



boston psychoanalytic
society & institute

BPSI Elective: A Few of My Favorite Things
Seminar Organizer: Lucinda Di Domenico

Introduction: The inner world of the analyst is usually considered through the lens of the countertransference experience within the context of the interpersonal and intersubjective matrices of the therapeutic dyad. Some authors have described *the holding function of theory* (Almond), *the internal setting* (Parsons), *the clinical facts* (the Ornsteins) of the analyst as factors occurring beyond the countertransference experience. These factors seem to entail the domain of the analyst's transitional space where inner and outer, subjective and objective, self and other, me and not me, experience and knowledge unfold, and are directly linked with the creativity and development of the analyst's self. For the patient with the analyst, the analyst's connection with his or her own internal setting also opens the possibility of creating the space for self-discovery of the patient in the analytic process. The myriad expressions of this creative endeavor is seen throughout the papers and clinical work of presenters in our diverse field, and in regards to this course, through the choices of our presenters. In this class, eight analysts will engage you to think about a few of their favorite papers. Within each weekly exploration we will address four questions:

Why is this paper important to the presenting analyst? Why is this paper important to the field? How does clinical work influence your theory? How does theory influence your clinical work?

The weekly task invites participants to engage the presenter around the four questions. The course also invites the participants to explore their own experiences in reading the papers as they might open their respective potential space within themselves and within the clinical encounter with patients. Participants may want to discuss their own creative self-discovery.

Note: In adherence with the recommendations of BPSI's Faculty Executive Committee, we will have the participants read the first paper, and optionally read the second paper. The instructor will discuss both articles and if you're able to read both, we encourage you to do so. We think that this endeavor will enrich your experience.

12/3/2020: Lucinda Di Domenico—*The Poetics of the Body*

Readings: 1.) Vivona, J. (2013). Psychoanalysis as Poetry. *J. Amer. Psychoanal. Assn.*, 61[6]: 1109-1137. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Optional) 2.) Sletvold, J. (2014). Ch 11. Embodied Supervision: Making Unconscious Relational Experiences Conscious. Pp. 147-154 In *The Embodied Analyst: From Freud and Reich to Relationality*. Routledge, London. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsi.org].

12/10/2020: Steven Ablon—*The Play's the Thing*

Readings: 1.) Frankel, J.B. (1998). "The Play's the Thing. How Essential Processes of Therapy are Seen Most Clearly in Child Therapy." *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 8: 149-182. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Optional) 2.) Winnicott, D. W. (1971). Playing: A Theoretical Statement in *Playing and Reality*. Basic Books, Inc. New York. Page 41. [PEP Web Link](#).

12/17/2020: Cary Friedman—*The Theory of Everything, or Nothing: Welcoming Diverse Approaches and Uncertainty*

Reading: 1.) Pine, F. (2006) The Psychoanalytic Dictionary: A Position Paper on Diversity and Its Unifiers. *JAPA*, 54: 463-491. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Optional) 2.) Corbett, K. (1993) The Mystery of Homosexuality. *Psychoanal. Psychology*, 10 (3), 345-357. [PEP Web Link](#).

1/7/2021: Cordelia Schmidt-Hellerau—*Fascinated with The Mind*

Readings: 1.) Freud, S. (1908) On the sexual theories of children, SE IX. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Optional) 2.) Freud, S. (1940) An Outline of Psychoanalysis, SE XIII. [PEP Web Link](#).

1/14/2021: Steven Cooper—*The Play of Living, Mourning, and Becoming*

Readings: 1.) Parsons, M. (1999) The logic of play in psychoanalysis. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 80 (5): 871-884. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Optional) 2.) Ogden, T. (2019) Ontological psychoanalysis or "What do you want to be when you grow up?" *Psychoanal. Q.* 88: 661-684. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsi.org].

(Optional) 3.) Cooper, S. (in press, Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association) The limits of intimacy and the intimacy of limits: Play and its relation to the bad object. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsi.org].

1/28/2021: Bernard Edelstein—*The Presence of Race and Racism in Psychoanalysis, Visible and Unseen*

Readings: 1.) Harris, A. (2012). The house of difference, or White silence. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 13(3), 197–216. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Optional) 2.) Hamer, F.M. (2006) Racism as a Transference State: Episodes of Racial Hostility in the Psychoanalytic Context. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 75(1), 197-214. [PEP Web Link](#).

2/4/2021: Rita Teusch—*Challenges in Establishing a Good Internal Object*

Readings: 1.) Klein, M. (1946): Notes on some Schizoid Mechanisms. *Int J. Psychoanalysis.*, 27:99-110. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Optional) 2.) Klein, M. (1940). Mourning and its Relation to Manic-Depressive States. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 21:125-153. [PEP Web Link](#).

2/18/2021: Sarah Birss—*Imagining Early Emotional Experience*

Readings: 1) Slade, A. (2014) Imagining Fear: Attachment, Threat, and Psychic Experience. *Psychoanal. Dial.*, 24 (3): 253-266. [PEP Web Link](#).

(Optional) 2.) Fraiberg, S, Adelson, E., & Shapiro, V. (1975) Ghosts in the Nursery: A Psychoanalytic Approach to the Problems of Impaired Infant-Mother Relationships. *Journal of American Academy Of Child Psychiatry*, 14 (3): 387-421. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsl.org].