



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. (1914) On Narcissism: An Introduction. SE XIV: 67-104. [PEP Web Link](#).

Freud, S. (1916) The Exceptions. SE XIV: 311-315. [PEP Web Link](#).

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.

Kohut, H. (1966) Forms and Transformations of Narcissism. JAPA: 14: 243-272. [PEP Web Link](#).

Kohut, H. and Wolf, E.S. (1978) The Disorders of the Self and Their Treatment: An Outline. IJP: 59: 413-425. [PEP Web Link](#).

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.

Gerzi, S. (2005). Trauma, narcissism and the two attractors in trauma. International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 86:1033-50. [PEP Web Link](#).

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

Optional:

Steiner J. (2006). Seeing and being seen: Narcissistic pride and narcissistic humiliation. International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 87 (4): 939 – 951. [PEP Web Link](#).

Solan R. (1998). Narcissistic fragility in the process of befriending the unfamiliar. American Journal of Psychoanalysis, 58 (2): 163-186. [PEP Web Link](#).

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.

O. Kernberg, "Factors in the psychoanalytic treatment of narcissistic personalities," JAPA 18 (1970): 51-85. [PEP Web Link](#).

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@bpsj.org]

Optional: O. Kernberg, "Further contributions to the treatment of narcissistic personalities," *IJP* 55 (1974): 215-240. [PEP Web Link](#).

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.

Gabbard G. Stage Fright. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 1979; 60 (3): 383 – 392. [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@bpsj.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@bpsj.org]

Rangell, L. The decision making process - a contribution from psychoanalysis. *Psychoanalytic study of the child* 1976: 26:425 – 452. [PEP Web Link](#).

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.

Ogden, T.A. (2002) A New Reading of the Origins of Object Relations Theory. *IJP*: 83: 767-782. [PEP Web Link](#).

Frosch, J.P. (2015) From Grievance To Grief: Narcissism and the Inability To Mourn. Canadian Journal of Psychoanalysis 2014: 22:259-275. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Recommended for Review: Freud, S. (1917) Mourning and Melancholia. SE XIV: 214-248. [PEP Web Link](#).

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.

Kohut, H. (1972).Thoughts on Narcissism and Narcissistic Rage. Psa. Study of the Child, 27: 360-400. [PEP Web Link](#).

Rosen, I. (2007) Revenge: A Psychoanalytic Perspective. JAPA 55: 595-620. [PEP Web Link](#).

Optional:

Frosch, J.P. (2009) A Note On Mafia Movies. IJP 90: 661-664. [PEP Web Link](#).

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.

Chused, J.F. (2012) The Analyst's Narcissism. JAPA: 60:899-915. [PEP Web Link](#).

Finnell, (1985). Narcissistic Problems in Analysts. IJP, 66: 433-445. [PEP Web Link](#).

Optional:

Glick, R.A. (2003). Idealization and Psychoanalytic Learning. Psa. Q., 72:377-402. [PEP Web Link](#).