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Year II, Winter II 2020

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:

Hinshelwood, R.D. (1997). The elusive concept of 'internal objects' (1934-1943) its role in the formation of the Klein group. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 78, 877-897. [PEP Web Link](#)

Ogden, T.H. (2002). A new reading of the origins of object-relations theory. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 83(4), 767-782. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Reading:

Ogden, T.H. (1983). The concept of internal object relations. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 64, 227-241.

[PEP Web Link](#)

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:

Isaacs, S. (1948). The nature and function of phantasy. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 29, 73-97. [PEP Web Link](#)

Grosskurth, P. (1986). Warring women. In *Melanie Klein: Her world and her work* (Chapter 2, pp. 310-333). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Suggested Reading:

Spillius, E.B. (2001). Freud and Klein on the concept of phantasy. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 82(2), 361-373. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 3 (Feb 27): The Depressive Position

Learning Objective: Describe the depressive position as a critically important, yet highly vulnerable developmental achievement.

Readings:

Klein, M. (1940). Mourning and its relation to manic-depressive states. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 21, 125-153. [PEP Web Link](#)

Likierman, M. (1995). Loss of the loved object: Tragic and moral motifs in Melanie Klein's concept of the depressive position. *Brit. J. Psychotherapy*, 12(2), 147-159. [PEP Web Link](#)

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:

Klein, M. (1946). Notes on some schizoid mechanisms. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 27, 99-110. [PEP Web Link](#)

Steiner, J. (1992). The equilibrium between the paranoid-schizoid and the depressive positions. *New Lib. of Psychoanal.*, 14, 46-58. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Reading:

Winnicott, D.W. (1945). Primitive emotional development. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 26, 137-143. [PEP Web Link](#)

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:

Segal, H. (1973). The early stages of the Oedipus complex. In *Introduction to the work of Melanie Klein* (Chapter 9, pp. 103-116). London: Karnac. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org]

Klein, M. (1945). The Oedipus complex in the light of early anxieties. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 26, 11-33. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Reading:

Britton, R. (1992). The Oedipus situation and the depressive position. *New Lib. of Psychoanal.*, 14, 34-45. [PEP Web Link](#)

Session 6 (Mar 19): Projective Identification

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

Readings:

Hinshelwood, R.D. (1994). Projective identification. In *Clinical Klein: From theory to practice* (Chapter 8, 119-134). London: Basic Books. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org]

Feldman, M. (1997). Projective identification: The analyst's involvement. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 78, 227-241. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Reading:

Spillius, E.B. (1992). Clinical experiences of projective identification. *New Lib. of Psychoanal.*, 14, 59-73. [PEP Web Link](#)

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:

Joseph, B. (1985). Transference: The total situation. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 66, 447-454. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph, B. (2013). Here and now: My perspective. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 94(1), 1-5. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Reading:

O'Shaughnessy, E. (1983). Words and working through. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 64, 281-289. [PEP Web Link](#)

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:

Hinshelwood, R.D. (1994). Epilogue to part III: The evolution of Kleinian technique. In *Clinical Klein: From theory to practice* (pp. 230 – 235). London: Basic Books. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Aguayo, J. (2011). The role of the patient's remembered history and unconscious past in the evolution of Betty Joseph's 'here and now' clinical technique (1959-1989). *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 92(5), 1117-1136. [PEP Web Link](#)

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]