PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CULTURAL STUDIES (2 credits)
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Twenty-first century psychoanalysis draws greatly on cultural theory—philosophy, feminism, queer theory, literary studies, postcolonial studies—yet candidates are rarely directly exposed to such work in their training. This class begins to address that gap by pairing essays by cultural theorists with psychoanalytic articles, allowing students to explore the fresh intellectual and clinical possibilities that can ensue when we read and think about cultural studies alongside clinical psychoanalysis. We also include work from sociology, which while less directly influential on contemporary psychoanalysis offers an illuminating vantage point on matters of interest to us.

Each class will aim to create a dialogue between two authors, on topics of relevance to contemporary analysts: What would this theorist, and this analyst, have to say to each other? How would this author agree with, qualify, expand upon, challenge, argue with what the other author has to say? Our objective in these exercises is to broaden the context for thinking about how we approach our work as analysts.

The course does not attempt a comprehensive or systematic survey of the huge body of work that comprises cultural studies but rather offers exposure to a sample of interesting and influential work by theorists in various fields that has resonance with topics and controversies within psychoanalysis.

Interpretation

The Nature and Role of the Therapy Relationship

Frame

Therapeutic assumptions about the good life
Regarding the Other

Witnessing as Othering

Sexuality

Power/Authority

Interpellation

Intersectionality

Loss/Trauma and Its Aftermath
Gerson, Samuel (2009), When the third is dead: Memory, mourning and witnessing in the aftermath of the Holocaust. International J. of Psychoanal., 90: 1341-1357.

Gender

Integrating neuroscience

Changing

Bodies