

## **Banished Countertransference and the Work of Alice Miller: Clinicians' Struggles With Childhood Emotional Communications**

**Instructor:** Aleisa Myles, PsyD

**Location:** Live Webinar

**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. (EST):

**CE's:** 2

**Cost:** \$40

### **Webinar Description:**

Alice Miller, author of *The Drama of the Gifted Child*, *For Your Own Good, Thou Shalt Not Be Aware*, and *Banished Knowledge*, among other works, invites us into the emotional experiences of childhood while also exposing conditions that render children's emotional lives largely uninhabitable. Miller illustrates how children are routinely and systematically prevented from becoming aware of the harm being done to them by, for instance, being taught that it is all for their own good. She emphatically points out, however, that "love and cruelty are mutually exclusive," and that the belief that children are hurt for their own good, or out of love, is a contradiction that persists across generations because it is socially encoded as tradition. This confusion, she adds, rather than mollifying the child's suffering, augments the harm.

What then is asked of clinicians in relating, whether narcissistically, projectively, anaclitically, or in an object-relating manner, to patients' childhood material? Given the central focus in Modern Analysis on preverbal and maturationally-relevant emotional communication, we will examine common struggles in the countertransferences evoked by childhood emotional communications. Further, we will explore what Miller's work can teach us about finding our way through the countertransference resistances that emerge in relation to childhood material, in ourselves, in our patients, and in the therapeutic relationship.

### **Webinar Learning Objectives**

**At the conclusion of this webinar participants will be able to:**

1. List two factors that obscure communication of patients' childhood experience
2. Identify common areas of countertransference resistance to childhood emotional communications
3. Apply at least two lessons from Alice Miller's work in using countertransference as a guide in responding to childhood material that comes up between patients and clinicians

### **About the Presenter:**

Aleisa Myles, PsyD, is a psychoanalyst and clinical psychologist in private practice on the Lenape land now called Philadelphia. Aleisa's clinical approach draws from both Modern Analysis and Relational Psychoanalysis. She worked for several years at Philadelphia School of Psychoanalysis' Consultation Center, and completed adult and child/family analytic training at the Institute for Relational Psychoanalysis of Philadelphia. Her writings have focused on the typically unrecognized oppression of children and young people, known as childism, and the power structure of magnarchy based on distance from vulnerability. Aleisa has led and co-led workshops and courses on racism, diversity, and power relations in clinical process. She has also served for over a decade as a grassroots environmental and social justice community organizer.