

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE
141 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02459

ATP - Spring 2017

Narcissistic and Borderline Psychopathology

Elsa Ronningstam, Ph.D.

Week 1: 3/23/2017

Identifying, differentiating and approaching severe personality pathology – An introduction

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to describe one theory and its accompanying clinical approach to severe psychopathology.

Suggested reading:

Kernberg OF, Yeomans FE (2013). Borderline personality disorder, bipolar disorder, depression, attention deficit-hyperactive disorder and narcissistic personality disorder: Practical differential Diagnosis. Bulletin of Menninger Clinic. 77(1): 1-22. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Gunderson J, Bateman A, Kernberg O. (2007). Alternative Perspectives on Psychodynamic Psychotherapy of Borderline Personality Disorder: The Case of “Ellen” American Journal of Psychiatry 164:9, 1333-1339. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Optional reading:

Adler, G. (1989). Uses and Limitations of Kohut’s Self Psychology in the Treatment of Borderline Patients. Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association 37:761-785. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week 2: 3/30/2017

Identity diffusion and interpersonal dysregulation in borderline personality disorder

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to discuss the most central features of borderline personality disorder and their unfolding in psychotherapy.

Suggested reading:

Bradley R, Westen D. The psychodynamics of borderline personality disorder: A view from developmental psychopathology. Development and Psychopathology. 2005; 17(4): 927 – 957. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Optional reading:

Kernberg, O.F. (2006) "Identity: Recent Findings and Clinical Implications"
Psychoanalytic Quarterly 75: 969-1003. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week 3: 4/6 2017

Borderline personality disorder in females

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify specific features, interpersonal patterns and defenses in women with borderline personality disorder.

Suggested readings:

Giugliano JR. (2012). Object relations treatment of a woman with borderline personality disorder from a Mahlerian perspective: A case illustration. *Clinical Case Studies* 11(6): 441 – 456. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Optional readings:

Diamond D, Levy KN, Clarkin JF, Fischer-Kern M, Caim NM, Doering S, Hörz S, Buchheim A. (2014). Attachment and mentalization in female patients with comorbid narcissistic and borderline personality disorder. *Personality disorders: Theory, Research and Treatment* . 5(4): 428 – 433. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Ntshinglia N, Poggenpoel M, Myburg, CPH, Temane A. (2015). Experiences of women living with borderline personality disorder. *Health SA Gesundheit*. 21:110 – 119. [\[Linked Here\]](#) & Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Week 4: 4/13 2017

Borderline personality disorder in males

Guest lecturer: Jason Jones, M.D.

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify specific features, interpersonal patterns and defenses in men with borderline personality disorder.

Suggested reading:

Ogden T. *The Primitive Edge of Experience*. Jason Aronson 1989 Chapters 5 and 6, pp 109 – 168. [Available on [Reserve in the Library](#)]

Optional readings:

Silberschmidt, A., Lee, S., Zanarini, M., & Schulz, S. C. (2015). Gender Differences in Borderline Personality Disorder: Results From a Multinational, Clinical Trial Sample. *Journal Of Personality Disorders*, 29(6), 828-838. doi:10.1521/pedi_2014_28_175. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Winnicott DW. Psychotherapy of character disorders. In *Maturational Processes and the Facilitating Environment* 1965. [PEP Web Link](#)

Winnicott DW. (1968). Delinquency as a sign of hope. *Prison Service Journal* 7. [\[Available on Web\]](#) & Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Week 5: 4/20 2017

Agency, self-sufficiency and control in narcissistic personality disorder.

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify strategies to engage patients' sense of agency in psychotherapy and balance the need for control and self-sufficiency.

Suggested readings:

Almond R. (2004). "I can do it (all) myself". Clinical technique with defensive narcissistic self-sufficiency. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*. 21(3):371 – 384. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional reading:

Modell A. (2008). Horse and rider revisited. The dynamic unconscious and the self as agent. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*. 44:351 – 366. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week 6: 4/27 2017

Perfectionism, attention seeking and avoidance in narcissistic personality disorder

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify the role of perfectionism in pathological narcissism and its relation to attention seeking and avoidance.

Suggested readings:

Sorotzkin B. (1985). The quest for perfectionism. Avoiding guilt or avoiding shame. *Psychotherapy*. 22(3): 564 – 571. [Available Upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Optional reading:

Rothstein, A: *The narcissistic pursuit for perfection*. New York: International Universities Press 1980. [Available on [Reserve in the Library](#)]

Week 7: 5/4 2017

Self-criticism, insecurity and vulnerability in narcissistic personality disorder

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to discuss the role of self-criticism in narcissistic vulnerability.

Suggested reading:

Kris AO. (1990) Helping patients by analyzing self-criticism. Journal of American Psychoanalytic Association. 38(3): 605 -636. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional reading:

Shilkret CJ. (2006). Endangered by interpretations. Treatment by attitude of the narcissistically vulnerable patient. Psychoanalytic Psychology 23(1): 30 – 42. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week 8: 5/11 2017

Fear, shame and aggression

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify the most significant emotions in narcissistic pathology and their impact on treatment alliance.

Suggested reading:

Ronningstam E, Baskin-Sommers (2013) A. Fear and Decision-making in Narcissistic Personality Disorder - A link between psychoanalysis and neuroscience. Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience. 15(2):191-201. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Morrison, A.P. (1999) Shame on either side of defense. Contemporary Psychoanalysis 35:91-105. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional reading:

Kernberg OF. Aggression in Personality Disorders and Perversions. New Haven, Yale University Press. 1992.[Not Available in Library]

Week 9: 5/18 2017

Trauma – implications for narcissistic pathology

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify narcissistic trauma and discuss its impact on treatment alliance and choice of treatment strategies.

Suggested reading:

Gerzi S. (2005). Trauma, narcissism and the two attractors in trauma. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*. 86:1033 – 1050. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional reading:

Maldonado J L. Vicissitudes in adult life resulting from traumatic experiences in adolescence. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*. 2006; 87(5): 1239-1257. [PEP Web Link](#)

Trumbull D. (2003) Shame: An acute stress response to interpersonal traumatization. *Psychiatry*. 66(1): 53 – 64. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Week 10: 5/25 2017

Integrating identity diffusion, self-esteem and emotional fluctuations in alliance building

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to discuss the unfolding and influence of personality pathology in the therapeutic alliance and strategies to attend to and process it.

Suggested reading:

Auchincloss EL. (2016). New developments of the therapeutic alliance (TA): Good news for psychodynamic psychiatry. *Psychodynamic Psychiatry*, 44: 105 – 116. [Available Upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Ronningstam E. (2017). Intersect between self-esteem and emotion regulation in narcissistic personality disorder - Implications for alliance building and treatment. *Borderline Personality Disorder and Emotion Dysregulation*, BPED. 4(3). DOI 10.1186/s40479-017-0054-8. [Available Upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Optional reading:

Fonagy P, Allison E. The role of mentalizing and epistemic trust in the therapeutic relationship. *Psychotherapy*. 2014; 51(3): 372-380. [Available Upon [Request from the Library](#)]