Seminar: Working with Parents
Instructor: Allen Palmer, M.D.

This seminar will explore working with parents and their concerns about their children. Utilizing readings and the participants' clinical presentations, we will address the following topics: 1. parenthood as a developmental phase, 2. transgenerational issues, 3. conceptual frameworks for understanding the transmission of transgenerational issues, 4. how psychological processes within the parent(s) can impede the facilitation of regulatory functions in their children, 5. the complexities of the parent(s)-analyst relationship, including alliance formation and transferences, and 6. working with adult analysands who, in their own analyses, raise parenting issues. The seminar will include readings and opportunities for clinical presentations and discussion. Each participant will write a brief clinical vignette discussing a dilemma they have faced in working with parents of a child during an evaluation or during ongoing treatment.

Session 1: January 9, 2017

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the participant will be able to describe 2 challenges parents face as their children move from infancy to toddlerhood.

Session 2: January 23, 2017


Learning Objective: At the conclusion of the session, participants will be able to define the Novicks’ term “therapeutic alliance task.”
Session 3: January 30, 2017
[This paper will be available in the library and should not be distributed without the author’s permission.]

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this seminar session participants will be able to describe Bion's container/contained model and offer one example of it in the parent-child interaction.

Session 4: February 6, 2017

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will be able to define metacognitive monitoring, reflective functioning, and mentalization and give one example of each in parent – child interactions.

Session 5: February 13, 2017

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will be able to delineate Selma Fraiberg’s phrase “ghosts in the nursery”.

Session 6: February 27, 2017

Learning Objective: By seminar’s end, participants will be able to define a “transgenerational mandate”.

Session 7: March 6, 2017

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will be able to give a minimum of two examples of varying parental motivations and attitudes in seeking consultation and describe at least two emotional reactions of the child clinician to the parents.
Session 8: March 13, 2017

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will be able to discuss one or more benefits and complications in offering parent guidance assistance to adult analysands.

References


Whitefield, C. & Midgley, N. (2015). ‘And when you were a child?’: how therapists working with parents alongside individual child psychotherapy bring the past into their work. J. of Child Psychotherapy, 41:272-292. [Available in Library]