



Fall 2019

Fellowship in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy-Child Track

Developmental Challenges for Adopted and Twin Children

Dates: October 31, November 7, 14, 21, and December 5, 2019

Instructors: Maida Greenberg, Ed.D, and Carol Rubin, Ph.D

The course will focus on the added challenges that exist for adopted children and for twins as they progress throughout their developmental journey.

Adoption may pose certain psychological stresses on each of its participants -- the relinquishing parents, the adopting parents, and the child. The adopted child must be able to accept that he was born to one set of parents and was raised by another set of parents. Paul Brinich's article (1990) provides a comprehensive perspective regarding the concerns that may arise for the adopted child, the adoptive parents, for siblings of the adopted youngster, and for the biological parents. Clinical material will provide information regarding the specific worries and conflicts that exist for several adopted children who have been in psychotherapy or psychoanalysis.

Interest in twins as a unique human phenomenon has been widespread at all times as evidenced in the annals of history, mythology, and literature as well as in modern psychology. The subject of twins arouses in most people both a curiosity and fascination, including a wonderment regarding what it must be like to be a twin. Twins have the unique experience, of sharing an ever present "other" from the moment of conception, during their intra-uterine life, in infancy, during their early childhood years, latency and adolescence. They may go through the same developmental process at the same time with each other that may lend itself to feeling of harmony between one another at certain stages of development, however, it may lead to feelings of disharmony at other stages. Observation of twins and psychoanalytic case studies inform us that although twins need to develop a separate sense of self, they may struggle to do so. During their early years they often copy and imitate each other. They may experience themselves as a "we-self" unit, at the expense of feeling that they are separate individuals. When the twins are too "merged" as a unit, it can lead a "fusion of object and self-representation" that has been referred to as the "twinning effects" (Joseph Tabor, 1961). It also may dilute their relationship to the parental figure. In summary, the special bond that often exists between twins may complicate the process of developing a strong sense of "self," as each youngster progresses along the developmental trajectory. The twin has the task of not only having to separate from his or her parents, but also to separate, differentiate and individuate from his or her twin partner.

October 31, 2019 - Week I. Adoption

Brief Introduction

Required Readings:

Brinich, P.M. (1980). Some potential effects of adoption on self and object representations. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 35, 107-3. [PEP Web Link](#)

Brinich, P.M. (1995). Psychoanalytic perspectives on adoption and ambivalence. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 12(2), 181-199. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional Readings:

Brinich, P.M. (1990). Adoption from the inside out: A psychoanalytic perspective. In Brodzinsky, D.M. & Schechter, M.D. (Eds.), *The psychology of adoption* (Ch. 3, pp. 42-61). NY: Oxford University Press. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org]

Brinich, P.M. (2013). Weaving child psychoanalysis: Past, present and future. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 67, 149-172. [PEP Web Link](#)

Objective:

At the conclusion of this session, fellows will be able to describe the nature of ambivalence that is intrinsic to every parent child relationship and list two examples of how this may be expressed by a parent.

November 7, 2019 - Week II. Clinical Presentations

Required Readings:

Wright, J.L. (2009). The princess has to die: Representing rupture and grief in the narrative of adoption. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 64, 75-91. [PEP Web Link](#)

Silverman, M.A. (2004). Insecurity and fear of attachment in a troubled adoption: A clinical example. *Journal of Infant, Child & Adolescent Psychotherapy*, 3(3), 313-328. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional Readings:

Gould, K. (2009). The use of fantasy play in the treatment of a six year-old adopted girl. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 64, 92-111. [PEP Web Link](#)

Kaufman, A. (2013). "Why didn't they keep me?": The search for belonging in the analysis of a four year old adopted child. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 33(4), 330-344. [PEP Web Link](#)

Wright, J.L. (2013). Discussion of "Why didn't they keep me?": The search for belonging in the analysis of a four year old adopted child'. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 33(4), 330-344. [PEP Web Link](#)

Objective:

At the conclusion of this case presentation session fellows will be able to discuss how the adopted child's lack of knowledge regarding her birth mother can lead to a breakdown in empathy between the adopted child and adoptive parent, and describe how the relationship can be repaired by creating a meaningful narrative for the child.

November 14, 2019 - Week III Transference/Counter-transference

Required Readings:

Greenberg, M.J. (Undated). Clinical case of Emily. Unpublished. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org]

Leiken, S. (2009). Discussion of Dr. Maida Greenberg's paper, 'The uses and meanings of adoption in a five year old girl'. Seattle: Presented at the ACP Annual Meeting. Seattle. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org]

Greenberg, M.J. (Undated). Clinical case of Emily: Issues of transference and countertransference. Case reflections: Unpublished. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org]

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

Optional Readings:

Winnicott, D.W. (1960). The theory of the parent-infant relationship. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 41, 585-595. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph, B. (1985). Transference: The total situation. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 66, 447-454. [PEP Web Link](#)

Bonovitz, C. (2009). Countertransference in child psychoanalytic psychotherapy: The emergence of the analyst's childhood. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 26(3), 235-245. [PEP Web Link](#)

Sandler, J. (1976). Countertransference and role-responsiveness. *International Review of Psycho-Analysis*, 3, 43-47. [PEP Web Link](#)

Objective:

At the conclusion of this case presentation session fellows will be able to describe the specific transference/countertransference issues that arose for the analyst and discuss how such issues can be handled to prevent disruption of the treatment.

November 21, 2019 - Week IV Twin Development

Brief Introduction

Required Readings:

Burlingham, D.T. (1945). The fantasy of having a twin. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 1, 205-210. [PEP Web Link](#)

Greenberg, D. & Greenberg, M.J. (August 25, 2011). Dorothy Burlingham's twins: The study that explained why it's not so wonderful to have a look-alike. Slate Magazine. [[Linked Here](#)]

Tchou, A. (2011). Are twins taking over? Making sense of the dramatic rise in multiple births. Slate Magazine. [[Linked Here](#)]

Davison, S. (1992). Mother, other and self—Love and rivalry for twins in their first year of life. *International Review of Psycho-Analysis*, 19, 359-374. [PEP Web Link](#)

Greenberg, M.J., Wilson, E.F. & Samaraweera, S. (1999). Primary prevention with mothers and their twins: An educational program and research study. In Cohen, T.B., Etezady, M.H. & B.L. (Eds.), *The vulnerable child* (Vol. 3, Part III: Twins, Ch. 10, pp. 127 – 157). Madison, CT: International Universities Press. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org]

Optional Readings:

Burlingham, D.T. (1949). The relationship of twins to each other. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 3, 57-72. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ablon, S.L., Harrison, A.M., Valenstein, A.F. & Gifford, S. (1986). Special solutions to phallic-aggressive conflicts in male twins. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 41, 239-257. [PEP Web Link](#)

Glenn, J. (1999). Twins: Psychoanalytic findings, direct observations, and applications of knowledge and theory. In Cohen, T.B., Etezady, M.H. & B.L. (Eds.), *The vulnerable child* (Vol. 3, Part III: Twins, Ch. 11, pp. 161-177.). Madison, CT: International Universities Press. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org]

Allen, M.G., Greenspan, S.I., & Pollin, W. (1976). The effect of parental perception on early development in twins. *Psychiatry*, 39, 65-71. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org]

Allen, M.G., Pollin, W. & Hoffer, A. (1971). Parental, birth and infancy factors in infant twins' development. Discussion by S. Gifford. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 127, 33-40. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org]

Piontelli, A. (1989). A study on twins before and after birth. *International Review of Psycho-Analysis*, 16, 413-26. [PEP Web Link](#)

Piontelli, A. (2002). *Twins: From fetus to child*. London & NY: Routledge. [Available on reserve in the library]

Glenn, J. (1966). Opposite-sex twins. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 14, 736-759. [PEP Web Link](#)

Scheinfeld, A. (1967). *Twins and supertwins*. Philadelphia & NY: J.P. Lippincott & Company. [Available on reserve in the library]

Engel, G.L. (1975). The death of a twin: Mourning and anniversary reactions. Fragments of 10 years of self-analysis. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 56, 23-40. [PEP Web Link](#)

Lewin, V. (2004). *The twin in the transference*. London, England, & Philadelphia, PA. WHURR Publishers. [Available on reserve in the library]

Objective:

At the conclusion of the session fellows will be able to describe three strategies that twins may use to manage their feelings of jealousy, rivalry and competition in their efforts to be cared for by the mothering figure.

December 5, 2019 - Week Five Twin Development

Required Readings:

Bernstein B. (1980). Siblings of twins. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 35, 135-54. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph, E.D. (1961). The simultaneous analysis of a pair of identical twins and the twinning reaction. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 16, 275-299. [PEP Web Link](#)

Leonard, M.R. (1961). Problems in identification and ego development in twins. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 16, 300-320. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ortmeyer, D.H. (1970). The we-self of identical twins. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 6(2), 124-143. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional Readings:

Cronin, H. (1933). An analysis of the neurosis of identical twins. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 20(4), 375-387. [PEP Web Link](#)

Greenberg, M.J. (2012). Further thoughts on researching twins. *PINE Psychoanalytic Center Newsletter*, 23(3), 8-14. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org]

Orr, D.W. (1941). A psychoanalytic study of a fraternal twin. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 10, 284-296. [PEP Web Link](#)

Objective:

At the conclusion of this session, fellows will be able to describe three potential problems that exist for the maternal figure in gratifying the needs of each twin, and will be able to discuss the issues that exist for a sibling of twins in the family system.