Gender and Sexuality

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Course Description:

This course will examine historical and contemporary psychoanalytic understandings of gender and sexuality. In approaching such a broad and far-reaching area of study, this course will focus specifically on issues, concerns and examples of working clinically with lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, trans* or gender-variant individuals. We will be addressing the roles of prejudice, hetero-normativity, misogyny, cis-normativity, racism, and historic as well as current hegemonies of mental health stigma continue to operate, consciously or beyond our awareness, in psychodynamic and analytic clinical treatments.

Course Objectives:

1. Candidates will be able to identify and trace historical changes in understanding gender and sexuality in psychoanalysis from mid-20th century to present.
2. Candidates will be able to consider a range of developmental factors encountered by and impacting LGBT*Q individuals.
3. Candidates will be able to examine and discuss various issues and struggles that LGBT*Q individuals may bring to treatment.
4. Candidates will be able to identify various ways clinicians are challenged in working with issues related to sexuality and gender. In this course we will emphasize the clinician’s ethical, safe, and effective use of self (e.g., self-awareness, personal history, countertransference, enactments).

Course Expectations:

In fulfilling these objectives we ask that each candidate read the assigned material in advance of the class for which it is assigned. Please be prepared to engage in class discussions and activities informed by the assigned readings as well as by your personal experiences, observations, trainings and range of study.

Instructors will post several focus questions each week for your reflection and to guide your reading of material. We will also be posting video excerpts from the film, “Paris is Burning” for you to view and as our discussions in the course progress.

In-class activities will include discussions/exercises in full class and in breakout groups. Instructors will provide directions, focus questions, and comments to highlight clinical examples and related considerations in reading material assigned. We expect attendance at each class session and we request that you inform instructors directly by email if unavoidable circumstances arise preventing your class attendance.
Calendar:

Session 1  **Historical and Modern Clinical Perspectives**

Video excerpt screened in class: 1967, CBS, The Homosexuals

Session 2  **Historical and Modern Clinical Perspectives**

Session 3  **Developmental Considerations: Gender, Sexuality and the Self**

Session 4  **Developmental Considerations: Gender, Sexuality and the Self**

Session 5  **Transgender Experience: Problems of the Concept of Normativity**
Session 6  Transgender Experience: The Trauma of Growing Up Nonconforming


Additional Readings for Continued Study