

Seattle Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
Year Four Adult Psychoanalytic Training Program
Second Trimester 2019-20

Neuropsychanalysis

Facilitator: Maxine Anderson, MD
Fridays, 1:45 to 3:15pm
Dec 6 & 13, 2019; Jan 17, 24, & 31, 2020

This course will focus primarily on the recent work of Mark Solms, and his perhaps paradigm-shifting view that the Id is Conscious and the Ego is Unconscious. It took me months to understand this pivotal paper available on PEP "The Conscious Id" *Neuropsychanalysis* (2013) which then became the basis for a chapter in my book *The Wisdom of Lived Experience* (2016) Karnac.

In this brief course, then, we will attempt in the first 2 weeks to study Solms' pivotal work, first by reading that chapter of mine (to be distributed), which I hope presents his (and related others') ideas in a somewhat digested form. The 3 subsequent weeks we will try to tackle Solms' article "The Conscious Id" (2013), in hopes of gaining greater depth; again, that article is in the journal *Neuropsychanalysis* available, of course, on PEP. Out of interest, there are several discussion articles related to Solms' article "The Conscious Id," immediately following his article in the relevant issue of *Neuropsychanalysis*

A bonus paper by Mark Solms will be handed out at the beginning of the course. Mark's breadth of understanding of psychoanalysis (he also recently re-translated the *Standard Edition*) is illustrated in a paper "The Scientific Standing of Psychoanalysis". It may enrich our discussions.

Learning Objectives: by the end of the course the participant will have clarity about

1. Mark Solms' paradigm shift regarding the primacy of consciousness vs the century-long assumptions of consciousness residing in the cerebral cortex?
2. How Solms' revision impacts current understandings about psychoanalytic process and technique?
3. The concepts of 'free' and 'bound energy' in terms of affective and cognitive consciousness
4. The contributions of the left and the right hemispheres to 'lived experience.'

December 6.

Pages 1-12, of Chapter 2: "Neuroscience emphasizes on Lived Experience". (to be distributed). Following are the sections of the chapter.

- Schore, Feinberg, Salas, and Turnbull on the primacy of the right hemisphere
- Solms: the Right Hemisphere and Whole Object Relatedness
- Solms: affect precedes and empowers all cognition and the cerebral cortex is unconscious while the brainstem is both conscious and intentional – paradigm shift.

December 13.

Pages 12-20 of Chapter 2: "Neuroscience emphasizes on Lived Experience."

- Friston: unconscious inference counters destabilizing surprise
- Jill Bolte Taylor: a personal experience of left-hemispheric stroke

More complete biblio for Dec 6 and Dec 13 (but not to be covered in these seminars)

- Bolte Taylor, J. (2008) *My stroke of Insight*. London: Hodder and Stoughton.
- Bolte Taylor, J. (2008) My stroke of insight. February 2008. TED Talk.
https://www.ted.com/talks/jill_bolte_taylor_s_powerful_stroke_of_insight
- Carhart-Harris, R., & Friston, K. (2010) The default-mode, ego functions and free energy: a neurobiological account of Freudian ideas. *Brain*, 133 (4): 1265-1283.
- Friston, K. (2010) The free-energy principle: a unified brain theory? *Nature Reviews. Neuroscience*, 11: 127-138.

January 17

"The Conscious Id". Sections 1-5, pp 5-12 in the journal *Neuropsychanalysis* (2013) (PEP-Web)

1. Neuroanatomical Representations of the Body
2. Metapsychological Representations of the Body
3. The Corticocentric Fallacy
4. Consciousness without Cortex
5. All Consciousness is Endogenous

January 24

"The Conscious Id". Sections 6-11, pp 12-18 (PEP-Web)

6. Mental Solids
7. A Surprise
8. Words and Things
9. The Reflexive Ego, the Superego
10. If the Id is Conscious...
11. The Deepest Insight

January 31

Integrative Discussion of both articles

Course evaluation