



MELANIE KLEIN AND THE NEO-KLEINIANS

Instructors: James Barron, PhD and Adam Narva, PhD

Dates: 2/1, 2/8, 2/22/18
3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29/18

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

This seminar will examine some of the major innovations to psychoanalytic thinking and practice contributed by Melanie Klein and elaborated by several of her followers. Taken as a whole, they constitute some of the most clinically relevant ideas and models of unconscious phantasies, pre-verbal states of mind, primitive anxieties and defenses, and normal and pathological development. Paradoxically her ideas are now widely accepted while continuing to stir up controversy between detractors and adherents. Her work is dense with new observations, discoveries, and bold theorizing. In our readings and discussions, we will strive to achieve optimal tension between empathic identification with and critical reflection upon her ideas. Although the focus will be on theory, we will invite all participants to contribute clinical examples that relate theory to actual practice whenever possible.

To begin to enter her realm, you may want to read the introduction and first two chapters (The Psychological Foundations of Child Analysis and The Technique of Early Analysis) from her 1932 volume, [The Psycho-Analysis of Children](#) (accessible on PEP Web).

Session 1 (Feb. 1) Introduction to Kleinian Object Relations Theory

Learning Objective: Identify key aspects of the concept of object relations theory in Freud's work and Klein's expansion of the concept.

Ogden, T.H. (1983). The Concept of Internal Object Relations. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 64:227-241.

[PEP Web Link](#)

Meltzer, D. (1981). The Kleinian Expansion of Freud's Metapsychology. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 62:177-185. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

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

Hinshelwood, R.D. (1997). The Elusive Concept of 'Internal Objects' (1934-1943): Its Role In the Formation of the Klein Group. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 78:877-897. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 2 (Feb. 8) Unconscious Phantasy

Learning Objective: Describe unconscious phantasy as the psychic representative of drive that is linked both to internal objects and external reality.

Isaacs, S. (1948). The Nature and Function of Phantasy. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.* 29:73-97. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden, T.H. (2011). Reading Susan Isaacs: Toward a Radically Revised Theory of Thinking. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 92:925-942. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

Spillius, E.B. (2001). Freud and Klein on the Concept of Phantasy. *Int. J. Psycho- Anal.*, 82:361-373. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 3 (Feb. 22) The Depressive Position

Learning Objective: Describe the depressive position as a critically important, yet highly vulnerable developmental achievement.

Klein, M. (1940). Mourning and its Relation to Manic-Depressive States. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 21:125-153. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

Klein, M. (1935). A Contribution to the Psychogenesis of Manic-Depressive States. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 16:145-174. [PEP Web Link](#)

Bion, W.R., Rosenfeld, H., Segal, H. (1961). Melanie Klein. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 42:4-8. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 4 (Mar. 1) The Paranoid-Schizoid Position

Learning Objective: Identify the constellation of primitive anxieties and defenses that constitute the paranoid-schizoid position.

Klein, M. (1946). Notes on Some Schizoid Mechanisms. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 27:99-110. [PEP Web Link](#)

Steiner, J. (1992). "The Equilibrium between the Paranoid-Schizoid and the Depressive positions," *The New Library of Psychoanalysis*, 14: 46-58. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

Winnicott, D.W. (1945). Primitive Emotional Development. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 26:137-143. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 5 (Mar. 8) Early Precursors of the Oedipus Complex

Learning Objective: Connect the child's capacity to experience unconscious phantasy to the early development of Oedipal dynamics.

Klein, M. (1945). The Oedipus Complex in the Light of Early Anxieties. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 26:11-33. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

Britton, R. (1992). The Oedipus Situation and the Depressive Position. *New Library of Psychoanalysis*, 14:34-45. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 6 (Mar. 15) Projective Identification

Learning Objective: Compare the healthy and pathological uses of the mechanism of projective identification

Ogden, T.H. (1979). On Projective Identification. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 60:357-373. [PEP Web Link](#)

Feldman, M. (1997). Projective Identification: The Analyst's Involvement. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 78:227-241. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

Joseph, B. Projective Identification- Some clinical aspects. In: *Melanie Klein Today, Vol. I. Mainly Theory*. E. Bott-Spillius (ed). Pp. 138-150. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org]

Spillius, E.B. (1992). Clinical Experiences of Projective Identification. *New Library of Psychoanalysis*, 14:59-73. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 7 (Mar. 22) Projective Identification and Theory of Thinking

Learning Objective: Describe the difference between symbol formation in the paranoid-schizoid position and symbol formation in the depressive position; explain the function of projective identification in the development (and destruction) of the capacity to think.

Segal, H. (1957). Notes on Symbol Formation. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 38:391-397. [PEP Web Link](#)

Bion, W.R. (1959). Attacks on Linking. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 40:308-315. [PEP Web Link](#)

Bion, W.R. (1962). The Psycho-Analytic Study of Thinking. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 43:306-310. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 8 (Mar. 29) Transference Viewed through a Kleinian Lens

Learning Objective: Describe how the concept of the “total situation” enhances our understanding of what is being activated in the transference.

Joseph, B. (1985). Transference: The Total Situation. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 66:447-454. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph, B. (2013). Here and Now: My Perspective. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 94:1-5. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested:

O'Shaughnessy, E. (1983). Words and Working Through. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 64:281-289. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph, B. (1982). Addiction to Near-Death. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 63:449-45. [PEP Web Link](#)