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:


Optional Readings:
Brinich, P.M. (1990). Adoption from the inside out: A psychoanalytic perspective. In Brodzinsky, D.M. & Schecter, 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@bpsi.org]


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


Optional Readings:


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@bpsi.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@bpsi.org]


**Optional Readings:**


**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:**

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]


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.


Optional Readings:
December 5, 2019 - Week Five Twin Development

**Required Readings:**


**Optional Readings:**

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@bpsi.org]


**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.