



## **Gender and Sexuality: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives Winter 2018**

### **Instructors:**

**Ayelet Barkai, M.D. & Diane O'Donoghue, Ph.D.**

### **Course Description:**

This course will explore, from a clinical and theoretical vantage point, the intersection and evolution of ideas about gender and sexuality development and expression within classical and contemporary psychoanalytic theory. The goal will be to trace the progression of psychoanalytic ideas on gender and sexuality and their development from classical to contemporary psychoanalysis. We will use clinical material as well as psychoanalytic, academic and literary texts to highlight and clarify contemporary clinical and theoretical psychoanalytic thinking on gender and sexuality.

### **Week 1: February 1, 2018**

#### **Course Overview, and What Freud Said...**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to summarize Freud's understanding of the formation of gender identity.

Required: Fonagy, P. (2006). Psychosexuality and Psychoanalysis: an overview. In: Identity, Gender and Sexuality: 150 Years After Freud. Pp. 1-19. Karnac Books. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

Required: Chodorow, N. J. (2012). Homosexualities as a compromise formations. In: *Individualizing Gender and Sexuality: Theory and Practice*. Pp. 155-174. Routledge. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

Suggested: Freud, "Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality" *SE* v. 7: pp. 135-206. [PEP Web Link](#)

### **Week 2: February 8, 2018**

#### **(trans) Gender Identity Development and Mentalization**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to describe how the concept of mentalization can be applied to an understanding of gender identity development.

Required: Barkai, A. R. (2017). Troubling Gender or Engendering Trouble? The Problem With Gender Dysphoria in Psychoanalysis. *The Psychoanalytic Review*, 104(1), 1-32. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)]

Required: Silverman, S. (2015). The colonized mind: Gender, trauma, and mentalization. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 25(1), 51-66. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)]

### **Week 3: February 22, 2018** **Queering psycho-sexual theory**

Guest Discussant: Paul Lynch, M.D.

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to describe gender identity development as seen through the lens of gender/queer theory and contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives.

Required: Butler, J. (1995). Melancholy gender—Refused identification. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 5(2), 165-180. [PEP Web Link](#)

Required: Lemma, A. and Lynch, P.E. (2015) Introduction: let's talk about sex or...maybe not... In: *Sexualities: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives*. Pp. 1-16. Routledge. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)]

### **Week 4: March 1, 2018** **Perversions**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to identify the complex factors of a contemporary perspective on perversion, using both a literary text and clinical material.

Required: Saketopoulou, A. (2014). To Suffer Pleasure: The Shattering of the Ego as the Psychic Labor of Perverse Sexuality. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 15(4), 254-268. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)]

Required: Selections from *Lolita*, Vladimir Nabokov (2<sup>nd</sup> vintage international edition © 1997: pp. 3-25; Forward, Chapters 1-7). [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)]

### **Week 5: March 8, 2018** **Enigmatic Message**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to explain the utilization of Laplanche's conceptualization of the "enigmatic message" in contemporary psychoanalytic psychosexual theory.

Required: Target, M. (2015) A developmental model of sexual excitement, desire and alienation. In: *Sexualities: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives*. Pp. 43-62. Routledge. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bpsl.org](mailto:library@bpsl.org)]

Required: Laplanche, J. (1995). Seduction, Persecution, Revelation. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 76:663-682. [PEP Web Link](#)

Selected case material

### **Week 6: March 15, 2018** **Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to describe the developmental concept of nonlinear systems theory and explain its impact on studying contemporary psychoanalytic theory on gender and sexuality development.

Required: Harris, A. (2000). Gender as Soft Assembly: Tomboys' Stories. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 1(3), 223-250. [PEP Web Link](#)

Required: Schiller, B. M. (2012). Representing female desire within a labial framework of sexuality. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 60 (6), 1161-1197. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested: Kiersky, S. M. (2004). Perilous crossings: Tales of gender, identification, and exiled desires. *Journal of lesbian studies*, 8(1-2), 191-207. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bpsl.org](mailto:library@bpsl.org)]

Selected case material

### **Week 7: March 22, 2018** **Psycho-sexuality and excess of representability**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to apply the concept of "representability" to contemporary psychoanalytic theories on sexuality development.

Required: Stein, R. (2008). The otherness of sexuality: Excess. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 56(1), 43-71. [PEP Web Link](#)

Required: Benjamin, J., & Atlas, G. (2015). The 'too muchness' of excitement: Sexuality in light of excess, attachment and affect regulation. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 96(1), 39-63. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bpsl.org](mailto:library@bpsl.org)]

Selected case material

**Week 8: March 29, 2018**

**Psychosexuality, Infancy, Intersubjectivity and Relational Theory**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to describe, through contemporary discussions of sex and longing in psychoanalysis, issues of psychosexual development and relational theory.

Required: Atlas, G. (2015). Ben and Leo: Excited Idiot. In: *The Enigma of Desire: Sex, Longing, and Belonging in Psychoanalysis*. Pp. 32-45. Routledge. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bpsl.org](mailto:library@bpsl.org)]

Required: Selected poems—Ellen Bass “A Small Country”; Whitman, others, to be determined.