

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: “There is no developmental period when the human exists outside of the realm of interpersonal relatedness.”
-Harry Stack Sullivan

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

During his presidency, Wally Fletcher was faced with the almost overwhelming responsibility of getting a shattered and scattered community back on its feet. The Board discussed, affirmed and decided upon a course of action which proved successful. Prior to my election as President, we developed a very comprehensive strategic plan. Our board has been charged with the task of implementing this plan which includes initiatives related to Board reform, staff expansion, a marketing game plan, enhancing faculty, programs and courses and expansion of our clinic just to name a few areas. I look forward to working with all of our stakeholders in improving our institute. We are always looking for ‘helpers’ and if you’re interested in being a part of our ‘Great Reformation’ of viability, adaptability and expansion, let me know.

-Bill Lorman

THE THERAPIST’S THESAURUS

Nihilism. Delusion of the nonexistence of the self or part of the self; also refers to an attitude of total rejection of established values or extreme skepticism regarding moral and value judgments.

Word approximation. Use of conventional words in an unconventional or inappropriate way (metonymy or of new words that are developed by conventional rules of word formation) (e.g., “handshoes” for gloves and “time measure” for clock); distinguished from a *neologism*, which is a new word whose derivation cannot be understood.

Conation. That part of a person’s mental life concerned with cravings, strivings, motivations, drives, and wishes as expressed through behavior or motor activity.

STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION: Standard 3-1

The institution makes available to all students and faculty library and information resources, including books, periodicals, reference materials, and electronic resources, which support the instructional and research needs of the psychoanalytic training program. Such resources are readily accessible and such access is sustainable.

Our extensive library is physically housed at the PCC. We’ve recently catalogued our holdings and plan on publishing a library catalogue on our website.



SOCIETY NEWS

...by Marie Hartke, Vice President

We held our annual Society meeting by Zoom on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 12:00pm. We discussed the following:

- We are interested in reengaging our Society in many ways
- If you would be interested in forming or participating in a peer supervision group, please contact Marie Hartke

- If you are interested in participating in a book club, for fun, please let Marie Hartke know. The suggestion for a first book is: LYING ON THE COUCH by Irvin D Yalom

Please look for a Fall 2024 course from our newly formed Supervisor and Training Analyst Program. I look forward to hearing from you.
-Marie

Psychoanalytic Terms & Concepts by Moore & Fine

RATIONALIZATION

A process by which an individual employs subjectively “reasonable,” conscious explanations to justify certain actions or attitudes, while unconsciously concealing other unacceptable motivations. Rationalization is always considered defensive, though it does not specifically refer to any of the mechanisms of defense.

Several different types have been described, all of which have the same result: other possible causal factors – such as underlying instinctual drive gratifications and superego or ego ideal strivings – are ruled out as noncontributory or inappropriate and consciously dismissed. The conscious explanation is

not questioned; indeed, it is often regarded as unquestionable. Rationalization reinforces repression. It differs from intellectualization, a form of isolation of affect in which potentially objectionable ideational content is permitted conscious awareness, albeit without emotional impact.