



**The New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis**  
**# F201 - Transference**  
**Via Zoom**

Fall 2023  
Instructor: Wilda Mesias, PhD

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**Course description:** Transference in the context of the psychoanalytic encounter has been broadly defined as the displacement of feelings, behaviors, thoughts, and desires originally experienced in relation to significant figures from childhood/the past onto the analyst. This course explores the evolution of the concept from its classical roots to contemporary perspectives on it. It will emphasize transference's recognition, its development in the context of the psychoanalytic relationship, its purpose, how it can further analysis or present itself as a resistance, and its analysis.

**Course purpose:** Using as a point of departure Freud's notion of transference, we will trace the development of this concept, taking into consideration ego psychology, object relations, self psychology, relational, and intersubjective perspectives.

**Course objectives:**

At the end of this course candidates will be able to:

- 1) To define the concepts of transference, transference neurosis, erotic transference, and transference resistance.
- 2) To analyze transference in light of the therapeutic and working alliances and how it presents in specific situations.
- 3) To describe how transference presents during treatment and how to approach its analysis.
- 4) To evaluate how transference has been re-conceptualized within recent psychoanalytic discourse.
- 5) To explain transference in reference to intersectionality and to list some of the contributions of neuroscience to the field of psychoanalysis.

**Course requirements:** A four-to six-page final paper that highlights your understanding and application of the concept. **Paper is due on the last day of class (no exceptions).**

**Course etiquette and confidentiality:** Given that we will be having our class discussions on Zoom, it is critical that we all be respectful and mindful of one another's time and space. As such, please keep your cameras on and mute yourselves while others are presenting their thoughts. Additionally, because our case discussions and other discussions may feature confidential clinical information (or other sensitive information not to be disclosed outside of

the learning environment), it is imperative that you **(1) find a place in which to log in to the class that is private and in which you and others cannot be overheard and (2) refrain from discussion of the above-mentioned confidential or sensitive information outside of our class time.**

**Readings and material:** All of the readings required for the course will be found on a Dropbox folder I will make available to all of you.

### **Class and Reading List:**

**Class I: Freud on Transference.** Our course will begin with Freud's conceptualization of transference. We will consider some of his ideas looking at such cases as "Dora" and the "Rat Man."

#### **Required Readings:**

- Freud, S. (1905). Fragment of an analysis of a case of hysteria. *Standard Edition*, 7, 112-122.
- Freud, S. (1912). The dynamics of transference. *Standard Edition*, 12, 99-108.
- Freud, S. (1914). Remembering, repeating, and working through. *Standard Edition*, 12, 145-157.
- Diercks, M. (2018). Freud's 'transference': Clinical technique in the 'Rat Man' case and theoretical conceptualization compared. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 99(1), 58-81.

#### **Optional Reading:**

- Freud, S. (1909). Notes upon a case of obsessional neurosis. *Standard Edition*, 10, 151-318.
- Ackerman, S. (2020). A diagnosis for psychoanalysis in the 21st Century: Freud as medicine. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 89, 667-668.

**Class II: The elaboration of Freud's ideas on transference.** We will see the concept of transference undergo further elaboration. Perspectives offered by Ferenczi and Klein will be considered.

#### **Required Readings:**

- Ferenczi, S. (1916). Introjection and transference. In R.G. Badger (Eds.), *Contributions to psycho-analysis* (Ernest Jones, Trans.) (pp. 30-79). (Original work published 1909)

- Klein, M. (1952). The origins of transference. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 33, 433-438.
- Borgogno, F. (2019). Sándor Ferenczi, a classical and contemporary psychoanalyst: With particular reference to transference and countertransference. *American Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 79(4), 453-467.
- Gaitini, M. (2021). “A Dress of Fire”: Reading Sándor Ferenczi’s clinical diary. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 108, 291-314.
- Cohen, E. (2017). The “Method of Game”: Sándor Ferenczi and his patient Dm./Clara Thompson. *American Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 77, 295-312.

**Class III: Transference, working alliance, therapeutic alliance, and transference neurosis.** We will analyze and explore concepts such as working alliance, therapeutic alliance, and transference neurosis. We will evaluate the nature of therapeutic action with respect to transference.

**Required Readings:**

- Brenner, C. (1979). Working alliance, therapeutic alliance and transference. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 27 (S), 137-15.
- Greenson, R. (1965). The working alliance and the transference neurosis. *Psychoanalytical Quarterly*, 34, 155-181.
- Abend, S. (2017). Freud, transference and therapeutic action. *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 78, 871-892.
- Békés, V. & Hoffman, L. (2020). The “Something More” than working alliance: Authentic relational moments. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 68, 1051-1064.

**Optional Readings:**

- Strachey, J. (1934). The nature of the therapeutic action of psychoanalysis. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 15, 127-159.

**Class IV: Analysis of transference.** We will explore transference from other post-Freudian perspectives. We will discuss the analysis of transference.

**Required Readings:**

- Winnicott, D. W. (1969). The use of an object. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 50, 711-716.

- Loewald, H. W. (1971). Transference neurosis. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytical Association*, 19, 54-66.
- Bird, B. (1972). Notes on transference: Universal phenomenon and hardest part of analysis: *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 20, 267-301.
- Caldwell, L. (2022). A discussion of three versions of Donald Winnicott's "Transitional Objects and Transitional Phenomena", 1951-1971. *British Journal of Psychotherapy*, 38, 42-60.
- Anzieu, D. (2021). Psychoanalysis still. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 102, 109-116.

### **Optional Readings:**

- Abram, J. (2021). On Winnicott's concept of trauma. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 102, 778-793.
- Eekhoff, J. K. (2015). The silent transference: Clinical reflections on Ferenczi, Klein, and Bion. *Canadian Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 23(1), 57-73.

**Class V: Transference love and erotic transference.** We will critically evaluate the notions of transference love and erotic transference from classical and contemporary perspectives.

### **Required Readings:**

- Freud, S. (1915). Observations of transference-love. *Standard Edition*, 12, 147-156.
- Morris, H. (2016). The analyst's offer. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 64, 1173-1187.
- Barratt, B. B. (2021). Notes on free-associative listening: "I Am Also a Stranger Here". *Psychoanalytic Review*, 108, 251-275.
- Knafo, D. (2020). The sexual illusionist. *Psychoanalytic Perspectives*, 17, 13-30.

### **Optional Readings:**

- Gabbard, G. O. (1984). On love and lust in erotic transference. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 42, 385-403.
- Blatman, H. M. (2015). Three analysts on Freud's "Observations on Transference-Love". *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 63, 977-990.

**Class VI: Transference in specific situations.** We will consider the concept of transference in the context of situations frequently encountered in the treatment of certain disorders (e.g.,

character disorders).

### **Required Readings:**

- Gabbard, G. (1991). Technical approaches to transference hate in analysis of borderline patients. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 72, 625-637.
- Ornstein, A. (1990). Chapter 5: Self-object transferences and the process of working through. *Progress in Self Psychology*, 6, 41-58.
- Carsky, M. (2020). How treatment arrangements enhance transference analysis in transference-focused psychotherapy. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 37, 335-343.
- Aibel, M. (2021). The sleepy analyst struggles to awaken: Dissociation, enactment, regression and altered states with trauma patients. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 57, 54-84.
- Diamond, D., Yeomans, F. & Keefe, J. R. (2021). Transference-focused psychotherapy for pathological narcissism and narcissistic personality disorder (TFP-N). *Psychodynamic Psychiatry*, 49, 244-272.

### **Optional Readings:**

- Caligor, E. & Stern, B. (2021). Editorial introduction to the special issue: Recent advances in transference-focused psychotherapy: Extending and refining the treatment model. *Psychodynamic Psychiatry*, 49, 173-17.
- Kohut, H. (1968). The psychoanalytic treatment of narcissistic personality disorders-outline of a systemic approach. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 23, 86-113.
- Fromm-Reichmann, F. (1939). Transference problems in schizophrenia. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 8(4), 412-423.

**Class VII: Reconceptualizing Transference.** We will see how contemporary perspectives have re-conceptualized the notion of transference.

### **Required Readings:**

- Ogden, T. H. (1991). Analysing the matrix of transference. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 72, 593-605.
- Fosshage, J. L. (1994). Toward reconceptualizing transference: Theoretical and clinical considerations. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 75, 265-280.
- Celenza, A. (2017). *A teaching anthology: The interpersonal perspective in psychoanalysis, 1960s-1990s: Rethinking transference and countertransference*, D.B.

Stern and I. Hirsch (Eds.), Routledge, New York, NY, 2017. 310 pages. A review. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 53(4), 602-607.

- Barness, R. E. (2021). Therapeutic practices in relational psychoanalysis: A qualitative study. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 38, 22-30.
- Brier, R. & Ornstein, A. (2021). Tracking changes in the disruption/repair sequences: Important aspects of clinical work. *Psychoanalysis, Self and Context*, 16, 371-379.

### **Optional Readings:**

- Racker, H. (1988). Transference and countertransference. *The International Psycho-Analytical Library*, 73, 23-33.

**Class VIII: Special Topics in Transference. Conclusion.** We will discuss intersubjectivity and transference as well as intersectionality and the contributions that neuroscience/neurobiology are making to the field of psychoanalysis.

### **Required Readings:**

- Stolorow, R. D. Lachmann, F. M. (1984). Transference: The future of an illusion. *Annual of Psychoanalysis*, 12, 19-37.
- Drozek, R. P. (2018). Psychoanalysis as an ethical process: Ethical intersubjectivity and therapeutic action. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 28, 538-556.
- Ayouch, T. (2020). Epilogue: Are gender and race psychoanalytic issues? *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 40, 680-685.
- Busch, F. N. (2019). Prologue: The influence of neuroscience on psychoanalysts: A contemporary perspective. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 39, 531-533.

### **Optional Readings:**

- Aron, L. (1991). The patient's experience of the analyst's subjectivity. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 1, 29-51.
- Ahlskog, G. (2020). Neuroscientific advances in the treatment of trauma. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 107, 229-241.