



The New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis

F201 - Transference

Via Zoom

Fall 2024/2025

Instructor: Wilda Mesias, PhD

Course description: Transference in the context of the psychoanalytic encounter has been broadly defined as the displacement of feelings, behaviors, thoughts, and desires originally experienced in relation to significant figures from childhood/the past onto the analyst. This course explores the evolution of the concept from its classical roots to contemporary perspectives on it. It will emphasize transference's recognition, its development in the context of the psychoanalytic relationship, its purpose, how it can further analysis or present itself as a resistance, and its analysis.

Course purpose: Using as a point of departure Freud's notion of transference, we will trace the development of this concept, taking into consideration ego psychology, object relations, self psychology, relational, and intersubjective perspectives.

Course objectives:

At the end of this course candidates will be able to:

- 1) To define the concepts of transference, transference neurosis, erotic transference, and transference resistance.
- 2) To analyze transference in light of the therapeutic and working alliances and how it presents in specific situations.
- 3) To describe how transference presents during treatment and how to approach its analysis.
- 4) To evaluate how transference has been re-conceptualized within recent psychoanalytic discourse.
- 5) To explain transference in reference to intersectionality.

Course requirements: A four-to six-page final paper that highlights your understanding and application of the concept. **Paper is due on the last day of class (no exceptions).**

Course etiquette and confidentiality: Given that we will be having our class discussions on Zoom, it is critical that we all be respectful and mindful of one another's time and space. As such, please keep your cameras on and mute yourselves while others are presenting their thoughts. Additionally, because our case discussions and other discussions may feature confidential clinical information (or other sensitive information not to be disclosed outside of the learning environment), it is imperative that you **(1) find a place in which to log in to the class that is private and in which you and others cannot be overheard and (2) refrain from discussion of the above-mentioned confidential or sensitive information outside of our class time.**

Readings and material:

You will need the following book:

Celenza, A. (2022). *Transference, Love, Being*. Routledge. {hereinafter Celenza, A. (2022) }
Available on Amazon in paperback and kindle

All of the other readings required for the course will be found on a Dropbox folder I will make available to all of you.

Class and Reading List:

Class I: Freud on Transference. Our course will begin with Freud's conceptualization of transference. We will consider some of his ideas looking at such cases as "Dora" and the "Rat Man."

Readings:

- Freud, S. (1905). Fragment of an analysis of a case of hysteria. *Standard Edition*, 7, 112-122.
- Freud, S. (1912). The dynamics of transference. *Standard Edition*, 12, 99-108.
- Weiss, H. (2023). The enigma of transference. Freud's discovery and its repercussions. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 104, 4, 679-690.

- Ackerman, S. (2020). A diagnosis for psychoanalysis in the 21st Century: Freud as medicine. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 89, 667-668.

Class II: The elaboration of Freud's ideas on transference. We will see the concept of transference undergo further elaboration. Perspectives offered by Ferenczi and Klein will be considered.

Readings:

- Ferenczi, S. (1916). Introjection and transference. In R.G. Badger (Eds.), *Contributions to psycho-analysis* (Ernest Jones, Trans.) (pp. 30-79). (Original work published 1909)
- Klein, M. (1952). The origins of transference. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 33, 433-438.
- Gaitini, M. (2021). "A Dress of Fire": Reading Sándor Ferenczi's clinical diary. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 108, 291-314.
- Cohen, E. (2017). The "Method of Game": Sándor Ferenczi and his patient Dm./Clara Thompson. *American Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 77, 295-312.
- Celenza, A. (2022). Chapters 3 and 4.

Class III: Transference, working alliance, therapeutic alliance, and transference neurosis. We will analyze and explore concepts such as working alliance, therapeutic alliance, and transference neurosis. We will evaluate the nature of therapeutic action with respect to transference.

Readings:

- Brenner, C. (1979). Working alliance, therapeutic alliance and transference. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 27 (S), 137-15.
- Greenson, R. (1965). The working alliance and the transference neurosis. *Psychoanalytical Quarterly*, 34, 155-181.
- Bourdin, D. (2023). On the analytic transference. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 104, 691-700.

- Celenza, A. (2022). Chapters 10 and 13.

Optional Readings:

- Shavitz, Y. & Tolmacz. (2023). The therapist as an ally of lost good objects. *British Journal of Psychotherapy*, 69-85.

Class IV: Analysis of transference. We will explore transference from other post-Freudian perspectives. We will discuss the analysis of transference.

Readings:

- Winnicott, D. W. (1969). The use of an object. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 50, 711-716.
- Bird, B. (1972). Notes on transference: Universal phenomenon and hardest part of analysis: *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 20, 267-301.
- Joseph, B. (1985). Transference: The total situation. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 66, 447-454.
- Celenza, A. (2022). Chapters 6 and 7.

Optional Readings:

- Abram, J. (2021). On Winnicott's concept of trauma. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 102, 778-793.
- Acheson, R. & Avdi, E. (2023). Exploring silence in psychoanalytic theory and clinical work. *British Journal of Psychotherapy*, 39, 142-157.
- Caldwell, L. (2022). A discussion of three versions of Donald Winnicott's "Transitional Objects and Transitional Phenomena", 1951-1971. *British Journal of Psychotherapy*, 38, 42-60.

Class V: Transference love and erotic transference. We will critically evaluate the notions of transference love and erotic transference from classical and contemporary perspectives.

Readings:

- Freud, S. (1915). Observations of transference-love. *Standard Edition*, 12, 147-156.

- Morris, H. (2016). The analyst's offer. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 64, 1173-1187.
- Barratt, B. B. (2021). Notes on free-associative listening: "I Am Also a Stranger Here". *Psychoanalytic Review*, 108, 251-275.
- Knafo, D. (2020). The sexual illusionist. *Psychoanalytic Perspectives*, 17, 13-30.
- Celenza, A. (2022). Chapters 5, 11, and 18.

Class VI: Transference in specific situations. We will consider the concept of transference in the context of situations frequently encountered in the treatment of certain disorders (e.g., character disorders).

Readings:

- Gabbard, G. (1991). Technical approaches to transference hate in analysis of borderline patients. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 72, 625-637.
- Ornstein, A. (1990). Chapter 5: Self-object transferences and the process of working through. *Progress in Self Psychology*, 6, 41-58.
- Carsky, M. (2020). How treatment arrangements enhance transference analysis in transference-focused psychotherapy. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 37, 335-343.
- Celenza, A. (2022). Chapters 8 and 14.

Optional Readings:

- Diamond, D., Yeomans, F. & Keefe, J. R. (2021). Transference-focused psychotherapy for pathological narcissism and narcissistic personality disorder (TFP-N). *Psychodynamic Psychiatry*, 49, 244-272.
- Aibel, M. (2021). The sleepy analyst struggles to awaken: Dissociation, enactment, regression and altered states with trauma patients. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 57, 54-84.

Class VII: Reconceptualizing Transference. We will see how contemporary perspectives have re-conceptualized the notion of transference.

Required Readings:

- Ogden, T. H. (1991). Analysing the matrix of transference. *International Journal of*

Psycho-Analysis, 72, 593-605.

- Fosshage, J. L. (1994). Toward reconceptualizing transference: Theoretical and clinical considerations. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 75, 265-280.
- Brier, R. & Ornstein, A. (2021). Tracking changes in the disruption/repair sequences: Important aspects of clinical work. *Psychoanalysis, Self and Context*, 16, 371-379.
- Celenza, A. (2022). Chapters 12 and 17.

Optional Readings:

- Racker, H. (1988). Transference and countertransference. *The International Psycho-Analytical Library*, 73, 23-33.

Class VIII: Transference and Intersubjective. Issues of Intersectionality. Conclusion. We will discuss intersubjectivity and transference, some special topics and will conclude the course.

Readings:

- Stolorow, R. D. Lachmann, F. M. (1984). Transference: The future of an illusion. *Annual of Psychoanalysis*, 12, 19-37.
- Ellman, S. & Weinstein, L. (2023). Transference. *The international Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 104, 4, 755-772.
- Jenkins, L. (2022). Psychoanalysis, race and the divided self. *The Psychoanalytic Review*, 109, 1, 13-32.
- Celenza, A. (2022). Chapters 29 and 34.

Optional Readings:

- Aron, L. (1991). The patient's experience of the analyst's subjectivity. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 1, 29-51.