Klein and Bion, NYU
Michael Eigen, Ph.D.

Required Readings:


Highly recommended for background and exploration:

Klein’s Envy and Gratitude.
Klein’s Narrative of a Child Analysis
Any or some of Bion’s clinical seminars: The Italian Seminars, The Tavistock Seminars, Brazil Seminars, Bion in NY and Sao Paulo. All towards the end of his life, including the last two years.
For the intrepid and poets: Bion’s Memoir of the Future.

Some of the most relevant writings on Klein and Bion from my work:

The Psychotic Core is a good overall background book.

For Klein: Two chapters on Klein in Psychic Deadness.
The chapter on Klein in Feeling Matters (“Boxes of Madness”)

For Bion: The chapter “Infinite Surfaces, Catastrophe and Faith” in The Psychoanalytic Mystic.
The chapters on the structure of Bion’s clinical portrayals in Toxic Nourishment and Damaged Bonds.
The chapter “A Basic Rhythm” in The Sensitive Self. Also on PEP, published in The Psa Rev.
The paper “Towards Bion’s Starting Point” IJPA on PEP, collected in The Electrified Tightrope.
Half and Half, published in fort da and on PEP.

For Freud, Klein and Bion:
Eigen in Seoul vol 1: Madness and Murder.
Structure of this Course: 1) We will spend seven weeks on Klein's paper Notes on Some Schizoid Mechanisms and seven weeks on Bion's Cogitations. The last week is open for loose ends and new directions.

The reading in Klein includes formulations related to paranoid-schizoid position, unconscious fantasy and annihilation anxiety. We are particularly interested in the centrality of psychotic dynamics in personality and social life.

The readings in Bion involve issues of emotional digestion, dramas of faith and catastrophe, aspects of psychotic processes, the importance of dream work/damaged dream work and structures of Bion's clinical portrayals.

We will read, as a group together, very little (perhaps under 20 pages for the seminar), but will cover what we read in depth. This may be frustrating for some and should be considered carefully when registering. Independent readings will be strongly suggested which, if pursued, will enrich discussion.

Suggested Readings:

of California Press.
Chs.3-6,8.
(2009) Flames from the Unconscious: Trauma, Madness

Perthshire: Clunie.

   Vol. 1 Love, Guilt and Reparation and Other Works (1921-1945)
Vol. 2 The Psychoanalysis of Children (1975
Vol. 3 Envy and Gratitude and Other Works (1946-1963)
---------- et. al. (1975.). Explorations in Autism. Perthshire: Clunie.