

Bruce E. Reis, Ph.D.
270 Lafayette Street
Suite 807
New York NY 10012

212.741.3311

Freudian Intersubjectivity

The rise of intersubjective conceptions within psychoanalysis has brought to the fore issues of interaction between analyst and analysand. The form this interaction takes in the Freudian and post-Freudian paradigm is an involvement of two unconscious minds contacting, impacting, interacting and influencing each other. In this course we will survey some classical and contemporary Freudian conceptions of what it means to deeply interact in these ways and take measure of the variety of conceptions of unconscious interplay that today we might call “intersubjective.” What becomes evident is how the notion of the unconscious is currently used in increasingly creative ways as a mysterious, communicative, creative, receptive, process-oriented, decentered and enactive idea.

Course Learning objective: Participants will be able to distinguish forms of communication that occur unconsciously between analyst and analysand.

Week 1: Introduction: Unconscious Communication

Freud, S. (1912). Recommendations to Physicians Practicing Psychoanalysis. S.E. 12: 109-120.

Brown, L. (2011). The Analyzing Instrument: Unconscious Communication and Classical Psychoanalysis: In: Intersubjective Processes and the Unconscious. Pp. 20-46. New York: Routledge.

Learning Objective: Participants will be able to identify the differing forms of unconscious communication described by early psychoanalytic theorists.

Week 2: The Analyst's Mind

Diamond, M. (2011). The Impact of the Mind of the Analyst: From Unconscious Process to Intrapsychic Change. In: The Second Century of Psychoanalysis: Evolving Perspectives on Therapeutic Action. Diamond, M. & Christian, C. (eds.) Pp. 205-235.

Spezzano, C. (2007). A Home for the Mind. Psychoanalytic Quarterly. 76S: 1563-1583.

Learning Objective: Participants will be able to demonstrate an understanding of how the analyst uses their own mind in the service of the patient.

Week 3: Truth

Ogden, T.H. (2003) What's True and Whose Idea Was It? *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 84: 593–606.

Ogden, T.H. (2015). Intuiting the Truth of What's Happening: On Bion's 'Notes on Memory and Desire'. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, LXXXIV, Number 2, Pp. 285-306

Learning Objective: Participants will be able to demonstrate what is meant by "truth" in a Bionian frame.

Week 4: Remembering

Botella, C. (2014). On Remembering: The Notion of Memory Without Recollection. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 95: 911-936.

Scarfone, D. (2014). The Work of Remembering and the Revival of the Psychoanalytic Method. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 95: 965-972.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to demonstrate what is meant by memory in a Freudian and post-Freudian model.

Week 5: The Work of Michel de M'Uzan

De M'Uzan, M. (2013). During the Session: Considerations on the analyst's mental functioning (1989). In: *Death and Identity*. Pp. 79-97. London: Karnac

De M'Uzan, M. (2013). The Paraphrenic Twin or at the Frontiers of Identity (1999). In *Death and Identity*. Pp. 101-118.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to define the psychic chimera.

Week 6: The Third and Dreaming

Ogden, T.H. (1994). The Analytic Third: Working with Intersubjective Clinical Facts. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 75: 3-19.

Ogden, T.H. (2007). On Talking-As-Dreaming. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 88: 575-589.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to define what is meant by “dreaming” in contemporary post-Bionian psychoanalysis.

Week 7: A Contemporary Approach To Dreaming

Reis, B. (2019). Symbiont Life in: Creative Repetition and Intersubjectivity, pp.47-55. New York:Routledge

Reis, B. (2019). Duende and the Shape of Things Unknown. In: Creative Repetition and Intersubjectivity, pp.87-99. New York:Routledge

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to identify the role of reverie and obstacles to its deployment as an analytic tool.

Week 8: Bollas

Bollas, C. (1992). Being a Character. In: Being a Character, Hill & Wang: New York. Pp. 47-65.

Bollas, C. (2011). Character and Interformality. In: the Christopher Bollas Reader. Pp. 238-248.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to demonstrate the unique contributions of Bollas to Freudian and post-Freudian intersubjective psychoanalysis.

Week 9: Monsters

Ithier, B. (2016). The arms of the chimeras. International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 97:451-478.

Reis, B. (2016). Monsters, Dreams & Madness: Explorations in the Freudian Intersubjective. International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 97: 479-488.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to distinguish the chimera described by de M’Uzan from the one described by Ithier.

Week 10: Dreaming and Hallucination

Birksted-Breen, D. (2016). Bi-ocularity, the Functioning Mind of the Psychoanalyst. International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 97: 25-40.

Tillotson, D. (unpublished manuscript) In Between Language and Thought: Dreaming as Empathy. This paper is shared by permission of the author with this class and is not to be distributed or quoted without the permission of the author.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to identify instances of the analyst's hallucinosis.

Week 11: Drives and Intersubjectivity

Roussillon, R. (2011). Drives and Intersubjectivity. Chapter 1 in Primitive Agony and Symbolization. Pp. 29-48.

Reis, B. (2019). Creative Repetition. In: Creative Repetition and Intersubjectivity. Pp. 101-114. New York:Routledge

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to describe the messenger function of the drives.

Week 12: State Sharing

Bach, S. (2011). States of Consciousness. In: A New Freudian Synthesis: Clinical Process in the Next Generation. Druck, A., Ellman, C., Freedman, N., & Thaler, A. (eds.) Pp. 51-64.

Libby, M. (2011). On Shame and Narcissistic States of Consciousness: Clinical Illustration. In: A New Freudian Synthesis: Clinical Process in the Next Generation. Druck, A., Ellman, C., Freedman, N., & Thaler, A. (eds.) Pp. 131-156.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to identify the phenomena of state sharing between analyst and analysand.

Week 13: The Unconscious and the Body

Dana Birksted-Breen (2020): Pathways of the unconscious: When the body is the receiver/instrument, The International Journal of Psychoanalysis

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to identify intersubjective ways of working with bodily manifestations of unconscious phenomena.

Week 14: Witnessing

Poland, W. (2000). The Analyst's Witnessing and Otherness. JAPA, 48: 17-34.

Reis, B. (2009). Performative and Enactive Features of Psychoanalytic Witnessing: The Transference as the Scene of Address. International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 90: 1359-1372.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to identify the unique position of witnessing as it is utilized in psychoanalysis.

Week 15: Objects

Bollas, C. (2009). The Evocative Object World. In: The Evocative Object World. Pp. 79-94. New York: Routledge.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to identify ways in which the object world is a part of the intersubjective world.