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ATP III, Spring 2019

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

Instructor: Jan A. Seriff, Psy.D.

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

Freud, S. (1905/1901). Fragment of an analysis of a case of hysteria. *Vol VII*, pp. 116-120. [PEP Web Link](#)

Freud, S. (1910) The future prospects of psycho-analytic therapy. *Vol XI*, pp. 143-144. [PEP Web Link](#)

Heimann, P. (1950). On Counter-transference. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 31, 81-84. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Gabbard, G.O. (1995). Countertransference: The emerging common ground. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 76, 475-485. [PEP Web Link](#)

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Week III: April 11, 2019 The Patient who is Withdrawn, Hard to Reach or Hard to Love

Goldberg, P. (1989). Actively seeking the holding environment-conscious and unconscious elements in the building of a therapeutic framework. *Contemp. Psychoanal.* 25, 448-476. [PEP Web Link](#)

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@bps.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

Brown, L. (2006). Julie's museum: The evolution of thinking, dreaming and historicization in the treatment of traumatized patients. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 87(6), 1569- 1585. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Winnicott, D.W. (1949). Hate in the counter-transference. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 30, 69-74. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Maltsberger, J.T. & Buie, D.H. (1974). Countertransference hate in the treatment of suicidal patients. *Arch. Gen. Psychiatry*, 30(5), 625-33. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org.]

Gabbard, G.O. (1991). Technical approaches to transference hate in the analysis of borderline patients. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 72, 625-637. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Gabbard, G.O. (1994). Sexual excitement and countertransference Love. In *JAPA*, 42, 1083-1106. [PEP Web Link](#)

Recommended Reading:

Cooper, S.H. (2003). You say Oedipal. I say postoeidipal: A consideration of desire and hostility in the Analytic Relationship. *Psychoanal. Dial.*, 13(1), 41-63. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Joseph, B. (1982). Addiction to near-death. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 63, 449-456 [PEP Web Link](#)

Recommended Reading:

Bromberg, P. M. (2001). Treating patients with symptoms—and symptoms with patience: Reflections on shame, dissociation, and eating disorders. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 11(6), 891-912. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Modell, A.H. (1975). A narcissistic defense against affects and the illusion of self-sufficiency. *Int. J Psycho-Anal.*, 56, 275-282. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Kernberg, O.F. (2007). The almost untreatable narcissistic patient. *JAPA*, 55(2), 503-539. [PEP Web Link](#)

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.