

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: “Bromidic though it may sound, some questions don’t have answers, which is a terribly difficult lesson to learn.”
-Katharine Graham

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PSP, as I see it, is a unique home for professionals interested in exploring how the fundamental concepts of modern psychoanalysis can be academically researched and practically applied to the work that we do. My hope is that we continue in forming professional alliances and making long-standing friendships. I believe that we are open to all those interested in learning more about modern psychoanalytic thought and integrating knowledge of other disciplines. As we grow, I look forward to actualizing these goals as we become a center of excellence. I look forward in working with all our community to that end.

-Bill Lorman

THE THERAPIST’S THESAURUS

Dereism. Mental activity that follows a totally subjective and idiosyncratic system of logic and fails to take the facts of reality or experience into consideration. Characteristic of schizophrenia.

Cluttering. Disturbance of fluency involving an abnormally rapid rate and erratic rhythm of speech that impedes intelligibility; the affected individual is usually unaware of communicative impairment.

Nihilistic delusion. Depressive delusion that the world and everything related to it have ceased to exist.

STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION: Standard 4-1

The institution has adequate facilities, space, equipment, and technological resources to carry out its educational, clinical, and research programs now and into the foreseeable future.

As you are aware, we maintain a wonderful building in Center City Philadelphia which has excellent access through public transportation. Each therapy room is furnished with an analytic couch and seating creating a comfortable space for patient and analyst. We maintain an electronic health records system and monitors in order to create an efficient method of maintain patient records. Our extensive library is available to students along with our electronic holdings.

An Editorial from: Elliot Jurist, PhD, Faculty, The City University of New York

Psychoanalysis is too good to be left in the hands of psychoanalytic institutes. I know of no example of a psychoanalytic institute that has successfully established contemporary standards that are egalitarian and responsive to developments within the culture. Like any other institution that faces up to the potential for cronyism and other forms of abuse, psychoanalytic institutes must cultivate forms of self-evaluation to monitor themselves. Without such self-evaluation, how does one know whether you have accomplished goals and how would you be able to modify them in order to have success. Just

think of how different the current fate of psychoanalysis would be if psychoanalytic institutes were able to invoke evidence in support the efficacy of their work. If psychoanalysts believe in what they do, they need to be willing to demonstrate the work in ways that others recognize and find convincing. The psychoanalytic tradition would do well, too, to abandon ideas that have been proven false (like that infants are not born with emergent cognitive capacities, which psychoanalytic developmental theories argued). Finally, it is high time for psychoanalysts to recognize that other fields have merit, are making progress, and are too important to ignore, like the neurosciences. Openness and receptivity are not just admirable qualities, but necessary ones for psychoanalysis to survive.

THEORY CORNER: Transference Variants – Part 1

LIBIDINAL TRANSFERENCES

These follow the classic model and usually in milder forms as positive transference reactions but can take the form of more intense and disturbing erotic transferences. They are derivatives of phallic-oedipal, libidinal impulses and may be permeated variously by pre-genital influences. They can

occur with varying degrees of intensity, and in mild forms, may not even require interpretation if they contribute to and support the therapeutic relation. Sigmund Freud recommended that they call for interpretation only when they begin to serve as a resistance.