

Psychoanalysis for Scholars Program

THE WESTERN NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE
FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS



The Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis is offering a two-year training program for scholars and academics interested in psychoanalytic thought and its application to their work. The program has two components. The first is psychoanalytic theory. The faculty of the Western New England Institute offers a perspective on early and contemporary psychoanalytic thinking infused by their immersion in psychoanalytic practice. Topics for discussion range from Freud's work on hysteria, dreams, the formulations and reformulations of libido theory and man's place in society to the modern revisions and extensions of psychoanalytic theory. Freud's case studies and published and unpublished accounts of psychoanalyses provide clinical data for examination.

The second component of the program addresses the use of psychoanalytic concepts in the participants' scholarly work. This segment includes opportunities for participants to present and develop their work. The Western New England Institute faculty will offer perspectives based on their psychoanalytic knowledge.

The curriculum provides a systematic, year-long overview of Freud's writings, locating his contributions in the context of his continually evolving theories of the mind and therapeutics. In the second year a similar seminar focuses on the major developments in psychoanalysis since Freud. Additional seminars in both years expose students to clinical psychoanalytic material and permit presentations of participants' research. The curriculum consists of two courses run concurrently in each of the two years of the program. There are two semesters each year. Classes meet for one and a half hour per week.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

FIRST YEAR

Fall Semester Freud I

This course begins with an historical review of the context in which Freud worked and considers his successive explanations of symptom formation by the seduction hypothesis and by the conflict between unconscious libidinal wishes and defensive reactions of the ego. It follows his explication of the pleasure and reality principles. It examines Freud's model of the mind and of dreaming outlined in *The Interpretation of Dreams*, his theory of infantile sexuality, his theory of character formation, his recommendations for the conduct of psychoanalytic treatment and his case studies. The course ends with an appraisal of the strains in the topographic model of conflict.

Clinical Psychoanalysis I

This course presents clinical psychoanalytic material from published and unpublished sources enabling the student to see the data from which theory is derived and to see how analysts think about and conduct an analysis. The course grounds the analytic concepts from the Theory I course in the immediate, experiential encounter in the consulting room. Drive, defense, the repetition of unconscious fantasy constellations, transference, counter-transference and interpretation are examined as they appear in the associations in the treatment hour. The course includes presentations of child and adult analyses.

Winter Semester

Freud II

This course continues with the progression of Freud's thinking as he develops the concepts of narcissism and identification and examines their role in mourning. It follows his revision of the theory of instinctual conflict as the structural theory evolved to explain symptoms as arising from tensions between the id, ego and superego. It reviews his changing ideas about the nature of aggression and anxiety which culminate in the formulation of the life and death instincts. It examines the implications of these changes for his ideas about repression, the unconscious and trauma and considers his later speculations about man's search for pleasure and the roles of aggression, morality, religion and rationality in a civilized society.

Clinical Psychoanalysis II

This course continues the presentation of clinical material from the first semester. Students can observe the evolution of a 'psychoanalytic process' as

the analysis progresses. This involves regression, resistance, the development and resolution of the transference neurosis and the continual multifaceted interplay between the analyst and analysand as they invent and reinvent their working relationship. The nature of the therapeutic actions of psychoanalysis is considered.

SECOND YEAR

Contemporary Psychoanalytic Theory I

This course begins with a segment on psychoanalytic theories of development which focuses on the contributions of child and adolescent psychoanalysts. It continues during this and the following semester with a review of central contemporary responses to Freud's work. In this semester the course considers the contributions of ego psychology and self psychology to analytic thinking and practice.

Presentations of Participants' Scholarly Work I

The workshop format of the course provides participants the opportunity to present their ideas in its current state of development, whether this is preliminary or more advanced. Participants begin to formulate and refine the application of psychoanalytic concepts to their ideas. The faculty and participants offer reactions and suggestions.

Contemporary Psychoanalytic Theory II

The course examines the perspectives of the object relational, interpersonal and relational traditions in analysis. A final segment of the course focuses on topics chosen by the participants, allowing greater attention to the participants' interests. Topics might include areas such as trauma, gender and female

psychology, dreams or the cultural/political implications of Freud's theories.

Presentations of Participants' Scholarly Work II

The workshop course continues the presentations begun in the first semester. Participants have a second opportunity to discuss the application of psychoanalytic ideas to their work and develop their projects.

FURTHER INFORMATION/APPLICATION

The next program will begin in September 2009.

Eligibility: The program is appropriate for scholars and investigators interested in applying psychoanalytic theory to their research. Applicants may be faculty, graduate students or professionals. This program is not designed to enhance clinical skills.

Fees: Tuition is \$150 per course for graduate students and \$450 for faculty.

Application: Please send a curriculum vitae, a statement of your research interests and two letters of recommendation to:

Ms. Kathryn R. Wilcox, Administrator
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203 562-2103
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If you have questions about the program, please contact Kay Long, PhD @ 203 498-9091