Psychoanalytic Training, Year V
Winter I 2016-2017
Bion: Theory and Clinical Implications
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1. November 30, 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.


2. December 7, 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 and to discuss Brown’s concept of Constellation for Thinking.

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.


3. December 14, 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 in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]
4. December 21, 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.”


5. January 4, 2018: 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. (1959/1992) Cogitations, pages 43-69. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]


6. January 11, 2018: 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.


Ogden, T. (2015). Intuiting the truth of what’s happening: On Bion’s “Notes on Memory and Desire.” Psychoanalytic Quarterly. 84: 285-306. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]
7. January 18, 2018: 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.


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.
