the neuroses (hysterical, obsessional and phobic) 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.