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:
Optional:

Session 2: Thursday, November 19, 2015
Kleinian views of unconscious phantasy - “This unreal reality”

Readings:

Optional:

Session 3: Thursday, December 3, 2015
Unconscious Phantasy and the Structural Model
Readings:

Optional:

Session 4: Thursday, December 10, 2015
Developmental Perspectives on Mental Representation and Unconscious Phantasy
Readings:
Session 5: Thursday, January 21, 2016
Cognitive Neuroscience: Unconscious Phantasy Re-viewed

Readings:

Optional:

Session 6: Thursday, January 28, 2016
Relational Perspectives

Readings:

Optional:

Session 7: Thursday, February 4, 2016
Continuing Controversies:

Readings:

Optional:
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: