

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOANALYSIS

LUMINARIES OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

Weekend Psychoanalytic Training Program 2020-2021

Instructor: Ginna Clark, Psy.D.; clark.ginna@gmail.com

Time: Saturdays 2:30pm – 5:00pm Pacific Time

Dates: September 12, 2020; October 24, 2020; December 5, 2020; January 30, 2021; March 20, 2021; May 1, 2021

Total Hours: 2.5 hours x 6 meetings = 15 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Six prominent contemporary psychoanalytic theorists will present a range of ideas, discuss developments in their analytic thinking, and discuss cases with students. This course will allow students to interact directly with each theorist, who will present for 75 minutes. After each speaker has completed his or her presentation, the class will discuss their reactions with the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Session #1:

1. Evaluate Ehrenberg's claim that working at the "intimate edge" "makes it possible for anxieties, feelings, and fears about contact to be identified and addressed, rather than smoothed over and obscured."
2. Assess the possible pitfalls of working at the intimate edge.

Session #2:

3. Describe the enigmatic and the pragmatic aspects of sexuality.
4. Evaluate the ways trauma represses sexuality.

Session #3:

5. Explain how empirical infant research furthers our understanding of human development.
6. Assess the claim that infants and their caretakers co-regulate their affective relationship.

Session #4:

7. Explain how specificity theory challenges traditional psychoanalytic understandings of the analytic frame.
8. Evaluate Bacal's claim that specificity theory is a process theory rather than a content theory.

Session #5:

9. Explain how the creation of an analytic third enables movement through a treatment impasse.
10. Delineate the ways in which Benjamin's definition of intersubjectivity differs from that of Bob Stolorow's.

Session #6:

11. Define what Donnel Stern means by unformulated experience.
12. Elucidate how the goal of treatment should be the achievement of internal conflict over dissociative enactment.

READINGS:

All of the articles, if not provided by the speaker, below may be downloaded from the PEP Web

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SESSION BY SESSION

SESSION 1: 9/12/2020

Speaker: Darlene Ehrenberg

The focus of Ehrenberg's presentation will be on how to "open" complex moments up - this is different from the analyst as "interpreter" -rather it would be how to begin to render explicit what may feel most elusive or mysterious at any given moment - and to be able to do so in a way that is collaborative and allows for clarifying the kind of collusion that may be in play when a patient may want the analyst to provide answers and the analyst wants to be able to provide "interpretations," rather than exploring the pulls for this, or for other forms of collusion and enactment, from both sides. This way of working, if done with great sensitivity, can bring the work alive and allow for a level of analytic work that often is not even realized as possible.

Readings:

Ehrenberg, D., Working at the Intimate Edge, Contemporary Psychoanalysis, 2010, Vol. 46, No. 1, pp. 120-101

Ehrenberg, D., The Intimate Edge in Therapeutic Relatedness, Contemporary Psychoanalysis, 1974, 10: 423-437.

Ehrenberg, D., Self Disclosure: Therapeutic Tool or Indulgence?: Countertransference Disclosure. Contemporary Psychoanalysis, Vol. 3, #2, April 1995, pp. 213-228.

Ehrenberg, D., Afterword re: The intimate edge in therapeutic relatedness, Contemporary Psychoanalysis, 10: 423-437 (1974)

Ehrenberg, D., Potential Impasse as Analytic Opportunity: interactive Considerations, Contemporary Psychoanalysis, Volume 36, Number 4, 2000, pp. 573-586

Gerhardt, J., Sweetnam, A., Borton, L., Reply by Darlene Ehrenberg to The Intersubjective Turn in Psychoanalysis: A Comparison of Three Contemporary Psychoanalytic Theorists: Part III: The Voice of Ehrenberg. Psychoanalytic Dialogues, 13: 579-603 (2003)

Recommended:

Ehrenberg, D. The Intimate Edge: Extending the Reach of Psychoanalytic Interaction (1992)

Session 2: October 24, 2020

Galit Atlas

Atlas will discuss trauma and erotic repression.

Readings:

Atlas, G. (2016). The Enigma of Desire: Sex, Longing and Belonging in Psychoanalysis. NY: Routledge. Chapters 1, 2, 3.

SESSION 3: 12/5/2020

Beatrice Beebe

Beebe will discuss the contributions of microanalysis to infant research and adult treatment.

Readings:

TBD

SESSION 4: 1/30/2021

Howard Bacal

Bacal will present on his Specificity Theory and will invite students to present clinical material to which this theory may apply.

Readings:

The Power of Specificity in Psychotherapy: When Therapy Works - And When It Doesn't.
Rowman & Littlefield 2014. (paperback or Kindle).

Chapter 1 - The Need for a New Theory of Therapy (pp. 1-6)

Chapter 2 - The Use of Theory in Psychoanalytic Practice (pp. 7-13)

Chapter 3 - How Specificity Theory Changes Clinical Practice (pp. 15-29)

Chapter 6 - The Foundational Perspectives of Specificity Theory (pp. 59-70)

Chapter 7 - Clinical Consequences of the Shift from the Universality of Structure to the Specificity of Process (pp. 71-87).

Chapter 8 - How Specificity Theory Alters Our View of Psychoanalytic Concepts and Principles and How This Affects Therapeutic Action (pp. 89-116)

Optional:

Chapter 4 - The Neurobiological Substrate of Specificity Theory (pp. 31-39)

Chapter 10 - The Power of Specificity in the Process of Supervision (pp. 127-149).

SESSION 5: 3/20/2021

Jessica Benjamin

TBD

SESSION 6: 5/1/2021

Donnel Stern

Stern will discuss his work on unformulated experience, dissociation, enactment, and witnessing.

Readings:

(1983) Unformulated experience: From familiar chaos to creative disorder. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 19, 71-99.

(2004). The eye sees itself: Dissociation, enactment, and the achievement of conflict. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 40, 197-237.

(2009) Partners in thought: A clinical process theory of narrative. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 78: 101-131.

(2013). Relational freedom and therapeutic action. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 61: 227-255.