

NYU Postdoctoral Program
Seminar proposal
(1 Credit, 2 weekend meetings of 6.5 hours - total 13)
Saturdays: February 11 and May 13, 2016
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m

**Love in the Psychoanalytic Relationship:
Real Love, Transference Love, Danger and Possibility**

Jonathan H. Slavin, Ph.D., ABPP

Description:

Is the love experienced in treatment, at times by the patient, and at times by the analyst, “real.” If this love is “real,” what do we think about the meaning of “transference love” in a current context? Is there still a place in our thinking for the concept of “transference neurosis” as the crucible for analytic change?

Is the analyst's love essential to cure, to liberating the patient's ability to love? Might love contain a lurking entrapment in a repetitive dead-end for both parties? Can the treatment relationship contain and embrace both the imprisoning and the liberating potential of love as real possibilities in the analytic engagement and still be turned to therapeutic purpose?

And what, if anything, do we think that sex has to do with it?

In this seminar these and other questions about love and transference are considered in the context of a re-examination of classic and seminal papers by Freud, Loewald, Benjamin and other critical works in the evolution of psychoanalytic thinking about these issues.

Reading (readings to be discussed in detail are highlighted **):

I. Spirits from the underworld: Freud's struggle in the labyrinth of sex, love, and fantasy

**Freud, S. (1915). Observations on transference-love. *S.E. 12*:159-171.

**Freud, S. (1912). The dynamics of transference. *Standard Edition*, 12:99-108. London: Hogarth Press, 1958.

II. It has nothing to do with the analyst... maybe.

**Macalpine, I. (1950). The development of the transference. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 19(4), 501-539.

Bird, B. (1971). Notes on transference: Universal phenomenon and hardest part of analysis. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 20:267-301.

III. It is all fantasy. It is all reality.

**Rioch, J.M. (1943). The transference phenomenon in psychoanalytic therapy. *Psychiatry*, 147-156.

**Klein, M. (1952). The origins of transference. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 33(4), 433-438.

Slavin, J., Rahmani, and Pollock. (1998). Reality and danger in psychoanalytic treatment. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 67:191-217.

IV. The patient falls in love. The analyst falls in transference.

**Szasz, T. S. (1963). The concept of transference. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 44:432-443. Also in: Langs (1981), *Classics in Psychoanalytic Technique*. New York: Jason Aronson, pp. 25-36.

Stolorow, R.D. and Lachmann, F.M. (1984/85). Transference: The future of an illusion. *The Annual of Psychoanalysis*, 12/13, 19-37.

V. Sex and Love

**Atlas, G. (2013). What's love got to do with it? Sexuality, shame, and the use of the other. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*. 14:51-58.

**Slavin, J. (2011). The innocence of sexuality. In L. Aron & A. Harris (Eds.), *Relational Psychoanalysis, Vol. 4: Expansion of Theory* (pp. 45–67). New York: Routledge. (Originally published in 2002, in *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 72, 51–80.). *n.b. Please read the book chapter version.*

VI. Analytic Love

***Benjamin, J. (1995). What angel would hear me: The erotics of transference. In: *Like Subjects, Love Objects: Essays on Recognition and Sexual Difference*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

***Slavin, J. (2007). The imprisonment and liberation of love: The dangers and possibilities of love in the psychoanalytic relationship. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 27:197-218.

*Loewald, H. W. (1957). On the therapeutic action of psychoanalysis. In: Loewald, *Papers on Psychoanalysis*, pp. 221-256. Yale: New Haven, 1980.

VII. Love and Life

**Davies, J. M. (2003). Falling in love with love: Oedipal and postoedipal manifestations of idealization, mourning and erotic masochism. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 13:1-27.

Yovell, Y. (2008). Is there a drive to love? *Neuro-Psychoanalysis*. 10:117-144.

Jonathan H. Slavin, Ph.D., ABPP

Jonathan Slavin is clinical instructor, Dept. of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; Clinical Professor (adjunct), Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, New York University; and in private practice, Newton Highlands, MA. Dr. Slavin was the Founding Director, Tufts University Counseling Center (1970-2006), and Founding President, Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis. He served twice as president of the Division of Psychoanalysis (39), American Psychological Association.

Dr. Slavin has consulted widely nationally and internationally. Most recently he has served as consulting psychologist for the Ministry of Health and the Israel Defence Forces, State of Israel; Visiting faculty, Tel Aviv University School for Psychotherapy; Visiting Faculty, Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center; and Visiting Lecturer, Istanbul Bilgi University. Dr. Slavin was the Edith Sabshin Lecturer, Co-sponsored by the Chicago Institute of Psychoanalysis and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Northwestern University Medical School; Visiting Scholar, New Mexico Psychoanalytic Society; and Visiting Lecturer, University of Turin and the Turin Psychoanalytic Center; and Visiting Lecturer, The Lehigh Valley Psychological and Counseling Association. Along with Miki Rahmani, M.A., he was the keynote speaker at the second triennial meeting of the Israel Association for Psychotherapy, January, 2016.

Dr. Slavin's published work has focused on fundamental experiential elements in the psychoanalytic relationship including love, sexuality, desire, truthfulness, and personal agency, and their role in the repair of the mind.