

## **The New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis**

### **#S504 - Sexuality and its Vicissitudes**

**Spring, 2024**

**Via Zoom**

Instructor: Burton N. Seitler, Ph.D.

#### **Course Description:**

What used to be considered as perverse (which frequently gave rise to judgmentalism and condemnation, even within the psychotherapy community) is now being regarded along a continuum of responses to one's personal, and thus subjective relationship to sexuality. This course will review the old view, and consider a more updated, nuanced understanding and respect for variation of the multifaceted nature of sexual expressions. Freud will be cited, along with Kraft-Ebing, Chasseguet-Smirgel, Fonagy, Leuzinger-Bohleber, Feminist analytic views, such as Horney, Coates, Slade, and others, will be discussed.

#### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the class, students will be able to:

- 1- define what Freud meant by achieving genitality.
- 2- describe psychoanalytic views-paraphilia, perversion, pedophilia, fetish, exhibition, voyeurism
- 3-analyze the importance of mutuality in "mature loving."
- 4- formulate analytic views of male and female sexuality.

#### **(N)etiquettes and Procedural Overview:**

Because our classes will be conducted using zoom, until further notice, please respect fellow student's space. Keep your cameras on, and mute yourselves when someone else is speaking. Any confidential material that is presented should not be disclosed outside of the class venue. Also, add make sure that the space in which you are located is private and what is said cannot be overheard by others.

Readings and other Class Materials:

The instructor will provide students with, or direct students to materials used in this course.

Readings for each class will be assigned by the instructor from the bibliography that follows the class descriptions. .

Course requirements: Readings will be assigned. These will include a combination of listed classical as readings and additional, more contemporary readings. Students will be responsible for these as well as class lecture material.

## **Class descriptions:**

**Class 1** Introduction: Definitions, historical perspectives, understandings and misunderstandings and Freud's views of the part sexuality plays in its contribution to the Neuroses.

In this class:

The instructor will introduce students to basic Freudian conceptualizations underlying sexuality's role in the development of neuroses.

Freud, S. (1898). Sexuality in the aetiology of the neuroses. *Standard Edition, VII*, 259-285.

Freud, S. (1906). My views on the part played by sexuality in the aetiology of the neuroses. *Standard Edition, III*, 269-279.

**Class 2.** Freud's insights about 3 Essays on Sexuality and Van Haute & Westerink's perspective.

In this class, students will contrast Van Haute and Westerink's perspective with what we covered in our previous class meeting regarding Freud's views on the role played by sexuality on the formation of neurosis.

Van Haute, P. & Westerink, H. (2021). *Reading Freud's three essays on the theory of sexuality: From pleasure to the object*. Routledge.

**Class 3.** Target's Developmental Model and Scharfman & Vogel's earlier ideas on sexuality.

In this class, we will discuss the question of influences on our sexuality, in which Target raises the question of whether our sexuality is our own or is influenced by emotional mirroring and/or identification. Scharfman & Vogel discuss views of sexuality in the 1970s and 80s.

Target, M. (2007). Is our sexuality our own: A developmental model of sexuality based on early affective mirroring. *British Journal of Psychotherapy, 23*(4), 517-528.

Scharfman, M. A. & Vogel, S.A. (1989). Current concepts of the development of sexuality. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 37*, 787-802.

**Class 4.** Sexuality Has Many Faces as seen in the research of Moccia et al., Poland's Views and Frederick, et al.'s studies.

In this class, we will consider comparative aspects of orgasms in varying groups. Poland raises broad ideas regarding how sexuality has many forms that are quite normal. Moccia centers her discussion around the basic idea that sexuality is about pleasure. These views are expanded by the work of Frederick, and associates who narrow down their focus to the orgasm.

Frederick, D.A., John, H.K.S., Garcia, J.R. and Lloyd, E.A. (2018). Differences in orgasm frequency among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual men and women in a U.S. national sample. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 47, 273-288.

Moccia, L., Mazza, M., Di Nicola, M. & Janiri, L. (2018). The experience of pleasure: A perspective between neuroscience and psychoanalysis. *Frontiers of Human Neuroscience*, 12, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2018.00359>

Poland, W.S. (2006). Polymorphously normal sexuality. *American Imago*, 63(4), 479-483.

### **Class 5.** Launer's Ideas about Evolution's Role in Sex and Sexuality.

In this class, we will examine the role of evolution, history and function with respect to sex and sexuality. We will see a new panorama of sexuality in the work of Knafo & Lo Bosco.

Launer, J. (2014). Sex and sexuality: An evolutionary view. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 34(8), 831-846.

Knafo, D. & Lo Bosco, R. (2020). *The new sexual landscape and contemporary psychoanalysis*. Confer Books.

### **Class 6.** Chasseguet-Smirgel's Focus on Perversion as a Way of Dealing with Death.

In this class, Chasseguet-Smirgel relates perversion to fears brought on by a preoccupation with and obsessive focus on death, decay and destruction. Knafo and Lo Bosco's work support this.

Chasseguet-Smirgel, J. (1983). Perversion and the universal law. *Israel Journal of Psychiatry and Related Sciences*, 20(1), 169-178.

Knafo, D. & Lo Bosco, R. (2017). *The age of perversion: Desire and technology in psychoanalysis and culture*. Routledge.

**Class 7.** Diamond's Analysis of Feminine Sexuality Explores Vicissitudes of feminine sexuality: Including "excess" sexuality; Fuchshuber and associates discuss measuring LUST, and Di Varela raises the inconvenient notion of when things go wrong in a couple.

In this class, Diamond's work on possibly "excessive" sexuality, in contrast with old views regarding femininity. This will be studied as a precursor for the research of Fuchshuber et al. and in possible aftermaths, as shown by Varela's psychoanalytic exploration of infidelity.

Diamond, N. A. (2013). Some vicissitudes of feminine sexuality. *Free associations*, 14, 85-103.

Di Varela, Y. (2022). Infidelity and the shared unconscious phantasy of the couple. *Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in China*, 5, 125-130.

Fuchshuber, J. Jauk, E., Hiebler-Ragger, M. & Unterrainer, H.F. (2022). The affective neuroscience of sexuality: Development of a LUST scale. *Frontiers of Human Neuroscience*, 12, 1-10, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2022.853706>

**Class 8.** The Idea of the Phantom Phallus will be Discussed from Several Vantage Points.

In this class, we will investigate the mythic aura surrounding the so-called “Phantom Phallus”.

Gherovici, P. (2020). A phantom phallus. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 21(4), 296-301.

Harris, A. (2020). Discussion of “Phantom Penis” extrapolating neuroscience and employing imagination for trans male sexual embodiment.” *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 21(4), 280-284.

Straayer, C. (2020). Phantom penis: Extrapolating neuroscience and employing imagination for trans Male Sexual Embodiment. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 21(4), 251-279.