



boston psychoanalytic  
society & institute

Year IV, Winter II 2020

## Gender and Sexuality: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives

Instructors: Ayelet Barkai, M.D. & Laura Crain, M.D.

### Course Description:

This course will explore, from a clinical and theoretical vantage point, the intersection and evolution of ideas about gender and sexuality development and expression within classical and contemporary psychoanalytic theory. The goal will be to trace the progression of psychoanalytic ideas on gender and sexuality and their development from classical to contemporary psychoanalysis. We will use clinical material as well as psychoanalytic, academic and literary texts to highlight and clarify contemporary clinical and theoretical psychoanalytic thinking on gender and sexuality.

### Week 1: February 6, 2020 - Course Overview, and What Freud Said...

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session students will be able to summarize Freud's understanding of the formation of sexual and gender identity.

**Required Readings:** Fiorini, L. G. (2018). Freud's epistemic context and discourse and The Oedipus-castration complex and sexual difference. In *Sexual difference in debate: Bodies, desires, and fictions* (Chapter 3-4, pp. 27-47). London: Karnac. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

Van Haute, P. & Westerink, H. (2016). Introduction: Hysteria, sexuality and the deconstruction of normativity—Rereading Freud's 1905 edition of *Three essays on the theory of sexuality*. In Freud, S. (Auth.), *Three essays on the theory of sexuality: The 1905 edition* (pp. xxiv-lxxvi). London: Verso. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

**Suggested Readings:** Fonagy, P. (2006). Psychosexuality and psychoanalysis: An overview. In *Identity, gender and sexuality: 150 years after Freud* (pp. 18-36). London: Karnac. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

Freud, S. (1905). Three essays on the theory of sexuality. *SE Volume VII (1901-1905): A case of hysteria, three essays on sexuality and other works* (pp. 173-243). [PEP Web Link](#)

## Week 2: February 20, 2020 - Cold War Freud

**Guest Discussant:** Dagmar Herzog, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of History and the Daniel Rose Faculty Scholar at the Graduate Center, City University of New York; Author of *Cold War Freud*.

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe how political and cultural factors contributed to the de- and resexualization (but in a conservative direction) of psychoanalysis in the first two decades of the Cold War in the US.

**Required Readings:** Herzog, D. (2015). What happened to psychoanalysis in the wake of the sexual revolution? A story about the durability of homophobia and the dream of love. In *Sexualities: Contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives* (Chapter 1, pp. 19-40). London: Routledge. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

Herzog, D. (2017). The libido wars. *Cold war Freud* (Chapter 1, pp. 21-55). Cambridge University Press. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

**Suggested Reading:** Stoller, R. (1976). Sexual excitement. *Arch. Gen. Psychiatry*, 33, 899-909. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

## Week 3: February 27, 2020 - (Trans) Gender Identity Development

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe how the concept of mentalization can be applied to an understanding of gender identity development.

**Required Readings:** Barkai, A.R. (2017). Troubling gender or engendering trouble? The problem with gender dysphoria in psychoanalysis. *The Psychoanalytic Review*, 104(1), 1-32. [Available in the library: [Linked Here](#), check reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

Evzonas, N. & Laufer, L. (2019). The therapist's transition. *The Psychoanalytic Review*, 106(5), 385-416. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)]

**Suggested Reading:** Silverman, S. (2015). The colonized mind: Gender, trauma, and mentalization. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 25(1), 51-66. [PEP Web Link](#)

## Week 4: March 5, 2020 - Queering psycho-sexual theory

**Guest Discussant:** Paul Lynch, M.D.

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe gender identity development as seen through the lens of gender/queer theory and contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives.

**Required Readings:** Butler, J. (1995). Melancholy gender—refused identification. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 5(2), 165-180. [PEP Web Link](#)

Lemma, A. and Lynch, P.E. (2015). Introduction: Let's talk about sex or...maybe not... In *Sexualities: Contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives* (pp. 1-16). London: Routledge. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)]

Selected clinical material

## **Week 5: March 12, 2020 - Enigmatic Message**

**Guest Discussant:** Diane O'Donoghue, Ph.D.

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session students will be able to explain the utilization of Laplanche's conceptualization of the "enigmatic message" in contemporary psychoanalytic psychosexual theory.

**Required Readings:** Target, M. (2015). A developmental model of sexual excitement, desire and alienation. In *Sexualities: Contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives* (pp. 43-62). London: Routledge. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)]

Fletcher, J. (2005). Introduction: Psychoanalysis and the question of the other. In Laplanche, J. (Auth.), *Essays on otherness* (pp. 4-16, pp. 22-34 & pp. 40-51). London: Routledge. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)]

**Suggested Reading:** Laplanche, J. (1995). Seduction, persecution, revelation. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 76, 663-682. [PEP Web Link](#)

Selected case material

## **Week 6: March 19, 2020 - "Perversions"**

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session students will be able to identify the complex factors of a contemporary perspective on perversion, using both a psychoanalytic paper and clinical material.

**Required Readings:** Saketopoulou, A. (2014). To suffer pleasure: The shattering of the ego as the psychic labor of perverse sexuality. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 15(4), 254-268. [PEP Web Link](#)

Stein, R. (2005). Why perversion? 'False love' and the perverse pact. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 86(3), 775-799. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Suggested Reading:** Freud, S. (1905). Three essays on the theory of sexuality. *SE Vol. VII (1901-1905): A case of hysteria, three essays on sexuality and other works* (pp. 135-172). [PEP Web Link](#)

Clinical presentation by Dr. Crain

### **Week 7: March 26, 2020 - Psycho-sexuality and excess of representability**

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session students will be able to apply the concept of “representability” to contemporary psychoanalytic theories on sexuality development.

**Required Readings:** Stein, R. (2008). The otherness of sexuality: Excess. *JAPA*, 56(1), 43-71. [PEP Web Link](#)

Benjamin, J., & Atlas, G. (2015). The ‘too muchness’ of excitement: Sexuality in light of excess, attachment and affect regulation. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 96(1), 39-63. [PEP Web Link](#)

Selected case material

### **Week 8: April 2, 2020 - Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory**

**Learning Objective:** At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe the developmental concept of nonlinear systems theory and explain its impact on studying contemporary psychoanalytic theory on gender and sexuality development.

**Required Readings:** Harris, A. (2000). Gender as soft assembly: Tomboys' stories. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 1(3), 223-250. [PEP Web Link](#)

Schiller, B. M. (2012). Representing female desire within a labial framework of sexuality. *JAPA*, 60 (6), 1161-1197. [PEP Web Link](#)

**Suggested Reading:** Kiersky, S. M. (2004). Perilous crossings: Tales of gender, identification, and exiled desires. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 8(1-2), 191-207. [Available in the library: check reading folder or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)]

Selected case material