

Seattle Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
Year Two Adult Psychoanalytic Training Program
Third Trimester 2017-18: March 30, 2017 – June 8, 2018, 3:30 to 5:00pm
Psychopathology II: Borderline States
Instructor: Michael Pauly, MD & Maureen Pendras, MSW

Hello, and welcome to Psychopathology II: Borderline States. We have chosen to organize this course around the difficult to metabolize affects and intense transference - countertransference phenomena that arise when working with patients organized predominantly at the borderline level.

Early analysts emphasized the fixed character structure of such “primitive” patients. It is our opinion that this fixed view is reductionistic and less clinically useful than a more flexible view whereby structures and defenses and emergent clinical phenomena are thought to be greatly influenced by the framing, containing, and holding capacities of the analytic situation and person of the analyst.

We will approach the affect-laden enveloping quality of the work with a focus on the clinical manifestations of this psychopathology spectrum. This is rich, intricate, challenging, and at times uncomfortable work. Unbearable discomfort can lead to empathic failure and collapses of the space for thought on both sides of the relationship. We emphasize how the analyst is affected by such patients, the various means by which disturbing experience is transmitted, and how these processes are a ubiquitous, inevitable, and potentially useful/repairative part of the analytic process.

It is our experience that immersing oneself in the literature relevant to this psychopathology spectrum can lead to similar disorganizing affective states arising in the reader accompanied by a reactive wish for a clearer more durable way of conceptualizing and organizing the material; a wish for more clarity where entropic disorganization often reigns. It is our hope that as a group we can cultivate the space to together metabolize the fragments and integrate the experience into a good enough whole. We hope you can enjoy and benefit from the affective ride.

Learning Objectives:

- The clinical associate, as a result of gaining greater knowledge of the hypothesized etiologies of borderline level character disorder, will have a greater capacity to understand, empathize, and connect interpersonally with this clinical population, and thereby improve the odds of the treatment retention necessary for a positive clinical outcome.
- The clinical associate, as a result of gaining a greater understanding of and capacity to work with the intense transference-countertransference phenomena that develop when working with this population, will have an increased ability to assist their patient in reflecting on these phenomena, and thereby improve the odds of a positive clinical outcome.
- The clinical associate, as a result of gaining a greater capacity to work with collapses in reflective functioning under the weight of unbearable affect, will become more capable of assisting this population in such a way that they are better able to tolerate, regulate, and reflect on their affect states and associated triggers, thereby improving their defensive structures, self-understanding, interpersonal relationships, and overall life functioning.

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Class 1, March 30th

Etiology

- Fonagy, P. (2000) "Attachment and Borderline Personality Disorder" *JAPA* 48/4: 1129-1146 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Mancia, M. (2006) "Implicit Memory and Early Unrepressed Unconscious: Their role in the Therapeutic Unconscious" *IJP* 87: 83-103 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

Class 2, April 6th

Etiology (continued)

- Winnicott, D.W. (1974) "Fear of Breakdown" *International Review of PSA*, 1: 103-107 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Ogden, T.H. (2014) "Fear of Breakdown and the Unlived Life" *IJP* 95:205-223 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

Class 3, April 13th

Conceptualization / Treatment Implications

- Robbins, Michael (1996) "The Mental Organization of Primitive Personalities and its Treatment Implications" *JAPA* 44/3: 755-784 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Socarides, DD. Stolorow, R.D. (1984) "Affects and Selfobjects" *Ann. Psychoanal.*, 12:105-119 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

Class 4, April 20th

Trauma

- McDougall, J. (1978) "Primitive Communication and the Use of Countertransference-Reflections on Early Psychic Trauma and its Transference Effects" *Contemp. Psychoanal.*, 14:173-209 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Tuch, R.H. (2007) "Thinking with, and About, Patients too Scared to Think" *IJP.*, 88:91-111. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

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Class 5, April 27th
Trauma (continued)

- Bromberg, P (2003) "One need not be a house to be haunted: a case study" *Psychol. Dial.* 13: 689-709. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Brown, L (2006) "Julie's Museum: The evolution of thinking, dreaming and historicization in the treatment of traumatized patients" *IJP.*, 87, 1569-1585. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

Class 6, May 4th
Reflective Collapse and Relationship to Violence and Suicide

- Fonagy, P and Target, M. (1995) "Understanding The Violent Patient: The Use of The Body And The Role Of The Father" *IJP.* 76:487-501. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Maltzberger (2004) "The Decent Into Suicide" *IJP.*, 85:653-667 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

Class 7, May 11th
Hatred and Destruction and a Movement towards the New

- Winnicott, D.W. (1969) "The Use of an Object" *IJP.*, 50:711-716. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- White (2002) "Surviving Hatred and Being Hated: Some Personal Thoughts About Racism from a Psychoanalytic Perspective" *Contemp Psychoanalysis*, 38(3): 401-422 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Geist, RA (2011) "The Forward Edge, Connectedness, and the Therapeutic Process" *IJP. Self Psychol.*, 6(2):235-251 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

Class 8, May 18th
Narcissistic Vulnerability

- Bateman, A. (1998) "Thick-Skinned Organizations and Enactment in Borderline and Narcissistic Disorders" *IJP* 79:13-25. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Steiner, J. (1994) "Patient-Centered and Analyst-Centered Interpretations: Some Implications of Containment and Countertransference" *Psychoanal. Inq.*, 14:406-422. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Blechner, MJ (2009) "Erotic and Antierotic Transference" *Contemp. Psychoanal.* 45(1):82-92 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

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Class 9, May 25th

Hysteria / Psychosomatic States

- Weinreb A (2010) "Healing the Split Between Body and Mind: Structural and Developmental Aspects of Psychosomatic Illness" *PsychoA. Inquiry*. 30(5):430-444 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Kohutis EA (2010) "Concreteness, Metaphor, and Psychosomatic Disorders: Bridging the Gap" *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 30(5)416-429 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

Class 10, June 1st

Perverse Mechanisms

- Bach, Sheldon. (1994) "The Language of Perversion and The Language of Love" London: Aronson. Chapter 1: 3-25. (To be provided.)
- Akhtar S (1996) "Someday..." and "If Only..." Fantasies: Pathological Optimism and Inordinate Nostalgia as Related Forms of Idealization" *JAPA.*, 44: 723-753 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

Class 11, June 8th

Perverse Mechanisms (continued)

- Nos, J.P. (2014) "Collusive Induction in Perverse Relating: Perverse Enactments and Bastions as a Camouflage for Death Anxiety" *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 95:291-311. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Tuch, R. (2010) "Murder on the Mind: Tyrannical Power and other Points Along the Perverse Spectrum" *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 91:141-162. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)

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Considerations For Further Reading:

- Briggs et al (2012) "Suicide and Trauma: A Case Discussion" *Psychotherapy*, 26:13-33 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Kernberg, O. (2003) "The Management of Affect Storms in the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy of Borderline Patients" *JAPA* 51/2: 517-545 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Frosch, Allan (2012) "Absolute Truth and Unbearable Psychic Pain: Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Concrete Experience" London: Karnac. Introduction. Pages xix – xxiv.
- Britton R (2004) "Subjectivity, Objectivity, and Triangular Space." *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. 2004 Jan; 73(1): 47-61. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Kernberg O (1985) "The Subjective Experience of Emptiness" *Borderline Conditions and Pathological Narcissism*. Jason Aronson (213-224). Not available on Pep-Web. (To be provided.)
- Anderson, M.K. (1999) "The Pressure Toward Enactment and the Hatred of Reality" *J. Amer. Psychoanal. Assn.*, 47:503-518. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Anderson, M. (2012) "Concreteness, reflective thought and the emissary function of the dream." *Absolute Truth and Unbearable Psychic Pain: Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Concrete Experience*. A Frosch, ed. London: Karnac. Chapter 1, pp.1-16. (Not available on Pep-web. To be provided).
- Ghent, E. (1990) "Masochism, Submission, Surrender—Masochism as a perversion of surrender" *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* 26: 108-136. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Coen, S.J. (2005) "How to Play with Patients Who Would Rather Remain Remote" *J. Amer. Psychoanal. Assn.*, 53:811-834. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Stein, R. (2005). Why perversion?: 'False love' and the perverse pact. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 86(3):775-799. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- McDougall, J. (1980) "A Child is Being Eaten—I: Psychosomatic States, Anxiety Neurosis and Hysteria—a Theoretical Approach II: The Abysmal Mother and the Cork Child – A Clinical Illustration" *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 16: 417-459. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Gabbard, G.O. (1991) "Technical Approaches to Transference Hate in the Analysis of Borderline Patients" *IJP.*, 72:625-636. [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)
- Eaton, JL (2005) "The Obstructive Object" *Psycho. Review*, 92(3): 355-372 [\[PEP-Web link\]](#)