D.W. Winnicott on Creativity, Play and the Analytic Experience

“No human being is free from the strain of relating inner and outer reality.” D.W. Winnicott

Karen Melikian, PhD, and Ellen Pinsky, PsyD, Instructors

Welcome. In this seminar we will read closely some of Winnicott’s seminal papers on development, creativity and play. We’ll explore central concepts such as transitional objects and phenomena, the holding environment, object relating and object usage. Though the class will focus primarily on Winnicott’s theory, we’ll also include clinical material from work with both children and adults as a means to ground concepts in practice. We hope you will enjoy presenting your own clinical work.

We’ll begin with an early paper by Freud which foreshadows Winnicott on language, creativity, play and the analytic experience. We accompany that reading with Dominique Scarfone’s “Reading Winnicott Slowly” (2016). Both Freud and Winnicott are engaging writers, in addition to being writers about psychoanalysis, and we hope you will enjoy their papers on that level – the level of the writer’s art – as well.

To whet your appetite, here is Freud, in 1905, on “words”:

[**W**ords are the essential tool of mental treatment. A layman will no doubt find it hard to understand how pathological disorders of the body and mind can be eliminated by ‘mere’ words. He will feel that he is being asked to believe in magic. And he will not be so very wrong, for the words which we use in our everyday speech are nothing other than watered-down magic][from “Psychical (or Mental) Treatment,” SE VII:283].

We look forward to working with you!

**February 1, 2018**


Scarfone, D. (2016). Reading Winnicott Slowly. *British J. of Psychotherapy* 32, 3:340-346. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)
February 8, 2018


February 22, 2018


March 1, 2018


March 8, 2018


March 15, 2018


March 22, 2018


April 5, 2018

Winnicott, D.W. (1971) The Location of Cultural Experience, Chapter Seven in *Playing and Reality*. [PEP Web Link](#)