Narcissistic and Borderline Psychopathology

Elsa Ronningstam, Ph.D.

Week 1: 3/26/2020
Identifying, differentiating and approaching severe personality pathology – An introduction

Objectives: Provide an overview of present theories and identifying approaches to severe character pathology.

Suggested reading:


Optional reading:

Week 2: 4/2/2020
Identity diffusion and interpersonal dysregulation in borderline personality disorder

Objectives: Discuss the most central features of borderline personality disorder and their unfolding in psychotherapy

Suggested reading:
**Optional reading:**

**Week 3: 4/16/2020**
**Borderline personality disorder in females**

Objectives: Identify specific features, interpersonal patterns and defenses in women with borderline personality disorder.

**Suggested readings:**

**Optional readings:**


**Week 4: 4/23/2020**
**Borderline and narcissistic personality disorder in males**

Guest lecturer: Igor Weinberg, Ph.D
Objectives: Identify specific features, interpersonal patterns and defenses in men with borderline or narcissistic personality disorder.

**Suggested reading:**

**Week 5: 4/30/2020**
**Agency, self-sufficiency and control in narcissistic personality disorder - Beginning treatment**

Objective: Discuss strategies to engage patients’ sense of agency in psychotherapy and balance the need for control and self-sufficiency

**Suggested readings:**
Optional reading:


**Week 6: 5/7/2020**

**Perfectionism, attention seeking and avoidance - Mode of relating in narcissistic personality disorder**

Objective: Discuss narcissistic modes of relating and the role of perfectionism attention seeking and avoidance

**Suggested readings:**

Optional reading:
Sorotzkin, B. (1985). The quest for perfectionism: Avoiding guilt or avoiding shame? *Psychotherapy, 22*(3), 564 – 571. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]


**Week 7: 5/14/2020**

**Self-criticism, insecurity and vulnerability in narcissistic personality disorder - How to tailor the treatment to the patient**

Objective: Discuss self-criticism insecurity and narcissistic vulnerability and the impact on treatment strategies

**Suggested reading:**

Optional reading:

Week 8: 5/21/2020
Fear, shame and aggression - implications for narcissistic pathology and treatment

Objective: Identify significant emotions and trauma in narcissistic pathology and discuss choice of treatment strategies

Suggested reading:


Optional reading:


Week 9: 5/28/2020
Psychological trauma in narcissistic pathology

Objective: Identify narcissistic trauma and discuss its impact on treatment alliance and choice of treatment strategies

Suggested reading:

Optional reading:


Week 10: 6/4/2020
Integrating identity diffusion, self-esteem and emotional fluctuations in alliance building: Emerging transference and countertransference

Objective: Discuss the influence of unfolding narcissistic personality pathology in the therapeutic alliance: transference and countertransference and strategies to attend to and process it.
**Suggested reading:**


**Optional reading:**