Transference/Countertransference Dilemmas in the Treatment of Patients with Character Pathology

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I’m looking forward to meeting you and beginning our ten-week course on Transference/Countertransference Dilemmas in the Treatment of Patients with Character Pathology. We will explore – through a series of clinically oriented papers and our own clinical material – some common transference and countertransference dilemmas that arise in the work with patients suffering from Trauma, Schizoid Character, Borderline Personality Disorder, and Narcissistic Pathology. We hope this course will dovetail with your seminar on Borderline and Narcissistic Character Pathology, allowing us an opportunity to delve more deeply into the clinical manifestations of these “character- types” [Freud, 1916] and some of the technical challenges in our work with these patients.

**Week I: March 21, 2019   Countertransference**


**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to identify one difference between Heimann’s and Freud’s conceptions of countertransference.

**Week II: March 28, 2019   Countertransference, Continued**


**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to identify one current psychoanalytic concept of countertransference as described by Gabbard.
Week III: April 11, 2019  The Patient who is Withdrawn, Hard to Reach or Hard to Love

Recommended Reading:
Fairbairn, W.R.D. (1952). Schizoid factors in the personality. In *Psychoanalytic studies of the personality* (pp. 3-27). NY: Routledge. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to identify one treatment issue utilized in the approach to the withdrawn patient.

Week IV: April 18, 2019  Trauma

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to define two discrete psychoanalytic approaches to dealing with traumatized patients, as described by L. Brown.

Week V: April 25, 2019  Counter-Transference Hate

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to identify one possible etiology of antagonistic feelings that arise in the treatment of a patient with Narcissistic character pathology.

Week VI: May 2, 2019  Borderline Personality Disorder: Hate in the Countertransference

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to discuss Maltzberger’s clinical approach to dealing with countertransference hate.

**Week VII: May 9, 2019**  The Erotic Transference

The Erotic or Eroticized Transference/Countertransference and the Pressure to Action


**Recommended Reading:**

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to define erotic transference and countertransference.

**Week VIII: May 16, 2019**  Communication through destructive action


**Recommended Reading:**

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to identify one example of destructive acting out and one theoretic implication for its clinical treatment.

**Week IX: May 23, 2019**  Narcissistic Character

Narcissistic Character: Defenses against affect and accompanying transference manifestations

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to define narcissistic character pathology and identify one manifestation in the transference.

**Week X: May 30, 2019  Narcissistic Character. Continued**

Severe forms of Narcissistic pathology – the Antisocial personality disorder


**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session, the student will be able to define antisocial personality and identify one implication for clinical intervention with one prominent symptom.