Developmental Theory in the 21st Century: How it Challenges Basic Psychoanalytic Concepts and Changes How We Work with Analysands of All Ages

Spring 2017

Instructor: Rona Knight, Ph.D.

Dates: Mondays, March 20, 27; April 3, 10, 24; May 1, 15, 22    Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Course Description:

This seminar will focus on a Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory of Development. Candidates will read and discuss how this current theory is used to describe development. Both theoretical and research papers demonstrating this theory will be read and critically analyzed. Lastly, how this theory can be applied to psychoanalytic work with patients will be demonstrated by a case presentation, analyzing cases in the literature, and the candidates discussing their own work with patients.

Week 1: March 20, 2017

Developmental Psychology’s Conceptualization of Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory: 1) The contribution Thelen and Smith’s research made to our understanding of a nonlinear dynamic systems theory of development; 2) the expansion of this theory over the last 20 years.

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to describe the essential elements of dynamic systems theory


Suggested reading not required:


Week 2: March 27, 2017

Psychoanalytic Understanding of Development Through the Lens of Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory I

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session candidates will identify an analytic understanding of dynamic systems theory to explain development


Suggested reading not required:


Week 3: April 3, 2017

Psychoanalytic Understanding of Development Through the Lens of Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory II

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to differentiate and compare the nuances of different analytic understandings of dynamic systems theory.


Week 4: April 10, 2017
Psychoanalytic Research in Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to describe research methods and results in dynamic systems research in development.


Week 5: April 24, 2017

Comparing Psycho-Sexual Developmental Theory and Mother-Infant Based Theories with Dynamic Systems Theory: The genetic fallacy, the concept of regression, and how we view developmental phases in light of a new developmental theory.

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to critique classical developmental concepts using dynamic systems theory.


Suggested reading not required:


Week 6: May 1, 2017

How Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory Enhances the Way We Think About and Work with Our Patients.

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to discuss the impact that dynamic systems theory has on the way we think about and practice psychoanalysis.


### Week 7: May 15, 2017

**Case Presentation**

Invited Presenter: Morris Stambler

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to describe how dynamic systems theory is used in the treatment of patients.

### Week 8: May 22, 2017

**Thinking About the Way We Work with Our Patients: Case examples from the candidates.**
