

Gender and Sexuality: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives
Winter 2019

Instructors:

Ayelet Barkai, M.D. and Laura Crain, M.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: January 31, 2019

Course Overview, and What Freud Said...

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe one aspect of Freud's understanding of the formation of gender identity and sexuality.

Required: Fonagy, P. (2006). Psychosexuality and Psychoanalysis: an overview. In: Identity, Gender and Sexuality: 150 Years After Freud. Pp. 18-36. Karnac Books.

Required: van Haute, P. & Westerink, H. (2016). Introduction: Hysteria, Sexuality and the Deconstruction of Normativity—Rereading Freud's 1905 Edition of *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. In: *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality: The 1905 Edition*. By Sigmund Freud, 1905, Verso, 2016, pp. xxiv-lxxvi.

Suggested: Freud, "Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality" *SE* v. 7: pp. 173-243.

Week 2: February 14, 2018

(trans) Gender Identity Development and Mentalization

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe the concept of mentalization and how it 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.

Required: Silverman, S. (2015). The colonized mind: Gender, trauma, and mentalization. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 25(1), 51-66.

Week 3: February 21, 2018

Cold War Freud

Guest Discussant: Dagmar Herzog, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of History and the Daniel Rose Faculty Scholar at the Graduate Center, City University of New York; Author of Cold War Freud.

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to identify two political and cultural factors that contributed to the de- and resexualization of psychoanalysis in the first two decades of the Cold War in the US.

Required: Herzog, D. (2015) What happened to psychoanalysis in the wake of the sexual revolution? A story about the durability of homophobia and the dream of love. In: *Sexualities: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives*. Pp. 19-40. Routledge.

Week 4: February 28, 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 one aspect of 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.

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.

Week 5: March 7, 2018

Enigmatic Message

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe one aspect 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.

Required: Laplanche, J. (1995). Seduction, Persecution, Revelation. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 76:663-682.

Selected case material

Week 6: March 14, 2018

“Perversions”

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to identify two factors that distinguish a contemporary perspective on perversion from a classical perspective.

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.

Required: Stein, R. (2005). Why perversion? 'False love' and the perverse pact. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 86(3), 775-799.

Suggested: Freud, “Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality” *SE* v. 7: pp. 135-172.

Clinical presentation by Dr. Crain

Week 7: March 21, 2018

Psycho-sexuality and excess of representability

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe the concept of “representability” as it refers 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.

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.

Selected case material

Week 8: March 28, 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 one aspect of 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.

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

Suggested: Kiersky, S. M. (2004). Perilous crossings: Tales of gender, identification, and exiled desires. *Journal of lesbian studies*, 8(1-2), 191-207.

Selected case material