



The New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis

#S504 Sexuality in Psychoanalysis

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Spring 2025

Via Zoom

Course description:

This course will explore how sexuality remains at the core of psychoanalytic thought and will trace the development of psychoanalytic theory regarding sexuality from Freud to current perspectives. In his time Freud went beyond the prevailing views of sexology by addressing the place of sexuality in human life from a broader perspective and, in particular, presenting the idea of an enlarged sexuality. We will discuss the psychoanalytic literature on normality vs. pathology, infantile sexuality, gender, the maternal erotic, masculinity, and queerness and will consider from a psychoanalytic perspective the myriad ways in which sexuality is lived and expressed.

Learning goals:

- Explain the role and impact of infantile sexuality
- Examine Laplanche's theory of seduction
- Describe the maternal erotic
- Analyze issues of gender and sexual differences
- Identify the different ways in which sexuality is lived and expressed

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.*

Course requirement: This will be discussed the first day of class.

Class I. The role of infantile sexuality in sexuality.

Readings:

- Solms, M. (2024). Revised Standard Edition. Notes on translation. *XXIV*, 47-52.
- Freud, S. (2024). Three essays on the theory of sexuality. In Solms, M. (Ed). *The Revised Standard Edition, VII*, 110-151. Rowman and Littlefield.
- Van Haute, P. & Westerink, H. (2016). Sexuality and its object in Freud's 1905 edition of Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 97, 563-589.
- Green, A. (1995). Has sexuality anything to do with psychoanalysis? *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 76, 871- 883.

Class II. From Freud's "neurotica" to Laplanche's "theory of seduction."

Readings:

- Laplanche, J. (1997). The theory of seduction and the problem of the other. *The International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 78, 653-666
- Scarfone, D. (2014). The three essays and the meaning of the infantile sexual in psychoanalysis. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 83, 327-344
- Saketopoulou, A. (2018). Laplanche, an introduction by Dominique Scarfone. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 99, 778-786
- Ashtor, G. (2019). Sex instead of shattering: A critical exploration of Bersani and Laplanche. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 20, 249-262

Class III The maternal erotic.

Readings:

- Kristeva, J. (2014). Reliance, or maternal eroticism. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 62, 69-85.
- Balsam, R. H. (2014). The embodied mother: Commentary on Kristeva. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 62, 87-100.

- Celenza, A. (2022). Maternal erotic transferences and the work of the abject. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 70, 9-38.
- Tsolas, V. (2022) Misogyny, Mothers, Daughters and the Body. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 42, 567-578.

Class IV Perversion: critical perspectives

Readings:

- Ayouch, T. (2023). Psychoanalysis's Perversions: Witches, bitches, and sluts. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 24, 109-124.
- Saketopoulou, A., Christinaki, A. & Narayanan, A. (2023). Sexuality beyond consent: Risk, race, traumatophilia: A conversation among Artemis Christinaki, Amrita Narayanan, and Avgi Saketopoulou. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 24, 322-337.
- Saketopoulou, A. (2020). Risking sexuality beyond consent: overwhelm and traumatisms that incite. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 89, 771-811.
- Estellon, V. (2023). Sex addictions faced with the paradigm of perversions. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 24, 76-85.

Optional reading:

- Evzonas, N. (2023). Is perversion a perverted category? Introduction to the special issue. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 24, 59-66.

Class V: Gender

Readings:

- Butler, J. (1995). Melancholy gender—Refused identification. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 5, 2, 165-180.
- Ashfaq, R. (2023). The intersection of psychoanalysis and feminism: Exploring the complexities of gender and power dynamics. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis Open-Open Peer Review and Debate*, 9, 1-12.

- Bailly, L. (2023). A Lacanian perspective on identity. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 104, 855-859.
- Farr, P. (2022). The psychoanalyst and the “Transsexual”: Transgender identities as personal-political subjectivities. *Psychoanalytic Social Work*, 29, 193-216.
- Cavanagh, S. (2022). The Matrixial Gaze: Transgender in Boys Don’t Cry. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* 23, 243-255.

Class VI Queersexuality and Polisexuality

Readings:

- Barratt, B. (2022). From “polymorphous perversity” to polysexuality: A Note on psychoanalytic ideologies and the critique of hegemonic normativity. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 23, 225-232.
- Chalfin, R. (2021). The entanglement of being: Sexuality inside and outside the binary. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 22, 28-39.
- Hollander, N. C. (2023). Psychoanalysis as counter-hegemonic practice. *Division Review* 29, 22-24.
- Laufer, L. (2020). Michel Foucault: The queer gender for psychoanalysis?. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry* 40, 579-590.

Class VII Masculinity

Readings:

- Lieberman, J. (2022). Masculinity and its discontents: The male psyche and the inherent tensions of maturing manhood. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 91, 609-614.
- Neill, C. (2020). Masculinity in crisis: Myth, fantasy and the promise of the raw. *Psychoanalysis Culture and Society*, 25, 4-17.
- Galatzer-Levy, R. M. (2021). Adolescent boys and pornography: Notes on a complex system. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 74, 191-208.
- Grier, F. (2020). The inner world of Beethoven’s ninth symphony: Masculine and feminine? *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 101, 84-109.

Class VIII The presence of sexuality in different issues in treatment. Conclusion.

Readings:

- Hansbury, G. (2017). The masculine vaginal; working with queer men's embodiment on the transgender edge. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 65, 6, 1009-1031.
- Brady, M. (2018). Braving the erotic field in the treatment of adolescents. *Journal of Child Psychotherapy*, 44, 108-123.
- Evans, M. (2023). Assessment and treatment of a gender-dysphoric person with a traumatic history. *Journal of Child Psychotherapy*, 49, 60-75
- Celenza, A. & Gabbard, G.O. (2003). Analysts who commit sexual boundary violations: A lost cause? *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 5,1, 617-636.
- Wang, C. (2021). The passivity of seeing: A Lacanian perspective on pornographic spectatorship in virtual reality. *Psychoanalysis Culture and Society*, 26, 217-233