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boston psychoanalytic
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Winter Elective, 2019-2020

Lost Homes, Forgotten Languages

Instructor: Frances Lang, LICSW

Welcome all,

We hope that this seminar will offer all of us an opportunity to think together about homes and lost homes – geographic, linguistic, cultural, and imaginary. Each of us, coming from different backgrounds as we do, will approach the seminar with different sets of interests and expectations. In a way, the purpose of the seminar is exactly to learn more about these differences. While the seminar reading and film assignments are important and have been chosen with much care, we are interested in them primarily as jumping off points for exploring how the meaning and significance of ‘home’ have come to take shape for our patients and ourselves.

*A note: excerpts from Eva Hoffman’s memoir *Lost in Translation* have been assigned for one class meeting and other sections of the book will be referenced as we go along. First published in 1989, this book has become a classic. It is well worth owning.

Psychoanalytic papers providing valuable overviews:

Ainslie, R.C. et al. (2013). Contemporary psychoanalytic views on the experience of immigration. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 30(4), 663-679. [PEP Web Link](#)

Akhtar, S. (1995). A third individuation: Immigration, identity and the psychoanalytic process. *JAPA*, 43, 1051-1084. [PEP Web Link](#)

Grinberg, L. & Grinberg, R. (1984). A psychoanalytic study of migration: Its normal and pathological aspects. *JAPA*, 32, 13-38. [PEP Web Link](#)

A non-psychoanalytic paper of great interest:

Said, E. (2002). Reflections on exile. In *Reflections on exile and other essays* (pp. 137-149). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. [Linked Here](#) [Also available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

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November 21 / “Only What Is Human Can Truly Be Foreign...”

Before the first class meeting, please read: Gonzalez, F.J. (2016). Only what is human can truly be foreign: The trope of immigration as a creative force in psychoanalysis. In Beltsiou, J. (Ed.), *Immigration in psychoanalysis* (Chapter 1, pp. 15-38). NY: Routledge. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Optional: Seiden, H.M. (2009). On the longing for home. *Psychoanal. Psychol.*, 26(2), 191-205. [PEP Web Link](#)

December 5 / Immigration in Psychoanalysis and in Fiction

Boulanger, G. (2004). Lot's wife, Cary Grant, and the American dream: Psychoanalysis with immigrants. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 40(3), 353-372. [PEP Web Link](#)

Lahiri, J. (1999). The third and final continent. In *The interpreter of maladies*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. [Linked Here](#) [Also available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Optional: Posadas, M. (2015). A demand for training. In Nayar-Akhtar, M. (Ed.), *Identities in transition: The growth and development of a multicultural therapist* (Chapter 7, pp. 97-110). London: Karnac. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

December 12 / Refugees: Where to Go When There Is Nowhere to Go?

Améry, J. (1980). How much home does a person need? In *At the mind's limits: Contemplations by a survivor on Auschwitz and its realities* (pp. 41-61). Bloomington: Indiana University Press. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Danticat, E. (2018). Without inspection. *The New Yorker* (May 14). [Linked Here](#) [Also available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Watch the 30 minute movie *Lifeboat*. [Linked Here](#)

Optional but highly recommended: Conrad, J. (1901). *Amy Foster*. Australia: The University of Adelaide. [Linked Here](#) [Also available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Reference: Leuzinger-Bohleber, M. & Hettich, N. (2018). What and how can psychoanalysis contribute in support of refugees? Concepts, clinical experiences and applications in the project STEP-BY-STEP, a pilot project supporting refugees in the initial reception center “Michaelisdorf” (Michaelis-village) in Darmstadt, Germany. *International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies*, 15(3), 151-173. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

December 19 / Family Separation and Disruption

Chotiner, I. (2019). How the stress of separation and detention changes the lives of children. *The New Yorker* (July 13). [Linked Here](#) [Also available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Freud, A. & Burlingham, D. (1943). Patrick, Separation, Reunion after separation and Artificial families. In Lehrman, P.R. (Ed.), *War and children* (pp. 99-103, 108-114, 150-161). NY: Medical War Books. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Lang, F. (2019). Redacted report on/psychological assessment of a six year old separated from her mother 5/2018 – 7/2018. [To be distributed and read in class]

Optional but highly recommended: Watch the movie *Into the Arms of Strangers*. [Linked Here](#)

Reference: Freud, A. & Dann, S. (1951). An experiment in group upbringing. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 6, 127-168. [PEP Web Link](#)

January 2 / Language

“The fact that I / am writing to you / in English / already falsifies what I / wanted to tell you. / My subject: / how to explain to you that I / don’t belong to English / though I belong nowhere else.” - Gustavo Perez Firmats

Bernstein, J.W. (2016). Living between languages: A bi-focal perspective. In Beltsiou, J. (Ed.), *Immigration in Psychoanalysis* (Chapter 7, pp. 127-134). NY: Routledge. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Hoffman, E. (1990). *Lost in translation: A life in a new language* (pp. 106-108 & 267-276). London: Penguin. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Li, Y. (2016). To speak is to blunder: Choosing to renounce a mother tongue. *The New Yorker* (January 2, 2017). [Linked Here](#) [Also available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Optional: Casement, P.J. (1982). Samuel Beckett’s relationship to his mother-tongue. *International Review of Psychoanalysis*, 9, 35-44. [PEP Web Link](#)

January 9 / Clinical Dialogue

Yi, K. (2014). From no name woman to birth of integrated identity: Trauma-based cultural dissociation in immigrant women and creative integration. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 24(1), 37-45. [PEP Web Link](#)

Leary, K. (2014). Discussion of Kris Yi's paper 'From no name woman to birth of integrated identity: Trauma-based cultural dissociation in immigrant women and creative integration'. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 24(1), 46-51. [PEP Web Link](#)

Yi, K. (2014). Psychoanalysis's cultural dissociation meets ethnic minorities: Reply to commentary by Kimberlyn Leary. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 24(1), 52-55. [PEP Web Link](#)

January 23 / Where Clinical Work and Politics Meet

Ipp, H. (2010). Nell – a bridge to the amputated self: The impact of immigration on continuities and discontinuities of self. *International Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology*, 5(4), 373-386. [PEP Web Link](#)

Corbett, K. (2010). Mother country: A discussion of Hazel Ipp's "Nell – A bridge to the amputated self". *International Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology*, 5(4), 387-392. [PEP Web Link](#)

Optional but highly recommended:

Leftwich, A. (2002). I gave the names. *Granta*, 78. [Linked Here](#) [Also available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

January 30 / Paradise Lost

Nivola, C. (1996). *Elisabeth*. NY: Farrar Straus Giroux. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Nivola, C. (2011). *Orani*. NY: Farrar Straus Giroux. [To be distributed in class]

Travers, P.L. (1934). West wind. In *Mary Poppins* (Chapter 12). NY: HarperCollins. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Simic, C. (1999). Refugees. In Aciman, A. (Ed.), *Letters of transit: Reflections on exile, identity, language and loss*. NY: New Press. [Available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Optional: Wells, H.G. (1911). *The door in the wall*. NY: Mitchell Kennerley. [Linked Here](#) [Also available in the library: Check reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

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Learning Objectives

Class 1. At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to identify three examples of the enriching impact of immigration on the cultures of the countries to which individuals have immigrated.

Class 2. At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe at least one possible effect of migration and acculturation on analysts' clinical practice or understanding of psychoanalytic theory.

Class 3. At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to contrast the effect of forced loss of homeland with the effects of other forms of migration.

Class 4. At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe in detail several psychological effects of separating children (especially young children) from their parents and family.

Class 5. At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to discuss how language may aid or impede adaptation to a country other than the immigrant's homeland.

Class 6. At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe two different clinical perspectives regarding the twin impacts of trauma and culture.

Class 7. At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to discuss how political motivations for emigration may impact transferences within the analyst/patient relationship.

Class 8. At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe several possible reasons that defenses might contribute to childhood memories of ideal homes.