



Seminar Year I, Fall 2019

Theory I: Basic Concepts

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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 developed over time and in contemporary psychoanalysis. Together we will examine some core concepts including the unconscious, transference, countertransference, defense, object, self, intersubjectivity and the psychoanalytic field. We will visit some of the major schools of psychoanalytic thought, such as ego psychology, object relations, self-psychology, relational theory and field theory. We will briefly consider the historical, political, and cultural contexts in which psychoanalytic theories develop, and explore how each new model responds to cultural change and to gaps, shifts and emphases in earlier theories. How does the same concept evolve and change, and which ideas are important to retain? How does theory affect how we listen and engage in the clinical setting? The current pluralistic climate of psychoanalytic practice involves being able to hold in mind differing ways of understanding our patients and the nature of unconscious process. Throughout, we will maintain a focus on basic concepts and theory as it pertains to clinical practice. 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, and to broaden and deepen your understanding and clinical practice 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.

Ellen and Jack

I. September 19 - Unconscious Process (in early transference/countertransference)

Ogden, T. H. (1992). Comments on transference and countertransference in the initial analytic meeting. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry* 12(2), 225-247. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to give two examples of a patient's engagement in the opening sessions and discuss the potential unconscious transference implications.

II. September 26 - Ego (its role in therapeutic action)

Abend, S.M. (2007). Therapeutic action in modern conflict theory. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 76(S), 1417-1442. [PEP Web Link](#)

Gray, P. (1992). Memory as resistance, and the telling of a dream. *Journal of American Psychoanalytic Association*, 40, 307-326. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to provide two examples of applying the concept of the ego in analytic interventions.

III. Oct 3 - Transference (then and now)

Freud, S. (1912). The dynamics of transference. *SE, XII* (pp. 97-108). [PEP Web Link](#)

Almond, R. (2011). Freud's "the dynamics of transference" one hundred years later. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 59(6), 1129-1156. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to describe two features of transference that refer to both aspects of the patients past and the present dyadic intersubjective experience.

IV. Oct 10 - Object (an introductory concept of intersubjectivity)

Guntrip, H. (1975). My experience of analysis with Fairbairn and Winnicott, *International Review of Psycho-Analysis*, 2, 145-156. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden, T. (1979). On projective identification. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 60, 357-373. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to describe Winnicott's approach to pre-Oedipal object and discuss how it can be seen in the experience of projective identification.

October 17 - Special Topics Night

V. October 24 - Self (the experience of subjectivity)

Winnicott, D.W. (1965). Ego distortion in terms of true and false self. In *The maturational processes and the facilitating environment* (Chapter 12, pp. 140-152). London: The Hogarth Press and the Institute of Psycho-Analysis. [PEP Web Link](#)

Kohut, H. (1979). The two analyses of Mr. Z. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 60, 3-27. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objectives:

1. Candidates will be able to discuss the developmental theory underlying the concepts of true and false self and the capacity for empathy.

VI. October 31 - Countertransference (as ubiquitous and as Enactment)

Jacobs, T.J. (1986). On countertransference enactments. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 34, 289-307. [PEP Web Link](#)

Brown, L.J. (2007). On dreaming one's patient: Reflections on an aspect of countertransference dreams. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 76(3), 835-861. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to define the concept enactment as it occurs in the countertransference and discuss how this is distinct from ubiquitous countertransference.

VII. November 7 - The Field and Third (contemporary concepts of Intersubjectivity)

Civitarese, G. and Ferro, A. (2013). The meaning and use of metaphor in analytic field theory. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 33(3), 190-209. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden, T.H. (1994). The analytic third: Working with intersubjective clinical facts. *International Journal Psycho-Analysis*, 75, 3-19. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to describe the concepts of the analytic field and analytic third provide a clinical example where these concepts are illustrated.

VIII. November 14 – Psychoanalytic Process and Reverie (contemporary ideas of change)

Stern, D.N., Sander, L.W., Nahum, J.P., Harrison, A.M., Lyons-Ruth, K., Morgan, A.C., Bruschiweilerstern, N. and Tronick, E.Z. (1998). Non-interpretive mechanisms in psychoanalytic therapy: The 'something more' than interpretation. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 79, 903-921. [PEP Web Link](#)

Parsons, M. (2007). Raiding the inarticulate: The internal analytic setting and listening beyond countertransference. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 88(6), 1441-1456. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objective:

1. Candidates will be able to describe the value of attending to reverie and feeling as a mode of understanding and interpreting patients' experience.