Gender and Sexuality: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives

Seminar Year IV, Winter 2017

Instructors:
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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.


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.


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.


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.


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.


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.


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.


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.


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