



D S P P B U L L E T I N
Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology
Exploring and promoting the psychoanalytic perspective

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October 2003

FALL WORKSHOP PREVIEW

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

The Dallas Psychoanalytic Community Presents

FRANCES HOFSTEIN, MD

presenting on

**A Lacanian Approach to
Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis**

Afternoon Case Presentation by

MYRON LAZAR, PHD

Though the work of Jacques Lacan is less familiar in psychoanalytic circles in the U.S. than in Europe, his theories offer unique contributions to psychoanalytic thinking. Lacan sought to extend the work of Freud and, in many ways, he has done so. (It is interesting to note that beyond Lacan's impact clinically, his effect on academicians has been very strong both here in the U.S. and around the world regarding issues such as the structure of language.) In this workshop, Francis Hofstein, MD will present some of the concepts of Lacanian theory and will discuss how these can be applied to clinical work.

Dr. Hofstein brings a richness of life experience to the consulting room due to his interesting mix of career paths: Jazz musician, journalist, and psychoanalyst. At the age of eleven he became interested in jazz, eventually channeling that interest into a stint as a jazz drummer for about ten years. He then took to writing, combined this endeavor with his passion for jazz, and eventually joined the editorial staff of Jazz Magazine in 1965. In 1967 he entered the Freudian School of Paris, formally beginning his journey into psychoanalytic theory and practice. During that time period he was analyzed by Jacques Lacan himself. He was editor of the journal *L'Ordinaire du Psychanalyste* from 1973 to 1978. He has continued to write on both jazz and psychoanalysis to the present day. Dr. Hofstein lives in Paris, France and maintains a psychoanalytic practice there.

DSPP is co-sponsoring the Fall Workshop with the Dallas Psychoanalytic Society, Dallas Foundation for Psychoanalysis, Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Social Work, and the Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium

Details and registration available at www.dspp.com.

SEPTEMBER MEETING REVIEW

H. M. (MONTY) EVANS, PHD and BETH NEWMAN, PHD

presenting on

An Introduction to Lacan

Reported by

PATRICIA WOOD, PHD

Steve Patrick, Ph.D. began DSPP's 21st program year with special thanks to the Program Committee, led by Annalisa Pask, Ph.D., the Executive Committee, and DSPP's mother-in-residence, Cheryl Martin, RN, LPC, for their contributions to what promises to be a successful year ahead. Speakers for the first program were Beth Newman, Ph.D. and H.M. (Monty) Evans, Ph.D. offering an *Introduction to Lacan*. These presentations were a prelude to the Fall Workshop led by Francis Hofstein, M.D., a French analyst, analyzed by Lacan. The workshop will focus on Lacan's work and will be sponsored by several psychoanalytic organizations in the Dallas area.

Dr. Newman began by comparing reactions to Lacan in France and the United States. In France, Lacan is regarded as providing very practical knowledge for analysts. In the U.S., his views have found their way into academic discourse in a number of fields as well as becoming increasingly valued by psychoanalysts. Dr. Newman's interest in Lacan is from the academic discourse perspective.

Lacan's views are hardheaded and optimistic with respect to the analysand's ability to change. However, the analysand both wants and does not want self-knowledge. The process involves disturbing knowledge, not consoling knowledge from the unconscious. Symptoms are hard to give up. Resistance is not just about knowledge but also about the satisfaction provided by those symptoms. The analysand gets a kick out of symptoms, which combine pleasure and pain. This satisfaction Lacan calls *jouissance*. Lacan's view is that the subject is not a single organism with his own desires but always social and in relationship with the other. *Jouissance* does not involve primarily tension discharge but is inherently social in nature and involves the notion of how others respond. Lacan's view is a social

constructionist view. A person alone in the world does not desire; desire is always invested in the object.

Lacan says that the opacity of language is crucial to the formation of desire: people do not say what they want. Thus, the child determining what her parents want of her is always making an interpretation. She does what she thinks her parents want not what the parents actually want; she operates on an interpretation of her parents' desire, not on the basis of their desire. Symptoms develop which are both pleasurable and painful. The analysand both wants to know and does not want to know but often comes to analysis when *jouissance* ebbs.

Dr. Evans came to Lacan because of his interest in Zen and Buddhism. He saw an obvious comparison between the relationship of the Zen master and student and the Lacanian analyst and patient. The student's natural inclination is to try to figure out what the master wants. However, the master's is a pure desire, frustrating and confusing. The student believes that a demand is being made by the master but is eventually so frustrated trying to give the master what he wants that he surrenders and spontaneously gives his own position.

There are many comparisons here to the relationship between the Lacanian analyst and the analysand. While the analyst's desire is an enigmatic desire, it is the motor force of analysis. Actually, the analyst's desire is to be the analyst function, desire that focuses on the analysis, a desire that the analysand associate. Yet, the analysand's desire is not to know but to resist knowing. People usually seek analysis when they no longer get satisfaction in symptoms, their pleasure in pain or *jouissance* has failed them.

Jouissance is always social, always involves other people. Drive becomes social; desire is caused or awakened by the object; the object seems to cause desire. The cause is associated with the object, so the object seems to cause it. Desire is not drawn to the object but elicited from it. Desire does not seek satisfaction; desire seeks continuance. Desire becomes fixated on the cause or characteristic of the other.

Lacan's term for the cause of desire is object a. The analyst attempts to mobilize curiosity about the unconscious and about not taking things for granted. In the process, the analyst becomes the cause of the analysand's desire or object a.

Man's desire is to be desired by the parental other. Parents' desires become the mainstream of our desires.

In discerning their desire we model ours on theirs. We assimilate other's desire, and it continues to operate in us. The issue is how to separate from the other's desire and how to stop playing to the other's desire. The Lacanian analyst frustrates the transference expectations and brings the analysand face to face with her own desire.

Eventually, a reversal occurs, and the analysand gives up on the analyst as the subject who is supposed to know and on the analyst as object a. The analysand no longer needs to figure out what the analyst wants.

Lacan's theory is particularly elegant because it interfaces so well with other academic disciplines, making it very attractive to transport to arenas other than psychoanalysis.

With this also elegant whetting of our appetites by Drs. Newman and Evans, we look forward to the fall workshop with the French Lacanian, Francis Hofstein, M. D. See you there October 11th.

The Joint Patient and Colleague Assistance Committee of DPI and DPS is available to anyone in the community who would like to discuss concerns about an analyst in either organization. This committee offers consultation and advice only. Call any committee member: Joan Berger, Ph.D., chair; Joe Gaspari, M.D., Judith Kane, M.D., George Nicalaou, M.D., or Tom Sonn, M.D. For phone numbers call (214) 648-7486.

Division 39 (Psychoanalysis)

SPRING MEETINGS, 2004
Miami Beach, Florida
March 18-21

Psychoanalysis at the Edge: The Transmission of Culture, Class, and Institution

The 2004 Division 39 Conference, "Psychoanalysis at the Edge: The Transmission of Culture, Class and Institution," addresses the unique diversity and overlapping boundaries of both psychoanalysis and American society, as exemplified by South Florida. Since its beginnings, psychoanalysis has stood at the crossroads of multiple disciplines and at the divide between science and religion, theory and healing. Its greatest thinkers and practitioners have struggled to find the space where the beauty of theory meets the ordinary needs of people in distress. While psychoanalysis has developed a clear and confident voice, its range has been restricted to those who "speak its language."

Visit www.divpsa.org for additional details

Infant Observation Seminar

Contemporary depth psychologies believe the newborn faces terrors in his desperate attempt to create a psychic space in which to survive. Before such an inner space can develop, however, these terrors must first be soothed by the infant finding a caring surface with which to adhere.

This stage of the self being (or not being) held together is studied in the introspective method known as Infant Observation. Because it is earlier than that site visited by Melanie Klein, and therefore precedes splitting and projection, it is fundamental to all future mental health and development.

Infant Observation Seminar offers the student a particular learning experience that applies to therapy with any age individual. It is now a method of training that produces a blossoming literature in Great Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Argentina, Sweden, and the United States.

Students learn the impact of emotional events in the infant mind, but equally important, learn how the emotionality of themselves, the observer, becomes a means by which to understand nonverbal experience, enactments, and coercive unconscious communication. In addition, the containing aspect of the Seminar itself emphasizes the problems, techniques, and aspects of containment in the therapeutic setting. In the words of Donald Meltzer, "Infant observation and reporting enables one to receive the vibrations, hear the music, and smell the scent of love and hate in primitive form."

Where: 6330 LBJ Freeway, Suite 150,
Dallas, TX 75240

When: **Saturday 10 AM-4PM monthly**
check DGAP website for dates

Who: Anyone interested may visit a Seminar in order to finalize a decision. Those joining the Seminar are asked to commit to a minimum of one year, preferably two. Members will be instructed how to find an infant/mother pair for observation. Observations are made on a one-hour, once weekly basis.

Seminar Leader: Myrna Little, Ph.D.

Fee: \$250 per month

Questions? m.little@airmail.net or
972-233-0647 (office)

Details: www.dgapractice.com

Dallas Psychoanalytic Institute
Six-week Psychotherapy Modules

**The Therapeutic Alliance with Children and Adolescents:
The Role of the Parent Conference**

Instructor: James Bennett, MD
October 28, November 4, 11, 18, December 2 and 9,
7:15pm-8:45pm
UT Southwestern Medical Center, Seay Buliding (NC),
Conference Room NC5.716

Attachment Issues in Adult Psychotherapy (3 classes) and Child Psychotherapy (3 classes)

Instructors: Judith Kane, MD and Sarah Rabb Bennett,
LMSW-ACP
January 27th, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 2, 2004
7:15pm - 8:45pm
UTSW Medical Center, Seay Buliding (NC),
Conference Room NC5.716

Stories of Desire: Narratives in Psychotherapy

Instructor: Marc Litle, MD
March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 2004
Dr. Litle's Office 8411 Preston Rd, Suite 820, Dallas, TX

Cost per course is \$200. For additional information, call

Tricia Oman at 214-648-7486 or e-mail
Patricia.Oman@UTSouthwestern.edu

The Charismatic Leader

paper presentation by William Fried, PhD
Discussion by
Joseph Reppen, PhD & Ricardo Ainslie, PhD

Sponsored By
The Austin Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology
In Collaboration With
Section I – Psychologist-Psychoanalyst Practitioners
Division of Psychoanalysis APA

Saturday, Oct. 11th
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

For info call **512-479-4000** or visit **www.austinaspp.org**

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2003-2004**

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