

PSYCHOANALYSIS AND POLITICS

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Psychoanalysis has always been shot through with politics, though often not in an explicit manner. In recent years with the advent of postmodernism and relational psychoanalysis, analysts have become more mindful of the political implications of their theories and clinical practices. This course will explore the intersection of politics and psychoanalysis from several angles:

- 1)The potential of psychoanalysis to deepen an understanding of an individual's political development, including the possible illumination of surprising or latent aspects of one's manifest political attitudes;
- 2)The ways in which psychoanalysis has functioned as a form of social ideology, bolstering dominant discourses and practices around power, gender, sexual orientation, race and class, as well as the way psychoanalysis functions as part of the larger mental health system, with its social welfare and social control functions;
- 3)The ways in which, on the other hand, psychoanalysis has been used in the service of social critique, to analyze existing power arrangements, and perhaps to provide avenues for resistance to such arrangements;
- 4)The ways in which politics enters the consulting room, for instance how the therapist hears and takes up political material as it emerges (or is salient by its absence) in the clinical hour, and also with consideration of the nature of the analyst's authority; and
- 5)The application of psychoanalytic thinking to political problems and political processes.

Throughout the course, we will encourage critical reflection on our own political attitudes and activity, and how these may come to bear on our work with our patients. Time will be set aside for clinical presentations aimed at elucidating the sometimes subtle or obscure workings of power in the clinical situation.

Week 1: The history of psychoanalysis and politics; the potential of psychoanalysis to illuminate the underpinnings of political thinking and attitudes

Freud, S. (1927), *The Future of an Illusion*. Standard Edition XXI: pp. 5-14.

Jacoby, R. (1983), *The Repression of Psychoanalysis*. Pp. 3-30.

Samuels, A. (1993), *The Political Psyche*. Pp.51-77.

Week 2: Psychoanalysis as ideology

Jacoby, R. (1983), *The Repression of Psychoanalysis*. New York: Basic Books. Pp. 134-160.

Cushman, P. (1995), *Constructing the Self, Constructing America*. Pp. 1-14, 332-348.

Jacoby, R. (1975), Social Amnesia. Pp. 19-45.

Week 3: Psychoanalysis as critique

Peltz., R. (2005), The manic society. Psychoanal. Dial., 15: 347-366.

Goldman, D. (2005), Love thy neighbor as thy selves: Commentary on papers by Altman and Peltz. Psychoanal. Dial., 15: 379-394

Week 4: The workings of power in the clinical situation: gender, sexuality, sexual orientation

Dimen, M. (2003), Sexuality, Intimacy, Power. Pp. 203-222.

Lewes, K. (2005), Homosexuality, homophobia and gay-friendly psychoanalysis. Fort Da, 11: 13-34.

Week 5: The workings of power in the clinical situation: race

Altman, N. (2000), Black and white thinking. Psychoanal. Dial., 10: 589-605.

Leary, K. (2000), Racial enactments in dynamic treatment. Psychoanal. Dial., 10: 639-654.

Obama, B. (2008) speech on race

Week 6: The workings of power in the clinical situation: class

Dimen, M. (1994), Money, love, and hate: Contradiction and paradox in psychoanalysis. Psychoanal. Dial., 4: 69-100.

Botticelli, S. (1997) Theorizing the social in psychoanalysis: Review of The Analyst in the Inner City by Neil Altman. Psychoanal. Dial., 7: 535-545.

Altman, N. (1997), Response to review. Psychoanal. Dial., 7: 547-551.

Week 7: The workings of power in the clinical situation: the analyst's authority; technical considerations

Hoffman, I. (1996), The intimate and ironic authority of the psychoanalyst's presence. Psychoanal. Quarterly, 65: 102-136.

Layton, L. (2006), Attacks on linking: the unconscious pull to dissociate individuals from their social context. In L. Layton, N.C. Hollander, and S. Gutwill (Eds.) Psychoanalysis, Class and Politics: Encounters in the Clinical Setting. Pp. 107-117.

Week 8: The application of psychoanalysis to the problem of war; and clinical presentation

Butler, J. (2004) Violence, mourning, politics. Studies in Gender and Sexuality, 4(1): 9-37.

Moss, D. (2010), War stories. In A. Harris and S. Botticelli (Eds.) First Do No Harm: The Paradoxical Encounters of Psychoanalysis, Warmaking and Resistance. Pp. 243-250.

Rees, D. (2004) Get Your War On II. Selected cartoons. New York: Riverhead Books.