Kleinian theory and practice has evolved considerably since Melanie Klein began publishing in the 1930s and ‘40s. The contemporary Kleinians of London continue to develop and expand her seminal ideas, elaborating on the concept of projective identification, refining their ideas about analytic process and the paranoid/schizoid and depressive positions, and expanding our understanding of the oedipal situation. Their contributions have increased our ability to understand and treat the more primitive and disturbed patient. This seminar will consider the work of Betty Joseph, Herbert Rosenfeld, Donald Meltzer, Michael Feldman, John Steiner, Ron Britton, Edna O’Shaughnessy, Elizabeth Bott Spillius and Irma Brenman Pick who have been on the forefront of these developments, and who bring their theoretical ideas to life through their rich clinical case reports.

As the course progresses and we become more familiar with contemporary Kleinian way of thinking and working, students will have the opportunity to present clinical process so that we can move back and forth between discussion of the reading material and its application to actual clinical data.

**Course Learning Objectives:** At the end of this course, candidates will be able to: 1. Define and discuss the clinical and theoretical concept of Projective Identification and its use in the clinical situation. 2. Illustrate ways in which envy appears in the transference and countertransference. 3. Recognize the role of unconscious fantasy in the emotional experience of the analyst. 4. Define and discuss the dynamics of reassurance as it appears in the clinical situation. 5. Recognize when there is a value in utilizing analyst-centered interpretation (Steiner) with patients who suffered early trauma and loss. 6. Identify and describe the various manifestations of transference phenomena in the clinical situation.
Basic Concepts in the Kleinian Tradition

Learning Objectives: At the end of this introductory section, candidates will be able to describe the concepts of paranoid/schizoid and depressive positions as central ideas in Melanie Klein’s theory.

Week 1: Introduction to the contemporary Kleinians of London

Week 2: Pathological Organizations


Projective Identification

Learning Objectives: At the end of this three-week module, candidates will be able to describe and compare several aspects of Projective Identification, including their relation to splitting and to discuss the technical problems involved.

Week 3:

- Projective Identification in Clinical Practice. Herbert Rosenfeld

- Projective Identification: Some Clinical Aspects. Betty Joseph

Week 4:

- Splitting and Projective Identification. Michael Feldman
  In Clinical Lectures on Klein and Bion. R. Anderson (Ed), Routledge: London and New York (1992)

- Projective Identification: The Analyst’s Involvement. Michael Feldman
Week 5:

- The Recovery of parts of the Self lost through Projective Identification: The Role of Mourning. John Steiner

**Envy and Gratitude**

Learning Objectives: At the end of this two-week module, candidates will be able to describe envy as a potent factor in the transference-countertransference; to differentiate between ego dystonic envy and ego syntonic (or conscious) envy and to consider envy as a defense against feeling gratitude.

Week 6:

- Envy and the Negative Therapeutic Reaction. Michael Feldman

- Varieties of Envious Experience. Elizabeth Bott Spillius

Week 7:


**Oedipal Considerations**

Learning Objectives: At the end of this two-week module, the candidate will be able to discuss how working through the oedipal complex and the depressive position go hand in hand. In addition, the candidate will be able to differentiate between issues related to early oedipal configurations and later ones.

Week 8:

- The Missing Link: Parental Sexuality in the Oedipus Complex. Ron Britton
• The Oedipus Complex: Manifestations in the Inner World and the Therapeutic Situation. **Michael Feldman.**

**Week 9:**

• The Invisible Oedipus Complex. **Edna O'Shaughnessy**

• Grievance: The Underlying Oedipal Configuration. **Michael Feldman**

**The Psychoanalytic Process**

Learning Objectives: At the end of the six-week module, the candidate will be able to address a few aspects of technique. For example, one will be able to describe reassurance not as having a soothing effect on the patient, but as behavior that can contribute to the patient’s conflict within the transference. In addition, candidate will address the current emphasis on moment-to-moment vicissitudes of the transference-countertransference engagement and less revert to reconstruction of the distant past. A candidate will be able to grasp how one may frame interpretations in a way that will have better prospects of being tolerated in patients who are locked in pathological organizations.

**Week 10:**

• Transference: The Total Situation. **Betty Joseph**

• The Dynamics of Reassurance. **Michael Feldman**

**Week 11:**

• Interpretation: Selected Fact or Overvalued Idea? **Ron Britton and John Steiner**

• Working Through in the Counter-transference. **Irma Brenman Pick**
Week 12:

- Psychic Change and the Psychoanalytic Process. Betty Joseph

Week 13:

- Words and Working Through. Edna O'Shaughnessy

- Helplessness and the Exercise of Power in the Analytic Session. John Steiner

Week 14:

- Interpretative enactment and the Analytic Setting. John Steiner

- On Understanding and Not Understanding. Betty Joseph

Week 15:

- Problems of Psychoanalytic Technique: Patient-Centered and Analyst-Centered Interpretation. John Steiner

Most articles can also be found in the following volumes:

These volumes also provide rich additional readings

- Melanie Klein Today Volumes 1 and 2
  Edited by Elizabeth Spillius
  Published by Routledge, 1988

- Impasse and Interpretation
  Herbert Rosenfeld
  Routledge, 1987
- **Psychic Equilibrium and Psychic Change**
  Selected papers by Betty Joseph
  Routledge, 1989

- **The Oedipus Complex Today**
  Edited by John Steiner
  Karnac Books, 1989

- **Psychic Retreats**
  Papers by John Steiner
  Routledge, 1993

- **Doubt, Conviction and the Analytic Process**
  Michael Feldman, Routledge, 2009