Psychoanalytic Training, Years IV & V
Winter 2017-2018
Narcissism: Clinical, Empirical and Historical Perspectives
James Frosch, MD
Elizabeth Lunbeck, PhD
and Elsa Ronningstam, PhD

What is Narcissism? Is it a drive, a diagnosis, a developmental phase? What is the difference between healthy and unhealthy narcissism? What is the empirical evidence for a diagnosis of narcissistic character disorder, and about its course and treatment? How did Freud conceptualize narcissism, and how were his views revised by his followers? What are the cultural and historical factors influencing the proliferation of awareness of narcissism since the 1970s? How does the narcissism of the analyst influence the analytic process? In this seminar we will consider these and related questions. Through readings and clinical presentations we will discuss the various theories of narcissism and its manifestations in patients’ life experiences as well as in the consulting room, including narcissistic transferences and countertransferences, and narcissistic rage.

November 30: Narcissism in Freud (Frosch)

At the conclusion of this seminar, candidates should be able to identify three central defenses in narcissistic patients, and to identify one tenet of Freud’s contribution to the development of the concept.


Freud, S. (1883) Letter From Sigmund Freud To Martha Bernays, September 16, 1883. PEP Web Link.
December 7: Kohut’s Revision of Freud (Lunbeck)

At the conclusion of this seminar, Candidates will be able to discuss two elements of Kohut’s revisions of Freud’s theory of narcissism and to identify one technical implication of these revisions.


Optional:
Kohut, H. (1979) The Two Analyses of Mr. Z. IJP: 60: 3-27. PEP Web Link.

December 14: Narcissistic Trauma (Ronningstam)

At the conclusion of this seminar, Candidates will be able to identify two key elements in the development of narcissistic trauma.


Optional:


December 21: Kernberg’s Contribution (Lunbeck)

At the conclusion of this seminar, Candidates will be able to identify three key features of Kernberg’s malignant narcissist and two of his technical recommendations for his or her treatment.

E. Lunbeck, The Americanization of Narcissism (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014), chapter 3 (Otto Kernberg's Narcissistic Dystopia). [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]


**January 4: Emotion regulation, fear and decision making in narcissistic personality disorder (Ronningstam)**

At the conclusion of this seminar, Candidates will be able to identify two types of interaction between fear and decision-making from a subjective, intrapsychic, emotion-regulation, and neuropsychological perspective.


Ronningstam E, Baskin-Sommers A. Fear and Decision-making in Narcissistic Personality Disorder - A link between psychoanalysis and neuroscience. Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience 2013, 15(2):191-201. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Optional:
Kavaler-Adler S. "My graduation is my mother's funeral": Transformation from the paranoid- schizoid to the depressive position in fear of success and the role of the internal saboteur. International Forum of Psychoanalysis 2006; 15(2) 117 - 130. PEP Web Link.

Ronningstam E, Baskin-Sommers A. Fear and Decision-making in Narcissistic Personality Disorder - A link between psychoanalysis and neuroscience. Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience. 2013, 15(2):191-201. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]


**January 11: From Grievance To Grief (Frosch)**

At the conclusion of this seminar, Candidates should be able to list three features of the connection between incomplete mourning and narcissistic defenses of grandiosity, idealization, and devaluation.


January 18: Vengeance (Frosch)

At the conclusion of this seminar, candidates will be able to describe three characteristics of narcissitic rage and thirst for revenge, and to demonstrate the connection between narcissistic rage and the wish to avoid shame.


Optional:

January 25: The Analyst’s Narcissism and the Idealization of Psychoanalysis (Frosch)

At the conclusion of this seminar, candidates will be able to identify three narcissistic issues manifest in psychoanalytic training, and three common narcissistic countertransference patterns evident in the mind and behavior of the analyst.


Optional: