**Vermont Psychoanalytic Study Group (VPSG)**

**A Study Group of the International Psychoanalytic Association**

**One-Year Psychoanalytic Seminar Series (OYPSS) 2019-2020**

Main Street Landing, Burlington, Vermont

This year we will be offering 7 distinct seminars. Each seminar will run for 3 sessions from 7:00- 8:30 on Wednesday evenings (with one exception).

Cost per seminar is 170.00.

CEUs will be offered for social workers, mental health counsellors and psychologists.

Please e- mail your choices, in order of preference, to Mika Barker Hart at [mikavt@gmail.com](mailto:mikavt@gmail.com) and send your deposit ($100.00) to our treasurer: Johanna Boyce, 35 Main St Burlington, VT 05401. E-mail and deposit must be received by **Friday August 16th**. You will be billed for the remainder of your balance once assignments have been finalized. When sending in your deposit, please indicate the billing address to which you would like your final bill to be sent.

Space is limited and will be assigned by lottery.

**Seminar 1.**

Please note that this seminar will be held on **Thursdays**

Oct 10, Oct 24 and Nov 7

Mika Barker-Hart and Susan Alnaswari

The Classroom

Class limit 8-10

Transference, Countertransference and Change

Our work confronts us deeply and directly with the internal world of our patients. Through the transference, we are actively shown (rather than told) our patient’s histories, fantasies, desires and conflicts. Working with these internal forces as they are lived through the transference sometimes causes us to feel enormous pressure. How do we understand and use these feelings to further the growth of our patients (and ourselves)? And what do we even mean when we describe a patient as growing?

Through readings, and discussions of our own cases, we will examine the effect of transference and countertransference on what we do in session (do we interpret? remain silent? act?) and the ways in which in any given session these interventions may serve to facilitate or impede change.

**Seminar 2:**

Nov 13, Nov 20 and Dec 11

Teresa Meyer and Johanna Boyce

The Gallery

Class limit 8

The Art of Psychoanalytic Listening.

This seminar will examine the art of psychoanalytic listening. Through pivotal papers by analysts Betty Joseph, Haydee Faimberg and Thomas Ogden we will examine the complex ways analysts listen: to the fate of their interpretations (Faimberg); to process with an ear to transference as living experience (Joseph) and with an ear to their own reverie as it may help to identify what is most alive in the process (Ogden).

**Seminar 3.**

Jan 8, Jan 22 and Feb 12

Johanna Boyce and Betsy Sprague

The Classroom

Class limit 8

Thinking about The Third

The Third is a significant psychoanalytic concept with several vertices.  To think about The Third is to open the space between two positions (the parent-child, psychoanalyst-patient, patient within him/herself, psychoanalyst within him/herself), thus giving rise to wider perspective both in intra and inter-personal experience.

 Some concepts to be explored in this seminar: tracing The Third position’s origins in Freud’s Oedipal Complex, discovering contemporary theories which have expanded the Oedipal and discussing Ogden’s intersubjective “analytic third”, a co-creation uniquely formed by the analytic couple.

**Seminar 4.**

Jan 8, Jan 22 and Feb 12

Mina Levinsky-Wohl

The Gallery.

Is there a sibling complex?

In these three seminars, we will explore the configuration and specificity of the sibling complex and what distinguishes it from the Oedipus complex. We will explore Freud's contributions to the study of siblings, the sibling complex in structuring the individual psychic life as well as social life, manifestations of envy and jealousy as part of the sibling complex and how it translates to conflicts in groups and institutions.

Highlighting the importance of the sibling complex does not diminish the importance of the Oedipal complex. The interconnections of the Oedipal (vertical axis) and fraternal complexes (horizontal axis) will be examined.

We will review how authors from different psychoanalytic traditions converge and differ in their way of studying the sibling complex.

**Seminar 5.**

March 11, March 25 and April 8th

Emma Burrous

The Classroom

Class limit 8-10

Lacan, Laplanche, and Green:  An Intro to French Psychoanalytic Theory and Technique

Please join me in an introductory exploration of the work of three prominent French psychoanalysts.  Via their work, we will not only hear psychoanalytic theory (and Freud) anew, but we will consider psychoanalytic stance and technique born out of their provocative theoretical insights.  Vive la psychanalyse!

**Seminar 6.**

April 22, April 29 and May 13.

Sharon Dennett

The Classroom

Class limit 8

Introduction to the work of Wilfred Bion: Contributions to the field of Psychoanalysis

The enduring influence of Bion’s work is demonstrated in the many citations in contemporary psychoanalytic writing and in the many on-going study groups and conferences around the analytic world. His concepts offer a beacon of inspiration to clinicians from across cultures in the heavy-duty project of psychoanalytic and psychodynamic clinical work. Beyond that, his theorizing about the human condition, the way the mind and psyche operate, the significance of group processes to developing a mind are applicable not only in the consulting room but within human organizations of all types.

We will read both Bion and contemporary analysts working with Bion’s concepts to better understand his contributions. We will concentrate on three areas of his work:

1. Learning from emotional experience: L, H and K, Bion’s theory of thinking, thought and emotional experience.
2. Bion’s contributions to group phenomenon and the study of groups: differentiation of work group function from basic assumption group functions.
3. The implications of Bion’s theory to contemporary clinical work: Container/Contained, Contact Barrier, Saturated Words, Selected Fact or Overvalued Idea, Transformations and Negative Capability.

Bion seemed to understand that we must try to convey our experience, as analysts and colleagues but also as human beings. Ordinary language struggles to capture the internal experience and the language of emotions needs to find representation before it can be expressed conceptually. The analyst must understand that the thought is waiting for a thinker to think them, the emotions for a way to express themselves and that the consulting room becomes a place where that project can be restarted.  
Our project of encountering Bion’s thoughts will hopefully start a curiosity in his work as well as be stimulating for your own current clinical work.

Limit of 8 participants.

**Seminar 7.**

May 20, May 27 and June 10th

Mika Barker Hart

The Classroom

Class limit 8-10

Note: This is NOT a repeat or a continuation of the fall seminar and can be taken in concert with the fall seminar or independently. (The readings will **not** repeat from the fall.)

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