



Seminar on Social Awareness

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Like other social groups in the United States, Psychoanalysis is reevaluating its attitudes and practices toward the sociopolitical world. In this seminar, we would like to contribute to and enhance this process by actively exploring the interaction of the personal and the sociopolitical in our own work.

In the past, psychoanalysts have tended to de-emphasize, if not pathologize the influence of the sociopolitical on the individual psyche. We will briefly consider some of the historical reasons for this trend before turning our focus to how race, class and culture affect current psychoanalytic practice. Together, we will attempt to illuminate how these issues affect transference and countertransference with an eye toward identifying how psychoanalysts (and psychoanalysis) may, consciously or un-, perpetuate some prevailing social realities.

September 20, 2018

Class One: Introduction to the course – Race, Class, Culture

How do we distinguish prejudice from racism?

Reading: Morrison, Toni (1983) Recitatif in Confirmation: An Anthology of African American Women, Baraka and Baraka eds. [Available in the library. Download in the library, check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

(Objective: Participants will define and distinguish between personal prejudice and systemic racism.)

September 27, 2018

Class Two: Politics and Power

Is the political development of the person a proper topic for inquiry in the clinical setting?

Reading: Layton, Lynne (2006). Attacks on linking: the unconscious pull to dissociate individuals from their social context pp.107-118 [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

Walls, Gary (2006). The normative unconscious and the political contexts of change in psychotherapy in "Psychoanalysis, Class and Politics" pp.118-129. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

(Objective: Participants will identify at least two potential ways of inhibiting political discussion in the clinical encounter.)

October 4, 2018

Class Three: Race

“The ego is first and foremost a bodily ego.” Freud, *The Ego and the Id* (1923)

“There is really no mode of empathy that can replicate the daily strain of knowing that as a black person you can be killed for simply being black.” Rankine (2015)

Reading: Coates, Ta-Nehisi (2015). *Between the World and Me*. Spiegel and Grau. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

Jacobs, L. (2014). Learning to Love White Shame and Guilt: Skills for Working as a White Therapist in a Racially Divided Country. *International Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology*, 9(4):297-312. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Objective: Participants will identify different ego constituents and potential power imbalances in and out of the therapeutic setting.)

October 11, 2018

Class Four: Race

Reading: Baldwin, James (1957). *Sonny's Blues* in *Going to Meet the Man*, Dial Press. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

Holmes, D. (2006). The Wrecking Effects of Race and Social Class on Self and Success. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 75(1):215-235. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Objective: Participants will identify how racism and classism influence self-valuation and success.)

October 25, 2018

Class Five: Class

Reading: Dimen, M. (2006). “Money, Love and Hate: contradiction and paradox in psychoanalysis in Psychoanalysis, Class and Politics, Layton, L, Hollander and Gutwill eds. New York: Routledge. [PEP Web Link](#).

Bodnar, S. (2004). Remember Where You Came From: Dissociative Process in Multicultural Individuals. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 14(5):581-603. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Objective: Participants will be able to illustrate unconscious meanings of money in psychoanalytic work.)

November 1, 2018

Class Six: Class

Reading: Corpt, E. (2013). Peasant in the Analyst's Chair: Reflections, Personal and Otherwise, on Class and Forming of an Analytic Identity. *Int. J. of Psychoanalysis*, 8(1):52-69. [PEP Web Link](#).

Eng, D.L., Han, S. (2000). A Dialogue on Racial Melancholia. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 10(4):667-700. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Objective: Participants will be able to define “assimilation” as a potential negotiation between mourning and melancholia.)

November 8, 2018

Class Seven: Culture

Reading: De Coster, N. (2017). The Other language: A few psychoanalytic thoughts about migration, the loss of culture and language. *Psychoanalysis Today*. [Available in the library. Download in the library, check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org.]

Topalian, S. (2013). Ghosts to Ancestors: Bearing Witness to “My” Experience of Genocide, *International Journal of Self Psychology*, 8(1):7-19. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Objective: Participants will be able to identify three ways migration impacts identity.)

November 15, 2018

Class Eight: Culture

Dalal, Farhad (2008). Against the Celebration of Diversity, *British Journal of Psychotherapy*, 24(1):4-19. [PEP Web Link](#).

Young-Bruehl, E. (2003). The Interpretation of an Architect’s Dream: Relational Trauma and Its Prevention, *Journal for the psychoanalytic of Culture and Society*, 8(1). [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org.]

(Objective: Participants will be able to identify and illustrate the concept of “trauma prevention”.)