8/12/18

Dear First Year Candidates:

Welcome to “Basic Concepts”! Our seminar is designed to provide an overview of fundamental concepts in psychoanalysis, and to explore how those ideas have been reworked in contemporary psychoanalysis. Together we will examine some core concepts including transference, countertransference, defense, object, self, intersubjectivity and the psychoanalytic field. We’ll visit some of the major schools of psychoanalytic thought, such as ego psychology, object relations, self-psychology, relational theory and field theory. We’ll briefly consider the historical, political, and cultural contexts in which psychoanalytic theories develop, and ask how each new model seeks to respond to cultural change and address gaps in earlier theory. How does the same concept evolve and change, and which ideas are important to hold onto? How does theory affect how we listen? Or our clinical technique? What can we say about our models of therapeutic change? The current “pluralistic” climate of psychoanalytic practice involves being able to hold in mind differing ways of understanding the material a given patient brings to us. Our readings are chosen from select classic and contemporary papers, from multiple perspectives. We hope our work together will help provide a foundation for the class to engage deeply in learning together throughout your psychoanalytic training!

We look forward to seeing you in September, and to working together! Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Dan and Catherine
I: September 20 - The Clinical Unconscious

Learning Objective:
1. Candidates will be able to formulate the potential transference implications of behavior by patients in opening sessions.

II. September 27 - Ego

Learning Objective:
1. Candidates will be able to articulate one example of using the concept of the ego in analytic interventions.

III. Oct 4 - Transference

Learning Objective:
1. Candidates will be able to describe two features of Almond’s updated examination of transference as a more nuanced outgrowth of the patient’s past as well as a dyadic, intersubjective phenomenon.

IV. Oct 11 - Object
Ogden (1979) On Projective Identification IJP 60: 357-373. PEP Web Link

Learning Objective:
1. Candidates will be able to clarify how Winnicott’s approach to pre-Oedipal object relations was helpful in Guntrip’s case.
October 18 - Special Topics Night

V. October 25 - Self


Kohut, H. (1979). The Two Analyses of Mr. Z. International Journal of Psychoanalysis 60: 3-27. [PEP Web Link](https://www.pepweb.org/)

Learning Objectives:

1. Candidates will be able to define the self psychological concepts of empathy and selfobject.

VI. November 1 - Countertransference


Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to define the term enactment and show how it is useful clinically.

VII. November 8 - Intersubjectivity and the Field


Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to define Ogden’s idea of the analytic third.

VIII. November 15 - Psychoanalytic Process and Change


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Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to articulate how paying attention to the analyst’s reveries and internal reactions in response to patient material can provide a way of deeply understanding our patients’ unique struggles.