

Free Associations

A Newsletter for the PSP Community

...dedicated to excellence in learning, teaching and application of psychoanalytic knowledge

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NOTABLE QUOTE: “Whatever interrupts the progress of analytic work is a resistance.”

-Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*

NEW TO DSM-5

Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder

This is a newly added diagnosis to DSM-5 characterized by persistent deficits in using verbal and nonverbal communication for social purposes in the absence of restricted and repetitive interests and behaviors. Examples of observable deficits include difficulty in understanding and following social rules of language, gesture, and social context. This deficit may limit a child’s ability to communicate effectively with peers, in academic settings, and family activities.

THE THERAPIST’S THESAURUS

Acataphasia. Disordered speech in which statements are incorrectly formulated. Patients may express themselves with words that sound like the ones intended but are not appropriate to the thoughts, or they may use totally inappropriate expressions.

Vicarious Liability. Specific legal cases where the Clinical Supervisor has been held accountable for the actions of those they supervise.

Antagonist. A drug that blocks a neurotransmitter’s actions.

GENERAL PSYCHOANALYTIC CORE COMPETENCY EXPLAINED

Navigate the emotional content of sessions, including shifts and endings

‘Navigate’ refers to the awareness of, understanding of, moving about in, and addressing the emotional content of sessions.

As part of this competency, you should be able to access psychoanalytic-related literature from multiple sources. Also included is an attitude of openness to information that may differ from personally held views.

CASE STUDIES

How would you initiate treatment?

A 6-year-old, learning-disabled boy, whose dog recently died, started to wet his bed nightly and was brought to the clinic by his mother. He lives with his mother, who is single, chronically depressed, and has significant economic problems.

What the experts say: *Along with behavioral change and shoring up external resources, internal resources often need to be increased. This includes the person’s ability to manage positive and negative emotions. Indicators that the person has sufficient internal resources include the person’s ability to self-soothe, to demonstrate adequate impulse control, to identify stressful triggers, to regulate moods, and to communicate honestly.*

DSM-5 ODDITIES – Shared Psychotic Disorder

Shared psychotic disorder (also referred to over the years as *shared paranoid disorder, induced psychotic disorder, folie impose, and double insanity*) was first described by two French psychiatrists, Lasegue and Falret, in 1877, who named it *folie a deux*. In DSM-5, this disorder is referred to as “Delusional Symptoms in Partner of Individual with Delusional Disorder,” an unnecessary nomenclature

change in the view of most psychiatrists. It is probably rare and the literature consists almost entirely of case reports. The disorder is characterized by the transfer of delusions from one person to another. Both persons are closely associated for a long time and typically live together in relative social isolation.

FROM A SUPERVISOR’S NOTEBOOK – Unconscious Processes

Unconscious processes must be considered to understand more fully the patient-therapist relationship. The reality is that the majority of mental activity remains outside of conscious awareness. During the treatment process unconscious processes may be suggested by tangential references to an issue, slips of the tongue or mannerisms of speech, what is not said or avoided, and other defense mechanisms. For example, phrases such as “to tell you the truth” or “to speak frankly” suggest that the speaker does not usually tell the truth or speak

frankly. It is best to note such mannerisms or slips but not to explore them.

WELCOME BACK, PSP STUDENTS. WE HAVE A FULL SCHEDULE OF CLASSES. IF YOU HAVEN’T YET REGISTERED, GET IT DONE TODAY. CLASSES START SEP. 11TH.