

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

Transformations of agency: Theory and Clinical Phenomenology

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

Mills, J. (2004). Clarifications on 'Trieb: Freud's theory of motivation reconsidered. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 21: 673-677.

*--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.*

Recommended: Steve Jobs' 2005. Stanford University Commencement Address: 'Your Time Is Limited, So Don't Waste It Living Someone Else's Life'

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

Frie, R. (2009). Reconfiguring psychological agency: postmodernism, recursivity, and the politics of change. In Frie, R. and Orange, D., ed. *Beyond Postmodernism*. NY: Routledge, pp. 162-182.

Modell, A. (2008). 'The agency of the self and the brain's illusions, In R. Frie, ed. *Psychological agency: Theory, practice, and culture*. MIT Press, pp. 35-49.

Ogden, T. (1994). On becoming a subject. In *Subjects of Analysis*. Northvale, NJ: pp. 1-11.

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

Gentile, J. (1998). Listening for deep structure: Between the *a priori* and the intersubjective. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 34: 67-89.

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.

Muller, J. (20). Introduction. *The embodied subject: Minding the body in psychoanalysis*. NY: Jason Aronson, pp. vii-x.

****No Class - Sept. 26 (NYU schedule)**

Class 4 (Oct. 3). Infancy, intentionality, and semiotic agency: implications for psychoanalytic process.

Fonagy, G., Gergely, G., Jurist, E., & Target, M. (2002). The development of an understanding of self and agency. In *Affect regulation, mentalization, and the development of the self*, (Chapter 5). NY: Other Press.

Muller, J. (1996). Mother-infant mutual gazing. In *Beyond the psychoanalytic dyad: developmental semiotics in Freud, Peirce, and Lacan*, NY: Routledge: pp. 13-27.

Winnicott, D.W (1986). *Sum, I am*. In *Home is Where We Start From*. NY: WW Norton, pp. 55-64.

Lichtenberg, JD, Lachmann, F., & Fosshage, J. (2011). Inferences in clinical process. Chapter 2, in *Psychoanalysis and Motivational Systems*. Pp. 61-73.

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).*

Gentile, J. (2001). Close but no cigar: The perversion of agency and the absence of thirdness. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 37, 623-654. (*pp.623-625; 634 on).

Ogden, T. (2005). On not being able to dream. *This art of psychoanalysis: Dreaming undreamt dreams and interrupted cries*. NY: Routledge, pp. 45-60. (*pp 45-49).

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.*

Slavin, J. (2010). Becoming an individual: Technically subversive thoughts on the role of the analyst's influence. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 20: 308-324.

Gentile, J. (2008). Between private and public: Towards a conception of the transitional subject. *International J Psychoanalysis*, 89: 959-976. (*esp 959-961 & 967 to end).

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

Gentile, J. (2010). Weeds on the Ruins: Agency, compromise formation, and the quest for intersubjective truth. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 20: 88-109. (*esp pp. 94 on)

Slavin, J. (2012). The innocence of sexuality. Ch. 3, in *Relational Psychoanalysis, Vol 4*, Ed. L. Aron & A. Harris. NY: Routledge, pp. 45-68.
Original publication: *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 71, 51-81 (2002).