

## **Paper Session C-1:**

### **Meaning Making and Change:**

#### **A View of Psychoanalysis From Systems Theory and Neuroscience**

Presenter: Nancy Bridges, LICSW

Moderator: Judith Pickles, PhD

Discussant: Henry Friedman, MD

Abstract:

As psychoanalysts our theory of meaning making directly influences how we engage with patients on every level and understand processes of change. In this paper, I offer an integrative sensibility combining intersubjective and developmental perspectives and data from neuroscience as fresh and hopeful new looks at the intersubjective biopsychological processes of making and changing meaning in the analytic relationship.

I will present detailed clinical material in an effort to illustrate the application of this hybrid model to the conscious and nonconscious processes of making new meaning with our patients and ourselves.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will understand processes of meaning making in psychoanalysis from the perspective of psychobiological intersubjective systems theory and neuroscience. Participants will also understand that as analysts our theory of meaning making directly influences how we engage with patients and understand processes of change.

## **Paper Session C-2:**

### **Eroticization as a Pre-phase in Re-engaging the Forward Edge**

Presenter: Linda Marino, PhD

Moderator: Jane Jordan, PsyD

Discussant: R. Dennis Shelby, PhD

Abstract:

In this paper I will expand Kohut's illustration of the sexualization of self-object needs with a clinical illustration of the how erotization was used by a severely ill man to meet several intertwined needs. He entered analysis because of a lengthy depression that severely interfered with his functioning. As the analysis began he joined an on-line dating service, although he was married and living with his wife and children. His hunt for sexual conquests enabled him to enliven himself with exciting sexual stimulation, to attempt to re-engage a developmental momentum that had become frozen in adolescence, and most importantly to protect himself from dependence on the analyst by taking a "proactive" approach. I will demonstrate how these interwoven themes were examined in the analysis within the transference-counter-transference relationship. Erotization took the form of a living out of fantasy worlds created in his mind and split off from his real life, and was used as a desperate attempt to hold himself together when he was unable to experience emotion and felt like a robot. I will show how this served as a pre-phase and underwent modification; this man had not been "seen" at critical moments in his childhood, and he was able to experience my "seeing" him to look at himself through my eyes. He was able to hold onto the transference to step into the world of reality, and re-engage a stalled developmental process.

At the conclusion of my presentation, the participant will be able to describe how erotization in the form of a fantasy world split off from real life was used by a severely ill man as a means of hold himself together, and how his reliance on this served as a pre-phase in the analysis before he was able to risk reviving fragile tendrils of healthy development.

## **Paper Session C-3:**

### **At the Outer Limits of Empathy: Interrogating Evil in Self-Psychological Practice**

Presenter: Doris Brothers, PhD

Moderator: Carolyn Clement, PhD

Discussant: Hans-Peter Hartmann, MD, PhD

Abstract:

A patient's violent attack on his dying father prompted this investigation of evil in self-psychologically informed clinical practice. While the concept of evil is compatible with Freudian theory it seems to be at odds with the self-psychological view of human destructiveness as a disintegration product. The author asks if the term evil is similar to the term psychotic in that it may be used to designate that which we fear exceeds the limits of our empathic capacity. The paper draws on the philosophical writings of Hannah Arendt, Richard Bernstein, and Susan Neiman.

At the conclusion of my presentation the participant will be able to describe some of the difficulties entailed in conceptualizing evil in self-psychological practice.

## **Paper Session C-4:**

### **Mindsharing and Self Deficits**

Presenter: Joseph Palombo, MA

Moderator: Lucy Freund, PhD

Discussant: Carol Mayhew, PhD, PsyD

#### Abstract:

In recent years, we have seen the emergence of a new psychoanalytic paradigm. A variety of names are given to this paradigm, ranging from neuropsychanalysis (Solms) to neuropsychobiological perspective (Schoré). Investigators are seeking to integrate some of the findings from the neurosciences into elements of psychoanalytic theory. In this paper, I focus my efforts on extending one aspect of this paradigm by elaborating on the use of a concept that I have proposed to bridge the two disciplines, that is the concept of Amindsharing.® I begin with a definition of mindsharing that distinguishes two aspects of that concept: understanding others and sharing others' mental functions. I then discuss briefly some of the neurobiological mechanisms that undergird mindsharing and elaborate on a specific neuropsychological function, that of executive function. Finally, I address the issue of the clinical relevance of the concept of mindsharing to psychopathology by illustrating its application to a case.

Participants will gain a better understanding of the problems involved in the emergence of the new neuropsychanalytic paradigm through the specific integration of an aspect of neuropsychology with self psychology.

## **Paper Session C-5:**

# **Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Money But Were Afraid to Ask**

Presenters: Sandra Heshberg, MD and Nancy VanDerHeide, PhD, PsyD

### Abstract:

Few issues in analysis trigger the kind of anxiety that sex and money are capable of, and of the two, sex is by far the more comfortable for many analysts. Negotiating fees, contending with envy (the analyst's as well as the analysand's), and issues of worth are but a handful of the dilemmas centering on money that in the best of times can heighten tension within the analytic dyad. The country's current economic crisis is the worst in recent memory and carries serious ramifications for mental health practitioners and their patients . This workshop is an opportunity for participants to explore in a safe, understanding environment the ways in which the analyst's increased financial anxiety can interfere with more productive explorations of dyadic interactions. Through discussion of material written by the leaders, readings (to be provided upon enrollment in the workshop) and case material provided by the leaders and the other participants, we will examine many of these issues.

At the end of this workshop, participants will have a greater understanding of the ways in which the current economic crisis can impact analysis.

## **Paper Session C-6:**

### **A Curvature of Intersubjective Space:**

#### **Emmanuel Levinas and the Psychoanalytic Vocation**

Presenter: Donna Orange, PsyD, PhD

Moderator: Kate Schechter, PhD, LCSW

Discussant: Maxwell Sucharov, MD, FRCPC

Abstract:

This study examines the challenge to psychoanalysis from the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, who described “a curvature of intersubjective space”, the primacy of the ethical. It considers 1) a sketch of his biography, indispensable to understanding his central idea; 2) his philosophy of the Face of the neighbor that curves the intersubjective space; 3) some implications of this philosophy for questions about authenticity and sincerity; and 4) some common questions that psychoanalysts raise about the philosophy of Levinas.

Participants will be able to explain what “ethics” means for Emmanuel Levinas.

**Paper Session C-7:**

**Meet the Author: Moral Stealth:**

**How "Correct Behavior" Insinuates Itself into  
Psychotherapeutic Practice**

Presenter: Arnold Goldberg, MD

Moderator: Jeffrey Stern, PhD

## **Paper Session C-8:**

### **The Forward Edge, Connectedness, and the Therapeutic Process**

Presenter: Richard Geist, EdD

Moderator: Raanan Kulka, MA

Discussant: Martin Gossmann, MD

#### Abstract:

Marian Tolpin proposed an expanded theoretical framework for treating self disorders, a framework that emphasized resuscitating thwarted normal development rather than healing pathology. This paper suggests that the change in emphasis from pathology to health in the context of a connectedness sensibility encompasses important changes in how we listen and respond to our patients. Using a verbatim interview the paper discusses how a forward edge/connectedness listening perspective impacts empathic responsiveness, engaging the thread around which selfobject transferences evolve, and interpreting from within the patient's subjective world. The paper illustrates both how a connectedness listening perspective and responsiveness facilitates the emergence of tendrils of health, and it elucidates how, in most treatments, analyzing the forward edge of transference obviates the need to address the trailing edge.

At the conclusion of my presentation, the participants will be able to understand how a change in emphasis from curing pathology to rekindling health significantly alters how we listen and respond to our patients.