



boston psychoanalytic  
society & institute

Year IV, Fall 2019

## Seminar on Social Awareness

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Attitudes towards the sociopolitical and its impact on, and import to, psychoanalysis are undergoing considerable reevaluation at this time. We would like to contribute to this process by actively exploring the interaction of the personal and the sociopolitical in our own work.

In the past, psychoanalysts have tended to de-emphasize, if not pathologize, the influence of the sociopolitical on the individual psyche. We will briefly consider some of the historical reasons for this trend before turning our focus to how race, class, and culture affect current psychoanalytic practice. Together, we will attempt to illuminate how these issues affect transference and countertransference, with an eye toward identifying how psychoanalysts (and psychoanalysis) may, consciously or un-, perpetuate some prevailing social realities.

**September 19, 2019** Class One: Introduction to the course – Race, Class, Culture

*How do we distinguish prejudice from racism?*

**Reading:** Morrison, T. (1983). Recitatif. In Baraka, Amina & Baraka, Amira (Eds.), *Confirmation: An anthology of African American women*. NY: Morrow. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org).]

**Objective:** Participants will define and distinguish between personal prejudice and systemic racism.

**September 26, 2019** Class Two: Politics and Power

*Is the political development of the person a proper topic for inquiry in the clinical setting?*

**Reading:** Layton, L. (2006). Attacks on linking: The unconscious pull to dissociate individuals from their social context. In Layton, Caro, Hollander & Gutwill (Eds.), *Psychoanalysis, class and politics* (Ch. 7, pp. 107-118). NY: Routledge. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org).]

Walls, G. (2006). The normative unconscious and the political contexts of change in psychotherapy. In Layton, Caro, Hollander & Gutwill (Eds.), *Psychoanalysis, class and politics* (pp. 118-129). NY: Routledge. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

**Objective:** Participants will identify at least two potential ways of inhibiting political discussion in the clinical encounter.

**October 3, 2019** Class Three: Race

*"The ego is first and foremost a bodily ego." Freud, The Ego and the Id (1923)*

*“There is really no mode of empathy that can replicate the daily strain of knowing that as a black person you can be killed for simply being black.” Rankine (2015)*

**Reading:** Coates, T. (2015). *Between the world and me*. NY: Spiegel & Grau. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org).]

Jacobs, L. (2014). Learning to love white shame and guilt: Skills for working as a white therapist in a racially divided country. *International Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology*, 9(4), 297-312. [PEP Web Link](#).

**Objective:** Participants will identify different ego constituents and potential power imbalances in and out of the therapeutic setting.

**October 10, 2019** Class Four: Race

**Reading:** Baldwin, J. (1957). *Sonny's blues*. NY: Dial Press. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org).]

Holmes, D. (2006). The wrecking effects of race and social class on self and success. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 75(1), 215-235. [PEP Web Link](#).

**Objective:** Participants will identify how racism and classism influence self-valuation and success.

**October 24, 2019** Class Five: Class

**Reading:** Dimen, M. (2006). Money, love and hate: Contradiction and paradox in psychoanalysis. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 4(1), 69-100. [PEP Web Link](#).

Bodnar, S. (2004). Remember where you came from: Dissociative process in multicultural individuals. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 14(5), 581-603. [PEP Web Link](#).

**Objective:** Participants will be able to illustrate unconscious meanings of money in psychoanalytic work.

**October 31, 2019** Class Six: Class

**Reading:** Corpt, E. (2013). Peasant in the analyst's chair: Reflections, personal and otherwise, on class and forming of an analytic identity. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 8(1), 52-69. [PEP Web Link](#).

Eng, D.L. & Han, S. (2000). A dialogue on racial melancholia. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 10(4), 667-700. [PEP Web Link](#).

**Objective:** Participants will be able to define “assimilation” as a potential negotiation between mourning and melancholia.

**November 7, 2019** Class Seven: Culture

**Reading:** De Coster, N. (2017). The other language: A few psychoanalytic thoughts about migration, the loss of culture and language. *Psychoanalysis Today*. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org).]

Topalian, S. (2013). Ghosts to ancestors: Bearing witness to “my” experience of genocide. *International Journal of Self Psychology*, 8(1), 7-19. [PEP Web Link](#).

**Objective:** Participants will be able to identify three ways migration impacts identity.

**November 14, 2019** Class Eight: Culture

Dalal, Farhad (2008). Against the celebration of diversity. *British Journal of Psychotherapy*, 24(1), 4-19.  
[PEP Web Link](#).

Young-Bruehl, E. (2003). The interpretation of an architect's dream: Relational trauma and its prevention. *Journal for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society*, 8(1), 51-56. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org).]

**Objective:** Participants will be able to identify and illustrate the concept of “trauma prevention”.