What we have come to know about the shaping of the analyst, his work ego, and analytic competence has long since required of us that we see ourselves in our work as indeed adequate at times, but liable to lapse and short-fall for many reasons. Since we know the assets and limitations we brought to our choice of career, and the forces of conflict and compromise that shaped that choice, we know we are not so different from our patients, except as our own analytic experience and training have helped us to evolve a little further in our development and adaptation through analytic ways of knowing. We realize that what we have been trained to do and molded to think both expand and constrain us, and reflect our identifications made with and against those who educated us. McLaughlin (1991)

In this seminar we hope to take a “fresh look” at psychoanalysis and analytic technique. We will consider the concepts and attitudes that make up the analytic stance with a particular focus on contemporary controversies and revisions of that stance. Much of our attention will be focused on the gains and losses that occur as we shift our attention between a one and two person psychology. We also want to think about technique in the context of the clinical work that we do. Our hope is that you will contribute clinical material from your cases along with the discussion of the assigned papers. We feel it is an exciting and challenging time to be training as a psychoanalyst, when so many concepts formerly viewed as bedrock are being redefined. Although the field is infused with more uncertainty than in previous years, it also offers a liberation which we hope to help you welcome and internalize as part of your becoming a psychoanalyst.

Note: log into your PEP Web account to access full text articles cited below

Session 1, September 20th: Transference I: Freud’s technique and the limits of technical directives


Session 2, September 27th: Transference II: The evolution of the concept

Session 3, October 4th: Using Countertransference I: The evolution of the concept


Session 4, October 11th: Using Countertransference II: Listening from different vantage points


Optional Reading

Session 5, October 18th: Caring, Coercion and The Analyst’s Presence


Optional Reading

Session 6, October 25th: Enactment I: The analyst’s unconscious participation


Session 7, November 1st: Enactment II: Working in the moment


**Session 8, November 8th: Self-Disclosure: A danger to be accepted or an aspect of effective**
