

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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Year III February/March 2014

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As a post-Freudian psychoanalytic theory, self psychology is continually undergoing changes and transformations. These changes have two major sources:

The first of these is related to the fact that the theory as it was originally articulated by Kohut over a period of less than two decades, contained ideas the meanings of which could only become clear with time and increasing clinical experience. The best example of this is the selfobject concept: originally a purely intrapsychic concept now includes intersubjective and relational perspectives.

The second major source of changes is related to the fact that there is a continuous, imperceptible influence that all psychoanalytic theories exert on each other. While each theory attempts to preserve its “purity,” discussions of clinical material reveal that analysts’ private theories (Sandler) have multiple sources.

This eight session course can only be an overview in which we will focus on the most essential features of self psychology. We will aim for a systematic presentation recognizing that all psychoanalytic theories have to meet the criteria of inner consistency: the clinical theory based on clinical observations (transferences) has to be supported by a theory of development and a theory of psychopathology.

February 6, 2013

Why and how did Heinz Kohut develop a theory of the psychology of the self? What is the place of self psychology in the history of psychoanalysis?

READING: Ornstein, P.H. & Kay, Jerald (1990): Development of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology: A Historical-Conceptual Overview. In: *Review of Psychiatry* Vol. 9 (eds.) Tasman, A., Goldfinger, S., Kaufman, C., Am. Psychiatric Press, Hillsdale, N.J. [Available in the [Library](#)]

February 13, 2014

The methodological underpinning of self psychology: empathy as a mode of observation and the definer of the field.

READING: Kohut, H. (1959): Introspection, Empathy and Psychoanalysis: an examination of the relationship between the mode of observation and theory. *JAPA* 7:459-483, also in: *Search for the Self* (ed.) P.H. Ornstein, 1978, 1:201-232
[PEP Web Link](#)

February 20, 2014

The basic concepts of self psychology; definitions and developmental considerations.

READING: Kohut, H. (1990): Four Basic Concepts in Self Psychology In: *Search for the Self* 4:447-470 [Available in the [Library](#)]

Tolpin, M.(1986): The Self and Its Selfobjects: A Different Baby. In: *Progress in Self Psychology* 2:115-128 [PEP Web Link](#)

Teicholz, Judith (1999) Chapter 5, Kohut's Concept of the Selfobject, in Kohut, Loewald and the Postmodern, he Analytic Press, Hillsdale, New Jersey,pp 83-115. [Available in the [Library](#)]

February 27, 2014

Self Psychology and the Oedipus Complex

Ornstein, A. (1983): An Idealizing Transference of the Oedipal Phase. In: *Reflections on Self Psychology* (eds. Lichtenberg, J. Kaplan, S. 135-161, The Analytic Press, Hillsdale, N.J. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Kohut, Heinz (1997): The Oedipus Complex and the Psychology of the Self. Chapter 5, in *The Restoration of the Self*, International University Press, New York. Pp220-248 [Available in the [Library](#)]

March 6, 2014

The psychoanalytic process: the selfobject transferences and countertransference in an intersubjective perspective.

READING:

Stolorow, R. & Lachmann, F. (1985): The Transference: The future of Illusion, *Annual of Psychoanalysis* (ed.) The Chicago Inst. for Psychoanalysis 12/13:19-37 Int. U. Press, New York [PEP Web Link](#)

Thompson, P.(1991): Countertransference in an Intersubjective Perspective: an Experiment, In: *Progress in Self Psychology* 7:75-92. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Commentary on the Thompson paper:

Brandchaft, B (1991): Countertransference in the Analytic Process , *Progress in Self Psychology* ,7:99-105 [PEP Web Link](#)

March 13, 2014

The Interpretive Process, the Process of Working Through and the influence of the analyst's subjectivity on the analytic process.

Ornstein, P. H. & Ornstein, A. (1985):Clinical Understanding and Explaining: the empathic vantage point. In: *Progress in Self Psychology* (ed.) A. Goldberg, Guilford Press, N.Y. 1:43-61 [Available in the [Library](#)]

Ornstein, A. (1990) Selfobject Transferences and the Process of Working Through, *Progress in Self Psychology: The Realities of Transferences* (ed.) A. Goldberg, 6:41-58 [Available in the [Library](#)]

OPTIONAL

Jacobs, T.J. (1996): Analysis, Mutual Analysis, and Self-Analysis; on the interplay of minds in the analytic process, *Canadian J. of Psychoanalysis* 4: 255-277 [PEP Web Link](#)

March 20, 2014

Assertiveness, Anger, Rage and Destructive Aggression; the clinical and theoretical significance of narcissistic rage.

Kohut, H. (1972):Thoughts on Narcissism and Narcissistic Rage, *Psy. S. Child* 27L360-400, also in: *The Search for the Self* (ed,) Ornstein, P.H., 1978 [PEP Web Link](#)

March 27, 2013

TBD

Summary session, new directions, comparative readings