Psychoanalytic Readings on Sexuality and Gender

Michigan Council for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy (MCPP)
Spring, 2018

Wednesdays, April 4 – May 23, 2018, 9:30 – 11:30 am; Ann Arbor
Taught by Reena Liberman, MS and Peter Wood, LMSW

Reading the history of psychoanalytic thought starting with Freud is essential in understanding ideas that have contributed significantly to our understanding of human sexuality and its role in psychosexual and sexual development in Western culture. We will move through readings of the 20th century and into the 21st century to see how theories have evolved; how they have influenced us and continue to influence us; and what they mean for us personally and, therefore, in our clinical practices. Readings will include classical, feminist, modern and post-modern, relational, and queer theory literature. We will initially read about sexuality since it is present in humans at birth, and then incorporate gender identity, which is formed from birth on as a construction of biology, socialization, and intra-psychic formations. However, spoiler alert, this premise will be challenged.

The course will be conducted in a seminar style that will encourage participants to find ways to talk about sexuality, a topic often difficult to address because of its long-standing associations with secrecy, shame, and psychopathology. These have made it a subject easily avoided, ripe for humor, and awkward to discuss. Everyone will be responsible for raising questions, offering critiques, sharing clinical experiences that relate to the readings, and sharing reactions to materials to assist with understanding transferences and counter-transferences.

Required Texts:


Recommended Text:


Week 1 – April 4:


**Week 2 – April 11:**


**Additional readings**


**Week 3 – April 18:**


Additional readings


Week 4 – April 25:


Week 5 – May 2:


**Additional readings**


**Week 6 – May 9:**


**Additional readings**


**Week 7 – May 16:**


**Week 8 – May 23:**


