RESISTANCE

ATP Year Seminar, Fall 2014

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Even before acknowledging the central role of transference, Freud became intrigued with his patients’ reluctance, recalcitrance, or refusal to recollect the very memories that would lead to cathartic release. By examining this reluctance, Freud shifted focus from a supportive treatment in the service of recollection to an interpretive treatment seeking to “work through” the dynamics of conflict in the interpersonal arena of the analysis.

Beginning with Freud, this seminar will explore how psychoanalytic treaters have understood and utilized this working through in the service of helping people change. We will examine key transitions in perspective on the concept of resistance, looking at different shifts in theory and treatment through the lens of resistance. We will also use this opportunity to explore the larger issue of influence and power in psychodynamic work.

Throughout, we will also discuss the relevance of resistance in our own clinical work. In this regard, in addition to discussing reading, we will examine clinical process material with a special ear tuned to the nuances of resistance in sessions with our patients. Is resistance relevant? How does it inform what we hear, what we do?

September 18—Introduction and Overview


October 2—Freud and Resistance

- Freud, S. (1914) Remembering, repeating and working-through. S. E., 12:147-156. PEP Web Link
October 9—From Freud to Classical Theory


October 16—Ego Psychology I: Defense Analysis


October 23—Ego Psychology II: Close Process Analysis


October 30—Kleinian Perspectives: Intimations of an Intersubjective Process


November 6—Object Relations: Further Intimations of an Intersubjective Process


November 13—Self Psychology: Deficit vs. Defense


November 20—Contemporary Theory: The Relevance of the Concept of Resistance

December 4—Resistance In The Treater
