



The Patient's Psychic Trajectory

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Welcome to our clinical seminar. We're very pleased to have the opportunity to think together about our psychoanalytic work. Our focus will be on examining the unconscious fantasies, anxieties and internal conflicts that keep our patients in their cycles of pain, misery, and failure and lead them to seek psychoanalysis or psychoanalytic psychotherapy. What drives them? What makes them feel stuck in their lives? In our first class, Cordelia Schmidt-Hellerau will present, via power point, a "crash course on metapsychology" with a particular focus on her revised drive theory (preservative- and sexual drives, aggression and structure formation). Over the next 7 classes, we will invite you to discuss case material, reflections and countertransference ideas and feelings along with process notes from a session or two, so that we can together consider the potential organizing fantasies at the heart of your patients' psychological challenges.

For our first class, on December 2, 2021, please read the Introduction to Schmidt-Hellerau, C. (2018) *Driven to Survive. Selected Papers on Psychoanalysis*, IPBooks New York, pp. 7 – 15. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bps.org].