

**THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.**

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**BPSI Winter Elective 2015 - 2016**

**Clinical Relevance of Unconscious Phantasy: Evolving Perspectives**

Instructors: James Barron, Ph.D. and Stephen Kerzner, M.D.

This course will examine the evolving concepts of unconscious phantasy and current controversies surrounding its multiple meanings and clinical relevance. Seminal articles from Freudian, Kleinian, and relational perspectives will be discussed. Participants will be encouraged to share examples from their work to help ground theoretical discussions in the realities of clinical practice.

The course syllabus is below. Readings that are not accessible on PEP Web will be distributed by email in PDF format or may be available in the library. We will meet at BPSI on Thursday evenings from 8 - 9:30 PM. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact us.

Learning Objectives:

1. Examine Freud's theory of unconscious wishes and fantasies and the impact of the reality principle.
2. Describe Melanie Klein's expansion of the theory of unconscious phantasy to encompass all mental representations.
3. Distinguish American Ego Psychological and Contemporary Freudian attempts to integrate unconscious phantasy with the structural model.
4. Discuss the impact of developmental research findings on the concept of unconscious phantasy.
5. Integrate contemporary academic research findings on mind with the psychoanalytic understanding of unconscious phantasy.
6. Recognize how relational and intersubjective perspectives have redefined understanding of unconscious phantasy and its clinical use.
7. Summarize the continuing evolution of our understanding of unconscious phantasy and its relevance to therapeutic work.
8. Evaluate the dimensional analysis of the 2015 IPA working group report on the spectrum of theoretical models of unconscious phantasy.

Syllabus

**Session 1: Thursday, November 12, 2015**

Freud's theory of unconscious phantasy

Readings:

1. Freud, S. (1911). Formulations on the two principles of mental functioning. S.E., 12:213-226. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Freud, S. (1915). The Unconscious. S.E. 14:159-215. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional:

Laplanche J, Pontalis J-B (1968). Fantasy and the origins of sexuality. *Int J Psychoanal* 49:1-18. [PEP Web Link](#)

### **Session 2: Thursday, November 19, 2015**

Kleinian views of unconscious phantasy - “This unreal reality”

Readings:

1. Klein, M. (1946). Notes on Some Schizoid Mechanisms. *Int J Psychoanal*, 27:99-110. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Isaacs, S. (1948). The Nature and Function of Phantasy. *Int J Psychoanal*. 29:73-97. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional:

Likierman, M. (2001). ‘This unreal reality’ - Klein’s concept of phantasy. In *Melanie Klein: her work in context*, Ch. 9,136-143. [Available in [Library](#)]

Ogden, T.H. (2011). Reading Susan Isaacs: Toward a Radically Revised Theory of Thinking. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 92:925-942. [PEP Web Link](#)

### **Session 3: Thursday, December 3, 2015**

Unconscious Phantasy and the Structural Model

Readings:

1. Arlow, J. (1969a). UCS Fantasy and Disturbances of Conscious Experience. *Psychoanal Q* 238:1-27. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Sandler, J., Sandler, A. (1994). Phantasy and its Transformations: A Contemporary Freudian View. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 75:387-394. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional:

Spillius, E.B. (2001). Freud and Klein on the Concept of Phantasy. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 82:361-373. [PEP Web Link](#)

### **Session 4: Thursday, December 10, 2015**

Developmental Perspectives on Mental Representation and Unconscious Phantasy

Readings:

1. Stern, D.N. (1992). The ‘Pre-Narrative Envelope’: An Alternative View of ‘Unconscious Phantasy’ in Infancy. *Bul. Anna Freud Center*, 15:291-318. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Erreich, A. (2003). A Modest Proposal: (Re)Defining Unconscious Fantasy. *Psychoanal Q.*, 72:541-574. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Session 5: Thursday, January 21, 2016**

## Cognitive Neuroscience: Unconscious Phantasy Re-viewed

## Readings:

1. Litowitz, B.E. (2007). Unconscious Fantasy: A Once And Future Concept. J. Amer. Psychoanal. Assn., 55:199-228. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Erreich, A. (2015). Unconscious fantasy as a special class of mental representation: a contribution to a model of the mind. JAPA 63:247-270. [[Available to Download in Library](#) or Contact a [Librarian](#)]

## Optional:

Grotstein, J. (2008). The overarching Role of Unconscious Phantasy. Psychoanal. Inq., 28:190-205. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Session 6: Thursday, January 28, 2016**

## Relational Perspectives

## Readings:

1. Bromberg, P. (2008). "Grown-Up Words: An Interpersonal/Relational Perspective on Unconscious Fantasy. Psychoanal. Inq. 28:131-15. [PEP Web Link](#)
2. Gerson, S. (2008). Unconscious Phantasy and Relational Reality. Psychoanal. Inq. 28:151-168. [PEP Web Link](#)

## Optional:

Ornstein A, Ornstein P (2008). The structure and function of unconscious fantasy in the treatment process. Psychoanal. Inq. 28:206-230. [PEP Web Link](#)

Brown, L.J. (2010). Klein, Bion and Intersubjectivity: Becoming, Transforming and Dreaming. Psychoanal. Dial. 20:669-682. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Session 7: Thursday, February 4, 2016**

## Continuing Controversies:

## Readings:

1. Blass, R.B. (2014). Introduction to "How and Why Unconscious Phantasy and Transference are the Defining Features of Psychoanalytic Practice". Int. J. Psycho-Anal., 95:e1-e7. [[Available in Library](#)]
2. LaFarge, L. (2014). How and Why Unconscious Phantasy and Transference are the Defining Features of Psychoanalytic Practice. *ibid*, 95:1265-1278. [[Available in Library](#)]

## Optional:

Feldman M. (2014). Comments on Lucy's Lafarge's paper How and why unconscious phantasy and transference are the defining features of psychoanalytic practice. *ibid*, 95:1279-1281.

[[Available in Library](#)]

Stern, D.B. (2014). A response to LaFarge. *ibid*, 95:1283-1297. [[Available in Library](#)]

LaFarge, L. (2014). LaFarge's rejoinder to Michael Feldman and Donnel B. Stern. *ibid*, 95:1299-1304. [[Available in Library](#)]

**Session 8: Thursday February 11, 2016**

Conceptual Integration and Dimensional Analysis of Different Models of Unconscious Phantasy

Readings:

1. Bohleber, W., Jiménez, J.P., Scarfone, D., Varvin, S., Zysman, S. (2015). Unconscious Phantasy and its Conceptualizations: An Attempt at Conceptual Integration. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 96:705-730. [Available in [Library](#)]