

One-Year Psychoanalytic Seminar Series 2021-2022

Classic Papers Seminar

Thursdays: Oct 14; Nov 11; Dec 9

For each of three seminars, our seminar faculty will choose a classic paper for its clinical relevance, its theoretical staying power and its ability to bring new meaning to each reading.

Psychoanalysis, like all disciplines, stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Paradigm shifts are captured by certain papers, and we often do not realize their importance until some years have passed.

These papers, following on Freud's work, have moved the field, step by step, and occasionally leap by leap, into the new territory that we now occupy as contemporary psychoanalysts. They provide the bridge from the foundational papers of Freud to the contemporary papers of the past twenty years. In order to understand the contemporary psychoanalytic oeuvre, it is necessary to study both Freud's foundational work and the classical papers that both moved his ideas forward and further elaborated his thinking.

SEMINAR COORDINATOR: Sharon Dennett

October 14: Sharon Dennett
November 11: Betsy Sprague
December 9: Emma Burrous

Deconstructing and Reconstructing the Concept of Enactment: What Can Be Going on in the Consulting Room

Thursdays: Jan 6; Jan 20; February 3

This series of three sessions has developed from the discussion and explorations during last year's course: *"When Things Go Awry in the Consulting Room: Enactments, Negative Therapeutic Reaction, and Impasses."* Both new participants to this concept, as well as those who have taken the initial class will be interested in the new readings and continued exploration into the "non-dreaming" (R. Cassorla, 2018) - an examination that makes up an enactment in which the therapist/patient cannot dream and is paralyzed without perceiving it.

Mina Levinsky-Wohl and Betsy Sprague

What Happens in Psychoanalysis: A Preliminary Review of Basic Psychoanalytic Theories and Practice

Thursdays: February 10 & 24; March 10

Drawing on participants' experiences and interests, we will work to articulate how psychoanalytic perspectives transform clinical work. Topics to be considered include the

dynamic unconscious, transference/countertransference, and the development of intra and inter-psychic reality. We hope to demonstrate how some principals of psychoanalytic technique (free association, use of the frame, neutrality/asymmetry) make use of and expand Freud's original theories.

This seminar is offered for therapists new to psychoanalytic concepts and for those who want to deepen their understanding of how basic analytic theories are actualized in clinical work.

Johanna Boyce and Matthew von Unwerth

Time, Sexuality, and Ethics: Encountering the Actual Unconscious and Psychoanalysis Through the Work of Dominique Scarfone

Wednesdays: March 9 & 23; April 13

Dominique Scarfone's thinking and writing about the unconscious and psychoanalysis offers previously untraveled paths and striking new vistas in the vast landscape of Freud's heritage. Please join me for an introductory exploration of the work of one of our great contemporary psychoanalytic thinkers. We will investigate his ideas of the actual (l'actuel) and the unpast, among others, and use them to enliven our own theoretical stances and clinical experiences.

Emma Burrous

Curative Factors in Psychoanalytic Work

Thursdays: April 28; May 12

Psychoanalytic theories differ widely in their ideas about therapeutic action and technique. Most emphasize actions and techniques related to interpretation and/or to the therapeutic relationship. But the theories differ in their suggested primary focus (transference, conflicts and resistances, deep unconscious fantasies). They also diverge in their views on what makes interpretation effective. Is it because it leads to insight or because it conveys the presence of an object who is listening?

How have these theories evolved over time? How do they shift when faced with varying levels of functioning (for example primitive states of mind)? What can be drawn from these theories to inform the actions and techniques of our own practices?

In this seminar we will examine these (and many other) questions from multiple perspectives as we discuss what is curative in psychoanalytic work.

Mika Barker-Hart