



boston psychoanalytic
society & institute

Technique V, Fall 2019

Working as a Bion Inspired Analyst

Seminar leaders: Dolan Power, PhD and David Power, PhD

In the last 75 years the writings and teachings of Wilfred R. Bion have sparked, and continue to spark, highly creative evolutions in clinical thinking and in the analyst's experience and participation in the analytic encounter. In this seminar we will address each week a concept central to Bion's writings as this concept has been developed in contemporary practice.

Week 1: The Psychotic and the Non-Psychotic Parts of the Personality

How do we recognize the psychotic and the non-psychotic parts of the personality?

De Masi, F. (2015). Delusion and bi-ocular vision. *IJP*, 96(5), 1189-1211. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional:

Bion, W.R. (1957). Differentiation of the psychotic from the non-psychotic personalities. *IJP*, 38, 266-275. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week 2: Attacks on Linking and Communicative Projective Identification

Is there a communicative value embedded in an attack on linking?

Bergstein, A. (2015). Attacks on linking or a drive to communicate? Tolerating the paradox. *Psychoanalytic Q.*, 84(4), 921-942. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional

Bion, W.R. (1959). Attacks on linking. *IJP*, 40, 308-315. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week 3: Evading or Moderating Frustration

What does moderating frustration have to do with thinking?

Levine, H.B. (2011). 'The consolation which is drawn from truth': the analysis of a patient unable to suffer experience. In Mawson, C. (Ed.), *Bion today* (pp. 188-211). London: Routledge. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org]

Optional:

Bion, W.R. (1962). *Learning from experience* (Ch. 11-12, pp. 28-37). London: Karnac.
[PEP Web Link](#)

Week 4: Reverie and Containment

What does it mean to ‘take the transference’ and how does it contribute to containing the patient’s experience?

Mitrani, J. (2001). ‘Taking the transference’: Some technical implications in three papers by Bion. *IJP*, 82(6), 1085-1104. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional

Bion, W.R. (1958). On arrogance. *IJP*, 39, 144-146. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week 5: “Catching the Drift”

What does Ogden mean by ‘catching the drift’ and why is it important?

Ogden, T. (1997). Reverie and metaphor: Some thoughts on how I work as a psychoanalyst. *IJP*, 78, 719-732.

Week 6: Waking Dream Thought and Narrative Derivatives

What is waking dream thought and what are narrative derivatives?

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

Week 7: Transformations

What is transformation in hallucinosis and how does it relate to the analyst’s receptivity?

Civitarese, G. (2015). Transformations in hallucinosis and the receptivity of the analyst. *IJP*, 96(4), 1091-1116. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week 8: O and At-one-ment

What is O and how does it relate to At-one-ment?

Eshel, O. (2013). Patient-analyst “witness”: On analytic “presencing,” passion, and compassion in states of breakdown, despair, and deadness. *Psychoanalytic Q.*, 82(4), 925-963. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objectives:

1. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to explain the difference between the psychotic and nonpsychotic parts of the personality.
2. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to describe the communicative projective identification embedded in an attack on linking.
3. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to describe the role of moderating frustration in developing the capacity to think one's thoughts.
4. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to describe what it means to take the transference.
5. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to explain Ogden's concept of catch the drift.
6. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to explain the concepts of waking dream thoughts and narrative derivatives.
7. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to explain the concept of transformation in hallucinosis and its relationship to the analyst's receptivity.
8. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to explain the concept of O and its relationship to at-one-ment.