INTERACTION IN PSYCHOANALYSIS:
TRANSFERENCE, COUNTERTRANSFERENCE, AND ENACTMENT

G89.4585 — Fall, 2012

This seminar will explore the enacted dimension of analytic process, conceived of as a continuously evolving second dimension of analytic treatment that exists alongside of and inextricably interwoven with the treatment’s verbal content. The seminar will trace its origins in the bedrock concepts of transference, acting-out, and countertransference; distinguish it from such related concepts as projective identification, role responsiveness, enactment and actualization, interaction and co-creation; and explicate its contribution to the therapeutic action of psychoanalysis. Contemporary Freudian and Relational/Intersubjective perspectives will be examined.

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: TRANSFERENCE AND ACTING-OUT

The concepts of transference, acting-out, and repetition (the compulsion to repeat) were introduced together early in Freud’s writing. Weeks 1–3 attempt to sort out the insights and the ambiguities inherent in Freud’s seminal ideas, and will examine some contemporary perspectives on the role of action in clinical process.

WEEK 1: Remembering and Repeating in Freud’s Technique Papers


WEEK 2: Reconceptualizing Remembering and Repeating: the Role of Action in Analytic Process


All articles (except those designated as “Reprint Provided”) are available on PEP-WEB
WEEK 3: The Enacted Dimension of Transference


II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: COUNTERTRANSFERENCE

Freud introduced the concept of countertransference, but he wrote very little on the subject. In Week 4, the widening of Freud’s conception, and the debate surrounding it, is explored.

WEEK 4: Countertransference in Freud’s Technique Papers


Expansion and Debate: “Classical” vs. “Totalistic” Conceptions


III. ENACTED TRANSFERENCE-COUNTERTRANSFERENCE PROCESSES: EARLY CONCEPTUALIZATIONS

Object relations theories, psychoanalytic developmental theories, as well as modern structural theory, have all tried to take formal theoretical account of the complex interactions that occur within the transference-countertransference relationship. Weeks 5 and 6 explore five concepts, from diverse theoretical perspectives, each of which deals with some aspect of the enacted dimension of clinical process.
WEEK 5:  **A. Projective Identification and Role Responsiveness**


WEEK 6:  **B. Countertransference Structures, the New Object Relationship, and Unconsciously Negotiated Resistance**


IV. THE ENACTED DIMENSION OF ANALYTIC PROCESS

The concepts of enactment and actualization supplement the traditional understanding of transference and countertransference. Enactments—the interactive form of transference-countertransference—actualize the patient’s unconscious transference fantasy, bringing it to life in the unconsciously lived out drama of the analytic engagement. Weeks 7–11 explore the Freudian concepts of enactment and actualization and their contribution to the treatment process.

WEEK 7:  **What is an Enactment? Toward a Definition.**


WEEK 8:  **Subtle and Hidden Enacted Processes**


WEEK 9: **Reliving Trauma in the Enacted Dimension**


WEEK 10: **Reliving Preverbal Experience in the Enacted Dimension**


WEEK 11: **What is Mutative? The Interplay of Insight and Experience**


V. **INTERACTION AND CO-CREATION: CONTEMPORARY FREUDIAN AND RELATIONAL/INTERSUBJECTIVE PERSPECTIVES**

Over the past two decades, interest in enactments and the analyst’s unconscious involvement in the treatment process has led theorists of all theoretical perspectives to attend to the dyadic dimension of analytic treatment. *Week 12 distinguishes Freudian and Relational/Intersubjective theories of mind, Week 13 focuses on the contemporary Freudian view of interaction and co-creation, and Week 14 offers clinical illustrations of both perspectives.*

WEEK 12: **Freudian and Relational/Intersubjective Theories of Mind**


**WEEK 13: Interaction and Co-Creation in Contemporary Freudian Theory**


**WEEK 14: Clinical Illustrations of Freudian and Relational Approaches to Enactments**


**VI. REVIEW AND INTEGRATION**
