

The New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis
Psychoanalysis as a Science: Neuroscience and Clinical Research
#S505 – Psychoanalysis as a Science: Neuroscience and Clinical Research
Via zoom
Spring, 2024
Instructor, Burton N. Seitler, Ph.D.

Course Description:

There is a greater need to emphasize research in psychoanalysis, despite the fact that psychoanalytic thinkers have been involved in research investigations since Freud, Jung, and Spitz, right up to the present time. The history of such research studies will be cited and modern researchers, including Beebe's work, etc. will be described. A bridge will then be constructed between basic research and the discoveries emanating out of the new field of Neuropsychanalysis, which include the works of Solms, Panksepp, Zellner, and others. Readings on localization, equipotentiality, and plasticity theories will be presented.

Course Requirements:

On the last day of class, a 4-page paper will be due. The topic is: *Synthesizing art, science and Psychoanalysis*.

Course Objectives:

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

- 1- define what is meant by *localization*.
- 2- define what is meant by *equipotentiality*.
- 3- explain the importance of brain *plasticity*.
- 4- describe 3 ways to use *word association* to identify and measure *complexes*.
- 5- list at least 3 psychoanalytic empirical research studies.

(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 the course.

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

Class descriptions:

Class 1 Introduction to scientific origins and ideas:

Methods of “Knowing.” The instructor will describe the following Methods: of Authority, of Tenacity, of Inquiry, and the Scientific Method.

Class 2 Early Research Studies-- Localization Theory vs Equipotentiality & Plasticity

In this class.....

Neuroplasticity Isn’t Just About the Brain—Review of Webinar by Ogden, P. (2013). Why equipotentiality research raises questions about so-called “brain centers” (the localization of function hypothesis), while providing reasons why plasticity is possible.

Class3 Freud, Luria’s Clinical Method, Bennett, et al “Red Herring,” Solms-Mirror Neuron

This class

Freud, Luria and the Clinical Method; Bennett, et al. “A red Herring”
Mirror Neurons—implications for attachment and attunement;

Class 4 Use of fMRI Neurofeedback with Auditory Hallucinations

Class 5 Solms’ “The Psychic Apparatus;” and Kernberg’s Integrated Theory of Depression

Class 6 Shevrin’s Work on Memory; and Taubner, et al Neurobiological Research

Class 7 Influence of Trauma on Cognition and Memory and Integrated Treatments

Class 8 Research on So-called Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Seitler, B.N. (2017). Sophistry and ADHD. Discussion of how ADHD has been treated as a thing, rather than a collection of symptomatic behaviors with a psychodynamic underpinning.

Readings for the class:

Baland, J. & Ramachandran, V.S. (2017). Sleep paralysis, “the ghostly bedroom intruder” and out-of-body experiences: The role of mirror neurons. *Front. Human Neurosci.*, 28, <https://doi.org/10.33389/fnhum.2017.00092>

Beebe, B., Cohen, P., Lachman, F. & Yothers, D.I. (2016). *Mother-Infant Interaction Picture Book: Origins of Attachment*. New York: Norton Publishers.

Bennett, C.M. & Miller, M.B. (2010). How reliable are the results from functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging? *Annual of the NY Acad. Sci.*, vol. 1191, pp. 133-155.

Bennett, C.M., et al. (2009). Neural Correlates of Interspecies Perspective in the Post-mortem Atlantic Salmon: An Argument for Multiple Comparisons Correction. *NeuroImage*, vol. 47(July)

Berry, R.H., et al. (2022). *The Science of Psychoanalysis: The Realization of Freud’s Promise. Festschrift in Honor of Howard Shevrin*. New York: IPBooks.

Cosgro, M. & Widener, A. [Eds.]. (2018). *The Widening Scope of Psychoanalysis: Collected Essays of Bertram Karon*. New York: IPBooks.

Ferrari, P.F. & Rizzolatti, G. (2004). Mirror neuron research: The past and the future. *Philo. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B, Biol. Sci.* 369. (1664): 201301169. Doi: 10.1098/rstb.2013.0169.PMC 4006175.PMD 24778369

Fonagy, P., Kächele, H., Leuzinger-Bohleber, M. & Taylor, D. [Eds.]. (2012). *The Significance of Dreams: Bridging Clinical and Extraclinical Research in Psychoanalysis*. London: Routledge.

Gediman, H. (2018). *Building Bridges: Selected Psychoanalytic Papers of Helen Gediman*. New York: IPBooks.

Gross, K.B.V. (2019). *Primal Neuroanthropology*. New York: IPBooks.

Hutterer, J. & Liss, M. (2006). Cognitive Development, Memory, Trauma, Treatment: An Integration of Psychoanalytic and Behavioral Concepts in Light of Current Neuroscience Research. *J. Acad. of Psychoanal.*, vol. 34(2), pp. 287-302.

Kernberg, O. (2009). An Integrated Theory of Depression. *Neuropsychoanalysis*, 11(1)76-80

Keum, S. & Shin, H.S. (2019). Neural basis of observational fear learning: A potential model of affective empathy. *Neuron*, 104(1), 78-86.

- Mosesson, M.W. (2020). *Fibrinogen Memoirs 2: The Rise and Fall of the Cross-linking Controversy*. New York: IPBooks.
- Nadel, L. & Maurer, A.P. (2020). Recalling Lashley and reconsolidating Hebb. *Hippocampus*, 30(8), 776-793.
- Nudo, R. J. & Bury, S. (2011). Injury-induced Plasticity in Motor Cortex. In, *Neuroplasticity and Rehabilitation*, Sarah H. Raskin [Ed.]. NY: Guilford Press, pp. 78-88.
- Orlov, N., et al., (2018). Superior temporal gyrus activity in patients with schizophrenia and auditory hallucinations: A proof-of-concept study. *Traditional Psychiatry*,46(8), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41398-017-0067-5>
- Panksepp, J. & Davis, K. (2018). *The Emotional Foundations of Personality: A Neurobiological and Evolutionary Approach*. New York: Norton.
- Purser, G.S. (2013). Neuroplasticity isn't just about the Brain: Review of a Webinar by Ogden, P. on 20th February, 2013. *Attachment: New Directions in Psychotherapy and Relational Psychoanalysis Journal*, vol. 7(2), pp. 214-217.
- Putnam, F. (2016). *The Way We Are: How States of Mind Influence Our Identities, Personality and Potential for Change*. New York: IPBooks.
- Ratner, A. (2019). *The Psychoanalyst's Aversion to Proof*. New York: IPBooks.
- Schachter, J. & Kächele, H. (2017). *Nodal Points: Critical Reflections on Psychoanalytic Therapy*. New York: IPBooks.
- Seitler, B. N. (2017). Sophistry and ADHD: The Dual Myths of Organicity and Biochemical Imbalance and the Ensuing Medication Tidal Wave. In, BN Seitler & KS Kleinman [Eds]. *Essays from Cradle to Couch: In Honor of the Psychoanalytic Developmental Psychology of Sylvia Brody*. NY: IPBooks, pp. 385-423.
- Smith, R. & Solms, M. (2018). Examination of the hypothesis that repression is premature automatization: A psychoanalytic case report and discussion. *Neuropsychoanalysis*, 20, 47-61.
- Shevrin, H. (2002). A Psychoanalytic View of Memory in the Light of Recent Cognitive And Neuroscience Research. *Neuropsychoanalysis*, vol. 4(2), pp. 131-139.
- Spitz, R. (1945). Hospitalism—An inquiry into the genesis of psychiatric conditions in early childhood. *The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 53-74.
- Spitz, R. (1946). Hospitalism: A follow-up report. *The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 113-7.

Solms, M. (2000). Freud, Luria, and the Clinical Method. *Psychoanalysis and History*, vol. 2(1), pp. 76-109.

Solms, M. (2006). Commentary on the “Psychic Apparatus, Metapsychology, and Neuroscience.” *Neuropsychoanalysis*, vol. 8(1), pp. 99-100.

Solms, M. (2018). How and why consciousness arises: Some considerations from physics and physiology. *J. Consciousness Studies*, 25 (5-6), 202-238.

Solms, M. (2021). *The Hidden Spring: A Journey to the Source of Consciousness*. NY: Norton.

Taubner, S., Buchheim, A., Rudyk, R., Kächele, H. & Brüns, G. (2012). How Does Neurobiological Research Influence Psychoanalytic Treatments? —Clinical Observations and Reflections from a Study on the Interface of Clinical Psychoanalysis and Neuroscience. *Amer. J. Psychoanal.*, vol. 72(3), pp. 269-286.

Van Gross, K.B. (2020). *Primal Sports II: A Psychoanalytical, Psychoneurological and Neurosociological Treatise with New Game, Myth, Philosophical and Satire Extras*. New York: IPBooks.

Zagermann, P. (2019). *Psychoanalysis: A General Theory of Psychological Structure Formation and Pathogenesis*. New York: IPBooks.

Zellner, M. Kessler, R.J. & Olds, D. (2018). New explorations of clinical applications of neuropsychoanalysis, with a focus on repression. *Neuropsychoanalysis*, 20(1), 1-2.