

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

141 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02459

Telephone: 617.266.0953 | Fax: 857.255.3253 | [www.bpsi.org](http://www.bpsi.org)

**Gender and Sexuality: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives**

**Seminar Year IV, Winter 2017**

**Instructors:**

**Ayelet Barkai, M.D.**

**Diane O'Donoghue, Ph.D.**

**Dates:** 2017 - February 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30      **Time:** 5:30 – 7:00PM

**Course Description:**

This course will explore, from a clinical and theoretical vantage point, the intersection and evolution of ideas about gender and sexuality development and expression within classical and contemporary psychoanalytic theory. The goal will be to trace the progression of psychoanalytic ideas on gender and sexuality and their development from classical to contemporary psychoanalysis. We will use clinical material as well as psychoanalytic, academic and literary texts to highlight and clarify contemporary clinical and theoretical psychoanalytic thinking on gender and sexuality.

**Week 1: February 9, 2017**

**Course Overview, and What Freud Said...**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to summarize Freud's understanding of the formation of gender identity.

Required: Fonagy, P. (2006) Psychosexuality and Psychoanalysis: an overview. In: *Identity, Gender and Sexuality: 150 Years After Freud*. Pp. 18-36. Karnac Books.

[Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Required: Chodorow, N. J. (2006). Heterosexuality as a compromise formation. *Contemporary psychoanalysis in America: leading analysts present their work*, 15-77.

[Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Suggested: Freud, "Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality" *SE* v. 7: pp. 135-206. [PEP Web Link](#)

## **Week 2: February 16, 2017**

### **Queering psycho-sexual theory**

Guest Discussant: Paul Lynch, M.D.

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe gender identity development as seen through the lens of gender/queer theory and contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives.

Required: Butler, J. (1995). Melancholy gender—Refused identification. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 5(2), 165-180. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested: Lemma, A. and Lynch, P.E. (2015) Introduction: let's talk about sex or...maybe not... In: *Sexualities: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives*. Pp. 1-16. Routledge. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

## **Week 3: February 23, 2017**

### **The Libido Wars**

Guest Discussant: Dagmar Herzog, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of History and the Daniel Rose Faculty Scholar at the Graduate Center, City University of New York; Author most recently of [Cold War Freud](#).

Learning objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe how political and cultural factors contributed to the de- and resexualization (but in a conservative direction) of psychoanalysis in the first two decades of the Cold War in the US.

Required: Herzog, D. "The Libido Wars," *Cold War Freud: Psychoanalysis in an Age of Catastrophes*. Cambridge University Press, 2016. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Suggested: Herzog, D. "What happened to psychoanalysis in the wake of the sexual revolution? A story about the durability of homophobia and the dream of love," in Lemma and Lynch, eds. *Sexualities*. Routledge. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Stoller, R. "Sexual Excitement," *Archives of General Psychiatry* 33 (August 1976) [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

## **Week 4: March 2, 2017**

### **Perversions**

Guest Discussant: Cary Friedman, M.D.

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to identify the complex factors that are accounted for in a contemporary perspective on perversion, using both a literary text and clinical material.

Required: Saketopoulou, A. (2014). To Suffer Pleasure: The Shattering of the Ego as the Psychic Labor of Perverse Sexuality. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 15(4), 254-268. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Selections from Lolita, Vladimir Nabokov (2<sup>nd</sup> vintage international edition © 1997: pp. 3-25; Forward, Chapters 1-7). [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

## **Week 5: March 9, 2017**

### **Enigmatic Message**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to explain the utilization of Laplanche's conceptualization of the "enigmatic message" in contemporary psychoanalytic psychosexual theory.

Required: Target, M. (2015) A developmental model of sexual excitement, desire and alienation. In: *Sexualities: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives*. Pp. 43-62. Routledge. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Suggested: Laplanche, J. (1995). Seduction, Persecution, Revelation. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 76:663-682. [PEP Web Link](#)

Selected case material

## **Week 6: March 16, 2017**

### **Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe the developmental concept of nonlinear systems theory and explain its impact on studying contemporary psychoanalytic theory on gender and sexuality development.

Required: Harris, A. (2000). Gender as Soft Assembly: Tomboys' Stories. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 1(3), 223-250. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested: Kiersky, S. M. (2004). Perilous crossings: Tales of gender, identification, and exiled desires. *Journal of lesbian studies*, 8(1-2), 191-207. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Selected case material

### **Week 7: March 23, 2017**

#### **Psycho-sexuality and excess of representability**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to apply the concept of “representability” to contemporary psychoanalytic theories on sexuality development.

Required: Stein, R. (2008). The otherness of sexuality: Excess. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 56(1), 43-71. [PEP Web Link](#)

Benjamin, J., & Atlas, G. (2015). The ‘too muchness’ of excitement: Sexuality in light of excess, attachment and affect regulation. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 96(1), 39-63. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Selected case material

### **Week 8: March 30, 2017**

#### **Psychosexuality, Infancy, Intersubjectivity and Relational Theory**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe, through contemporary discussions of sex and longing in psychoanalysis, issues of psychosexual development and relational theory.

Required: Atlas, G. (2015). Ella: The Enigma of Desire. In: *The Enigma of Desire: Sex, Longing, and Belonging in Psychoanalysis*. Pp. 17-31. Routledge. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Suggested: Selected poems—Ellen Bass “A Small Country”; Whitman, others, to be determined.