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Year II, Winter II 2021

## MELANIE KLEIN AND THE NEO-KLEINIANS

Dates: Feb. 25, 2021;  
Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021;  
Apr. 1, 8, 15, 2021  
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Instructors: Holly Friedman Housman, LICSW and Richard Gomberg, MD**

### 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. 25): 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.

#### **Reading:**

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

#### **Suggested Readings:**

Ogden, T. H. (1983). The concept of internal object relations. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 64, 227-241. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

### **Session 2 (Mar. 4): Unconscious Phantasy**

**Learning Objective:** Describe unconscious phantasy as the psychic representative of drive that is linked both to internal objects and external reality.

#### **Reading:**

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

#### **Suggested Readings:**

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

Grosskurth, P. (1986). Warring women. In *Melanie Klein: Her world and her work* (pp. 310-333). Harvard University Press. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)].

### **Session 3 (Mar. 11): The Depressive Position**

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

#### **Reading:**

Klein, M. (1940). Mourning and its relation to manic-depressive states. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 21, 125-153. [PEP Web Link](#)

#### **Suggested Readings:**

Segal, H. (1989). The depressive position. In *Introduction to the work of Melanie Klein* (pp. 67-81). Karnac. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)].

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

### **Session 4 (Mar. 18): The Paranoid-Schizoid Position**

**Learning Objective:** Identify the constellation of primitive anxieties and defenses that constitute the paranoid-schizoid position.

#### **Reading:**

Klein, M. (1946). Notes on some schizoid mechanisms. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 27, 99-110. [PEP Web Link](#)

#### **Suggested Readings:**

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

Winnicott, D. W. (1945). Primitive emotional development. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 26, 137-143. [PEP Web Link](#)

### **Session 5 (Mar. 25): Early Precursors of the Oedipus Complex**

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

#### **Readings: (please note there are two readings this week)**

Segal, H. (1973). The early stages of the Oedipus complex. In *Introduction to the work of Melanie Klein* (pp. 103-116). Karnac. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)].

#### **Please also read only the "General Theoretical Summary" section (pages 26-33) in Klein's paper:**

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

#### **Suggested Reading:**

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

### **Session 6 (Apr. 1): Projective Identification**

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

#### **Reading:**

Feldman, M. (1997). Projective identification: The analyst's involvement. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 78, 227-241. [PEP Web Link](#)

#### **Suggested Readings:**

Hinshelwood, R. D. (1994). Projective identification. In *Clinical Klein: From theory to practice* (pp. 119-134). Basic Books. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from [library@bps.org](mailto:library@bps.org)].

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

### **Session 7 (Apr. 8): 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: (please note there are two readings this week)**

Joseph, B. (1985). Transference: The total situation. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 66, 447-454. [PEP Web Link](#)

Joseph, B. (2013). Here and now: My perspective. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 94(1), 1-5. [PEP Web Link](#)

#### **Suggested Reading:**

O'Shaughnessy, E. (1983). Words and working through. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 64, 281-289. [PEP Web Link](#)

## **Session 8 (Apr. 15): 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.

### **Reading:**

Greenberg, J. (2018). Klein's technique. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 99(4), 979-989. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto:library@bpsi.org)].

### **Suggested Readings:**

Hinshelwood, R. D. (1994). Epilogue to part III: The evolution of Kleinian technique. In *Clinical Klein: From theory to practice* (pp. 230-235). Basic Books. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from [library@bpsi.org](mailto: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). *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 92(5), 1117-1136. [PEP Web Link](#)