



Psychoanalytic Training, Year IV

Fall 2020

Psyche and the Social Surround

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For many years American psychoanalytic education and practice have focused almost exclusively on the intrapsychic, at best ignoring and at worst, pathologizing consideration of the influence of the social surround on the psyche. The claim has been that to bring such concerns into the realm would dilute the “pure gold” of psychoanalytic thought and practice. The canon thus privileged has ignored the realities of gender, race and class and by doing so implicitly colluded in the inequality and injustice of the status quo, frequently rendering psychoanalysis largely irrelevant, if not outright oppressive. With the undeniable evidence of racial and social inequality brought into light by current social and political events, that collusion has come starkly into question. The purpose of this course is to identify some aspects of the relation of race, class and culture to psychoanalysis; how the denial of these as relevant came to be, and to discuss issues of colonization and white supremacy in theory and practice, with an eye to how this might change.

**Class One: Introduction to the course - Race, Class, Culture and Social Change
Guest Speaker: Lynne Layton, PhD**

How do we distinguish racism from prejudice?

Reading:

Morrison, Toni. (1983). Ricitatif, in Confirmation: An Anthology of African American Women. Baraka and Baraka, eds. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

Layton, Lynne (2006). Attacks on Linking: the unconscious pull to dissociate individuals from their social context, in Psychoanalysis, Class, and Politics: Encounters in the Clinical Setting. ed. L. Layton, N.C. Hollander, and S. Gutwill, pp. 107 - 118. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

Recommended:

Walls, Gary (2006). The Normative Unconscious and the political contexts of change in psychotherapy, in *Psychoanalysis, Class, and Politics*, pp. 118-129. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org.]

Objective:

Participants will be able to define and distinguish between personal prejudice and systemic racism and identify at least two potential ways political discussion can be inhibited in the clinical encounter.

Class Two: Primitivity and the Colonial Imagination

Guest Speaker: Ceilia Brickman, PhD

"The content of the Ucs. may be compared with an aboriginal population in the mind."
-Freud, *"The Unconscious"* (1915)

Reading:

Brickman, Celia, *Psychoanalysis and the Colonial Imagination*, in *Race in Psychoanalysis: Aboriginal populations in the Mind*. pp.58-102. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org.]

Objective:

Participants will be able to identify at least two colonialist assumptions of 19th Century anthropology and their influence on the development of psychoanalysis.

Class Three: Race

"The ego is first and foremost a bodily ego."
-Freud, *The Ego and the Id* (1923)

"There is really no mode of empathy that can replicate the daily strain of knowing that as a black person you can be killed for simply being black."
-Rankine, (2015)

"Race, a biological fiction, is a social, cultural and political construct."
-B. Stoute (2017)

Reading:

Coates, Ta-Nehisis. (2015) *Between the World and Me*. pp. 5-39. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsl.org.]

Stoute, Beverly. (2019) *Racial Socialization and Thwarted Mentalization: Psychoanalytic Reflections from the lived experience of James Baldwin's America*. *American Imago*. Vol. 76, No.3 Fall 2019, pp. 335-357 [PEP Web Link](#)

Recommended:

DiAngelo, R. (2011). White Fragility. International Journal of Critical Pedagogy. 3(3), 54-70. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org.]

Williams, C.R., My Body is a Confederate Monument: Slavery, Rape and Reframing the Past. New York Times OpEd, July 3, 2020. [[Available Online Here.](#)]

Objective:

Participants will be able to identify at least two power imbalances consequent to the perception of race.

Class Four: Race

Guest Speaker: Natasha Holmes, PsyD & Sarah H. Moon, PsyD

“All transactions in our culture regarding race and social class are premised on the views that non-dominant races and the poor are inferior, and that Euro-Americans are superior.”

-Dorothy Holmes (2006)

Reading:

Holmes, Natasha. (2020) The Motherland, My Ancestors and Me: My Experience Navigating Psychoanalytic Spaces. Studies in Gender and Sexuality. 21:2, 113-118 [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org.]

Baldwin, James. (1957) Sonny's Blues, in Going to Meet the Man. Dial Press. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org.]

Recommended:

Holmes, D. (2006) The Wrecking Effects of Race and Social Class on Self and Success. Psychoanalytic Quarterly. 75(1): 212-235. [PEP Web Link](#)

Jones, Annie Lee. A Black Woman as an American Analysts: Some Observations from One Woman's Life Over Four Decades. Studies in Gender and Sexuality. 21:2, 77-84 [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bps.org.]

Stovall, Natasha. (2019) Whiteness on the Couch. Longreads. [[Available Online Here.](#)]

Objective:

Participants will be able to identify at least one example of how racism and classism influence self-valuation and success.

Class Five: Class

Guest Speaker: Ksera Dyette, PsyD

“Money matters are treated by civilized people in the same way as sexual matters with the same inconsistency, prudishness, and hypocrisy.”

-Freud (1913)

Reading:

Dimen, M. (2006). “Money, Love and Hate: contradiction and paradox in psychoanalysis” in *Psychoanalysis, Class and Politics*. Layton, I. Hollander, N. and Gutwill, S., (eds.) pp. 29-50. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

Bodnar, S. (2004) Remember Where You Came From: Dissociative Process in Multicultural Individuals. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*. 14(5):581-603. [PEP Web Link](#)

Objective:

Participants will be able to illustrate at least one example of unconscious meanings of money in psychoanalytic work.

Class Six: Class

Guest Speaker: Ksera Dyette, PsyD

“In responding, if only unconsciously, to the widening chasm between rich and poor...analysts are merely noticing what has been there all along.”

-M. Dimen

Reading:

Corpt, E. (2013). Peasant in the Analyst's Chair: Reflections, Personal and Otherwise, on Class and Forming of an Analytic Identity. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*. 8(1):52-69. [PEP Web Link](#)

Recommended:

Danto, E.A. (2005). *Freud's Free Clinics: Psychoanalysis & Social Justice, 1918-1938*, Columbia University Press. [Request from library@bpsi.org for a 2-week loan. First come, First served - Return shipping required. [Available via Kindle and Amazon here.](#)]

Gaztembide, D.J.. (2019) *A People's History of Psychoanalysis: From Freud to Liberation Psychology*. Lexington Books. [Request from library@bpsi.org for a 2-week loan. First come, First served - Return shipping required. [Available via Kindle and Amazon here.](#)]

Sklarew, B., Twemlow, S.W., and Wilkinson, S.M. (2004), *Analysts in the Trenches: Streets, Schools, War Zones*. The Analytic Press. [Request from

library@bpsi.org for a 2-week loan. First come, First served - Return shipping required. [Available via Kindle and Amazon here.](#)]

Objective:

Participants will be able to describe at least one effect of class background on analytic identity and practice.

Class Seven: Culture

Guest Speaker: Timothy Kim

“But my mother did not understand, nor did the nurse, for the language I spoke was from the world from which I came.”

-K. Gibran

Reading:

Eng, D.L., Han, S. (2000) A Dialogue on Racial Melancholia. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*. 10(4): 667-700. [PEP Web Link](#)

Hong, C.P. Chapter One, “United”, in *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning*. One World Press. pp 3-35. [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

Recommended:

Topalian, S. (2013). Ghosts to Ancestors: Bearing Witness to “My” Experience of Genocide. *International Journal of Self Psychology*. 8(1):7-19. [PEP Web Link](#)

Objective:

Participants will be able to define “assimilation” as a potential negotiation between successful and unsuccessful mourning.

Class Eight: Culture

“One shortcoming of multiculturalism is that it renders the world more benign than it actually is by not taking sufficient account of power.”

-F. Dalal

Reading:

Dalal, Farhad (2008). Against the Celebration of Diversity. *British Journal of Psychotherapy*. 24(1): 4-19. [PEP Web Link](#)

Young-Bruehl, E. (2003) The Interpretation of and Architect’s Dream: Relational Trauma and Its Prevention. *Journal for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society*. 8(1). [Available in the library: Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

Objective:

Participants will be able to identify and illustrate the concept of trauma prevention.