Clinical Implications of Bion’s Theory
Instructors: Rodrigo Barahona, Psy.D and Karen Roos, LICSW

1. September 19, 2019  Introduction

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to define Bion’s concepts of *attacks on linking*, and identify one essential characteristic of Bion’s early period and one essential characteristic of Bion’s late period.


2. September 26, 2019  Bion’s Pre-psychoanalytic Experiences

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to explain how the experience of Sweeting’s death influenced the development of Bion’s concept of *alpha function* and to discuss Brown’s concept of *Constellation for Thinking*.

**Brown, L.J.** (2012). Bion’s discovery of alpha function: Thinking under fire on the battlefield and in the consulting room. *IJP*, 93(5), 1191-1214. [PEP Web Link]

**Optional reading:** **Bion, W.** (1997). Bion, F. (Ed.), *War memoirs: 1917-1919* (pp. 72-133). London: Karnac. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

3. October 3, 2019  Bion’s Bedrock: Learning from Experience

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to define Bion’s concepts of *alpha function*, *beta elements*, and *contact barrier*.

**Bion, W.** (1962). Learning from experience. In *Seven servants* (Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 27 and 28). NY: Jason Aronson, 1977. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]
4. October 10, 2019  **Bion’s Theory of Thinking**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe Bion’s concept of *apparatus for thinking*, and Bion’s assertion that in hallucinations, “the sense organs operate in reverse.”


5. October 24, 2019  **Dreaming and Reverie**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe Bion’s concept of *waking dream thought*.

**Bion, W.** (1962). Learning from experience. In *Seven servants* (Chapter 7). NY: Jason Aronson, 1977. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

**Bion, W.** (1992). *Cogitations* (pp. 44-68). London: Karnac. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

**Ogden, T.** (2003). On not being able to dream. *IJP, 84*(1), 17-30. [PEP Web Link](https://www.pep-web.org/)

6. October 31, 2019  **Memory and Desire**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to explain Bion’s injunction to abandon “memory and desire” in psychoanalytic listening.

**Bion, W.** (1967). Notes on memory and desire. In Aguayo, J. and Malin, B. (Eds.), *Wilfred Bion: Los Angeles seminars and supervision* (Appendix, pp. 133-149). London: Karnac, 2013. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

7. November 7, 2019  **Late Bion: Receptivity to the unknown; emotional turbulence accompanies transformation and growth**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this seminar, candidates will be able to identify elements of the analyst’s internal setting that permit relinquishing saturated ideas and support opening oneself up to the *emotional turbulence* in the here and now of the session: this leads to transformation and growth in the patient.

**Bion, W.** (1997). *Taming wild thoughts* (pp. 27-51). London: Karnac. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

**Bion, W.** (1976). Emotional turbulence. In Bion, F. (Ed.), *Clinical seminars and other works* (pp. 223-333). London: Karnac, 1994. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

8. November 14, 2019  **Transformations in O**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to compare “early Bion” with “late Bion” through their discussion of Bion’s theoretical and technical movement from transformations in K to transformations in O, a long journey into unknown and unmapped mental life.

**Bergstein, A.** (2018). The psychotic part of the mind: Bion’s expeditions into unmapped mental life. *JAPA, 66*(2), 193-220. [Available in the library: Download in the library, check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]