The Clinical Relevance of Developmental Theory
Fall - 2021

Instructors: M. Carole Drago, LICSW and Donna Mathias, MD

This seminar will survey psychological development from infancy to adolescence from a psychoanalytic perspective. We will begin and conclude with an overview of psychoanalytic theories of development from a contemporary vantage point. We will then explore Freud’s drive theory and principles of mental functioning. Next we will examine concepts of development including object relations, self-object differentiation, attachment, separation-individuation, and identity consolidation. We will consider how unresolved or incomplete negotiations of developmental tasks and/or stages may manifest in the course of adult treatment.

Week 1 - September 23: Introduction to Developmental Theory

Readings

Optional Reading

Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe three core elements of a contemporary developmental perspective that can be used in the analysis of the various psychoanalytic developmental theories.
Week 2 - September 30: Introduction to Freud’s Model of the Mind

Readings
1. Freud, S. (1911). Formulations on the two principles of mental functioning. The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud, volume XII (1911-1913): The case of Schreber, papers on technique and other works (pp. 213-226). PEP Web Link
3. Summary of Three Essays Handout - to be distributed by course instructors.

Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to explain Freud’s theory of psychosexual stages and how these reflect Freud’s thinking about fundamental human motivations.

Week 3 - October 7: No Such Thing as a Baby

Readings

Optional Readings

Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe how Winnicott theorized the role of maternal care in the development of the mind of the infant and articulate Klein alternate ideas.

Week 4 - October 14: The Infant’s Discovery of Self and Object

Readings

Optional Readings
Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe the impact of the infant-mother relationship on affect regulation and the organization of the self.

Week 5 - October 28: The Rooting of Attachment in the Body
Readings

Optional Reading

Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to describe attachment theory, the types of attachments that can exist in the dyad, and how these attachments are manifest in the psychic structure of the mind.

Week 6 - November 4: Separation/Individuation
Readings
2. Lyons-Ruth, K. (1991). Rapprochement or apprrochement: Mahler’s theory reconsidered from the vantage point of recent research on early attachment relationships. *Psychoanalytic Psychology, 8*(1), 1-23. PEP Web Link

Optional Reading

Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to compare and contrast Mahler’s theory of separation/individuation with Lyons-Ruth’s research on attachment and individuation.

Week 7 - November 11: The Oedipal Complex
Readings

Optional Readings
2. Lingiardi, V., & Carone, N. (2019). Challenging Oedipus in changing families: Gender identifications and access to origins in same-sex parent families created through third-party reproduction. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis, 100*(2), 229-246. [Download from the Reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org].
Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to explain Blanck’s understanding of the Oedipus complex and contrast it to Balsam’s.

Week 8 - November 18: Latency
Readings

Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to define the tasks of latency and articulate the role of fantasy in middle childhood.

Week 9 - December 2: Post-Oedipal Transformations
Readings
2. Steinberg, L., & Morris, A. S. (2001). Adolescent development. *Annual Review of Psychology, 52*, 83-110. [Download from the Reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org](http://library@bpsi.org)

Optional Reading

Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to define three tasks of adolescence and in what ways adolescent development offers a reworking of childhood conflicts.

Week 10 - December 9: Coming Full Circle: Where Are We Now?
Reading

Learning Objective
At the conclusion of this session students will be able to discuss the validity of a psychoanalytic development point of view.