MELANIE KLEIN AND THE NEO-KLEINIANs

Dates: Feb 6, 20, 27, 2020;
Mar 5, Mar 12, Mar 19, Mar 26, 2020;
Apr 2, 2020
Time: 5:30pm – 7:00 pm

Instructors: Holly Friedman Housman, LICSW and James Barron, PhD

OVERVIEW

This seminar will examine some of the major innovations to psychoanalytic thinking and practice contributed by Melanie Klein and elaborated by several of her followers. Taken as a whole, they constitute some of the most clinically relevant ideas and models of unconscious phantasies, pre-verbal states of mind, primitive anxieties and defenses, and normal and pathological development. Paradoxically her ideas are now widely accepted while continuing to stir up controversy between detractors and adherents. Her work is dense with new observations, discoveries, and bold theorizing. In our readings and discussions, we will strive to achieve optimal tension between empathic identification with and critical reflection upon her ideas. Although the focus will be on theory, we will invite all participants to contribute clinical examples that relate theory to actual practice whenever possible.

READINGS

Session 1 (Feb 6): Introduction to Kleinian Object Relations Theory
Learning Objective: Identify key aspects of the concept of object relations theory in Freud’s work and Klein’s expansion of the concept.

Readings:

Suggested Reading:

Session 2 (Feb 20): Unconscious Phantasy
Learning Objective: Describe unconscious phantasy as the psychic representative of drive that is linked both to internal objects and external reality.

Readings:


Suggested Reading:

Session 3 (Feb 27): The Depressive Position
Learning Objective: Describe the depressive position as a critically important, yet highly vulnerable developmental achievement.

Readings:


Suggested Reading:
Segal, H. (1989). The depressive position. In Introduction to the work of Melanie Klein (Chapter 6, pp. 67-81). London: Karnac. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Session 4 (Mar 5): The Paranoid-Schizoid Position
Learning Objective: Identify the constellation of primitive anxieties and defenses that constitute the paranoid-schizoid position.

Readings:

**Suggested Reading:**

**Session 5 (Mar 12): Early Precursors of the Oedipus Complex**

**Learning Objective:** Connect the child’s capacity to experience unconscious phantasy to the early development of Oedipal dynamics.

**Readings:**


**Suggested Reading:**

**Session 6 (Mar 19): Projective Identification**

**Learning Objective:** Compare the healthy and pathological uses of the mechanism of projective identification.

**Readings:**


**Suggested Reading:**

**Session 7 (Mar 26): Transference Viewed through a Kleinian Lens**

**Learning Objective:** Describe how the concept of the “total situation” enhances our understanding of what is being activated in the transference.
Readings:


Suggested Reading:

Session 8 (Apr 2): Evolution of Kleinian Technique

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe three key aspects of contemporary Kleinian clinical technique.

Readings:


Greenberg, J. (2018). Klein’s technique. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, (99), 979-989. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]