Syllabus: Fall 2012, Wednesdays 12-1:45pm

Transformations of agency: Theory and Clinical Phenomenology

Instructor: Jill Gentile, PhD
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Class 1 (Sept 5): Agency, experience, and therapeutic action: Sampling of Freud's writings to consider his conception of agency.


“Choose a selection from Freud's writings to share with the class. It can be a quote or short passage from any selection of his work but try to capture something that you understand him to be saying about “agency”, conscious or unconscious. We will discuss his evolving conception.


Class 2 (Sept 12). Agency: From Cartesian conceptions to contemporary philosophical and neuropsychoanalytical perspectives


Class 3 (Sept 19). Listening for “truth”: towards a developmental trajectory of agency.


Ogden, T (2005). What’s true and whose idea was it? This art of psychoanalysis: Dreaming undreamt dreams and interrupted cries. NY: Routledge, pp. 61-76.


**No Class - Sept. 26 (NYU schedule)**
Class 4 (Oct. 3). Infancy, intentionality, and semiotic agency: implications for psychoanalytic process.


Class 5 (Oct. 10). Treatment impasses and the foreclosure of agency and thirdness

--Clinical phenomenology exercise: Bring in a brief descriptive sample of how a patient with whom you are working describes his/her experience of “stuckness” or impasse (or of someone with whom you feel stuck in a repetitive dynamic.


Class 6 (Oct. 17). Agency, intersubjectivity, and “realness”.

-- Clinical phenomenology exercise: Bring in a sample description of a patient’s effort to know you as a particular person or to discover something about what is real between you and she or she.


Class 7 (October 24). **Agency as “drive”; Revisiting dynamic tension in clinical narrative.**

