

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

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**Bion**

**Year V Seminar, Winter 2017**

**Instructors:** Rodrigo Barahona, Psy.D and Karen Roos, LICSW

**Course Description:**

This course will explore many of the key concepts that Bion developed over the course of his career, with a special emphasis on the clinical implications of these ideas. The main focus will be on studying the evolution in his thinking as well as anchoring the phenomena he describes in the day-to-day realities of clinical practice. This is not a survey course, but rather an in-depth concentration on the meaning of Bion's work for contemporary psychoanalysis.

**1. February 9, 2017 - Introduction**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to define Bion's concepts of *attacks on linking*, and identify one essential characteristic of Bion's early period and one essential characteristic of Bion's late period.

**Bion, W.** (1959). Attacks on Linking. *IJP*, 40:308-315. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Ogden, T.** (2004a) An introduction to the reading of Bion. *IJP*, 85: 285-300. [PEP Web Link](#)

**2. February 16, 2017 - Bion's Pre-psychoanalytic Experiences**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to explain how the experience of Sweeting's death influenced the development of Bion's concept of alpha function.

**Brown, L.J.** (2012) Bion's discovery of alpha function: Thinking under fire on the battlefield and in the consulting room. *IJP*, 93: 1191-1214. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Optional reading: Bion, W.** (1997) *War Memoirs: 1917-1919*, F. Bion (Ed.) London: Karnac, pages 72-133. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

### 3. February 23, 2017 - Bion's Bedrock: Learning from Experience

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to define Bion's concepts of *alpha function*, *beta elements*, and *contact barrier*.

**Bion, W.** (1962) *Learning from Experience*. In *Seven Servants*. NY: Jason Aronson, 1977. Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 27 and 28. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

### 4. March 2, 2017 - Bion's Theory of Thinking

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe Bion's concept of *apparatus for thinking*, and Bion's assertion that in hallucinations, "the sense organs operate in reverse."

**Bion, W.** (1962) The Psycho-Analytic Study of Thinking. *IJP*, 43: 306-310. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Emanuel, R.** (2012) An application of Bion's theory of thinking and transformations in hallucinosis. An experience of supervision with Dr. Donald Meltzer. *Journal of Child Psychotherapy*, 38: 284-301. [PEP Web Link](#)

### 5. March 9, 2017 - Dreaming and Reverie

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe Bion's concept of *waking dream thought*.

**Bion, W.** (1962) *Learning from Experience*. In *Seven Servants*. NY: Jason Aronson, 1977. Chapter 7. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

**Bion, W.** (1959/1992) *Cogitations*, pages 43-69. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

**Ogden, T.** (2003) On not being able to dream. *IJP*, 84: 17-30. [PEP Web Link](#)

### 6. March 16, 2017 - Memory and Desire

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to explain Bion's injunction to abandon "memory and desire" in psychoanalytic listening.

**Bion, W.** (1967) Notes on memory and desire. In Joseph Aguayo and Barnet Malin (Eds.) *Wilfred Bion: Los Angeles Seminars and Supervision*. London: Karnac, 2013. Appendix, pages 133- 149. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

**Ogden, T.** (2015). Intuiting the truth of what's happening: On Bion's "Notes on Memory and Desire." *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. 84: 285-306. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

### **7. March 23, 2017 - Late Bion: Receptivity to the unknown; emotional turbulence accompanies transformation and growth**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this seminar, candidates will be able to identify elements of the analyst's internal setting that permit relinquishing saturated ideas and support opening oneself up to the *emotional turbulence* in the here and now of the session: this leads to transformation and growth in the patient.

**Bion, W.** (1997). *Taming Wild Thoughts*. London: Karnac, pages 27-51. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

**Bion, W.** (1976) Emotional turbulence. In *Clinical Seminars and Other Works*. London: Karnac, 1994. Pages 295-305. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

### **8. March 30, 2017 - Transformations in O**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to compare "early Bion" with "late Bion" and describe Rudi Vermote's *dual track model of psychic change*.

**Vermote, R.** (2011) On the value of 'Late Bion' to analytic theory and practice. *IJP*, 92: 1089-1098. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Bion, W.** (1970) *Attention and Interpretation*. London: Heinemann, pages 62-82. Chapters 6 "The Mystic and the Group" and 7 "Container-Contained." In *Seven Servants*. NY: Jason Aronson, 1977. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]