



Bion: His Theory and its Clinical Implications

Instructors: Chris Lovett, PhD and Karen Roos, LICSW

1. September 23, 2021 Introduction

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will identify one essential characteristic of Bion's early period and one of his late period.

Bion, W. (1955) On Arrogance. *IJP*, 39:144-146. [PEP Web Link](#).

Ogden, T. (2004a) An introduction to the reading of Bion. *IJP*, 85: 285-300. [PEP Web Link](#).

2. September 30, 2021 Bion's Pre-psychoanalytic Experiences

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to explain how Bion's experience in war influenced his development of the concept of *alpha function* and the *apparatus for thinking*.

Bion, W. (1962) The Psychoanalytic Study of Thinking. *IJP*, 43:306-310. [PEP Web Link](#).

Recommended: **Angeloch, D.** (2021) The Experience of the First World War in Wilfred Bion's Autobiographical Writings. *PQ*, 90:7-48. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsi.org].

Recommended: **Bion, W.** (1997) *War Memoirs: 1917-1919*, F. Bion (Ed.) London: Karnac, pages 72-133. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsi.org].

3. October 7, 2021 Bion's Bedrock: Learning from Experience, part 1

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to define Bion's concepts of *alpha function*, *beta elements*, *contact barrier*, and *beta screen*.

Bion, W. (1962) *Learning from Experience*. In *Seven Servants*. NY: Jason Aronson, 1977. Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsi.org].

4. October 14, 2021 **Bion's Bedrock: Learning from Experience, part 2**

Learning Objective: At the end of this session, candidates will be able to make clinical use of Bion's concepts of *defective alpha function*, *bizarre objects*, *reversal of alpha function*, *emotional links*, *K and -K*.

Bion, W. (1962) *Learning from Experience*. In *Seven Servants*. NY: Jason Aronson, 1977. Chapters 10, 12, 14, 16, 27 and 28. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsl.org].

5. October 28, 2021 **Dreaming and Reverie**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to describe Bion's concept of *waking dream thought*.

Bion, W. (1962) *Learning from Experience*. In *Seven Servants*. NY: Jason Aronson, 1977. Chapter 7. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsl.org].

Ogden, T. (2003) On not being able to dream. *IJP*, 84: 17-30. [PEP Web Link](#).

Bion, W. (1959/1992) *Cogitations*, pages 43-69. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsl.org].

6. November 4, 2021 **Memory and Desire**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to explain Bion's injunction to abandon "memory and desire" in psychoanalytic listening.

Bion, W. (1967) Notes on memory and desire. In Joseph Aguayo and Barnet Malin (Eds.) *Wilfred Bion: Los Angeles Seminars and Supervision*. London: Karnac, 2013. Appendix, pages 133- 149. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsl.org].

Ogden, T. (2015) Intuiting the truth of what's happening: On Bion's "Notes on Memory and Desire." *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. 84: 285-306. [PEP Web Link](#).

7. November 11, 2021 **Late Bion: Receptivity to the unknown; emotional turbulence, transformation, and growth**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this seminar, candidates will be able to identify elements of the analyst's internal setting that permit relinquishing saturated ideas, support opening oneself up to the *emotional turbulence* in the here and now of the session, and lead to transformation and growth in the patient.

Bion, W. (1997) *Taming Wild Thoughts*. London: Karnac, pages 27-51. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsl.org].

Bion, W. (1976) Emotional turbulence. In *Clinical Seminars and Other Works*. London: Karnac, 1994. Pages 295-305. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsl.org].

8. November 18, 2021 **Transformations in O**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, candidates will be able to compare “early Bion” with “late Bion” through their discussion of Bion’s theoretical and technical movement from transformations in K to transformations in O.

Bion, W. (1970) *Attention and Interpretation*. London: Heinemann, pages 62-82. Chapters 6 “The Mystic and the Group” and 7 “Container-Contained.” In *Seven Servants*. NY: Jason Aronson, 1977. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsl.org].

Bergstein, Avner. (2018) The Psychotic Part of the Mind: Bion’s Expeditions into Unmapped Mental Life. *JAPA*, 66(2), 193-220. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsl.org].