

The Gender Revolution in Psychotherapy

Instructor: Dr. Lawrence Hedges

12 Hours of Continuing Education Credit for Mental Health Professionals

Five **Zoom** Sections 90 Minute Each Meeting the Third Week of the Month

Third Mondays	11:45-1:15
Third Tuesdays	10:30-12:00
Third Wednesdays	10:30-12:00
Third Thursdays	11:00-12:30
Third Fridays (CHINA SECTION)	12:00-1:30 (Beijing Time)

October 2024 - May 2025

Tuition for the year (12 hours of continuing education credit) is \$375 to be paid in 3 installments of \$125.

Early Bird fee of \$325 due by September 1, 2024.

Course Description: This is a monthly reading and discussion course.

Over the last two decades, we have experienced a series of revolutions in the way we experience and relate to gender, sex, and sexuality in our society and in psychotherapy. The readings and discussions in this course will cover a wide range of views – theoretical, empirical, and intersectional.

Psychoanalysis and psychodynamic psychotherapies have struggled with how to understand gender transitions in the context of transgender patients. But, just as we are beginning to contend seriously with trans experience and embodiment—a beginning that is finding us, as a field, both outpaced and out of breath—the gender horizon seems to recede yet again.

Beyond the presumed ideality of a full transition that starts in one gender and has a clear, coherent, and identifiable gender destination (male-to-female or female-to-male) lies, it turns out, a cornucopia of genders. These wildly plural genders are strange in the most elemental meaning of the word: they are strangers, outsiders, foreign importations to the world of normative gender, a world that is itself a fantasized construction.

These queer genders expose those who think of themselves as ‘gender normals’ (as many cis psychotherapists do) to gendered concoctions that may strain thinking. Unfamiliarity, surprise, and countertransference difficulties can defensively mutate into the formulation that such genders are endemically pathological.

Unusual gender forms that do not contour themselves around male/female presentations, but dart, instead, to and fro male/female may be responded to by the psychotherapist with bewilderment, incredulity, or even anger. At times, they are responded to with debilitating anxiety or primitive terror that can interfere with the therapist’s ordinary capacity to wait for material to emerge, and to reflect on her/his/their countertransference. Such genders can challenge the expansive theoretical efforts even of thoughtful therapists who are willing to concede that some patients are indeed better off transitioning.

A growing number of therapists are starting to recognize that social and medical transitioning may be a viable psychic option for some patients (rather than a concretization of psychotic operations), making it

possible for psychotherapy to imagine good adaptations for patients seeking full transitions. Nevertheless, more complex genders, such as intersexed, queer, or non-binary ones, are only now beginning to be addressed with similar sensitivity and imaginative capacity in our therapeutic literature. This course will consider many of the far-reaching formulations that are now emerging—along with revealing and challenging case studies.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course the participants will be able to:

1. Explain what Corbett means by a “holding Transforming Nexus“ in psychotherapy.
2. State and define three different forms of cultural transmission in shaping gender differences.
3. State what Saketopoulou means by “massive gender trauma”.
4. State what is meant by “mourning the body as bedrock“.
5. Define “body dysphoria” in the context of transsexual.
6. List two reasons that a dialectical solution to gender nonconformity may be better than a postmodern solution.
7. List three difficulties that may arise in the therapist’s own sense of gender, gender identity, and sexuality when working with trans populations.
8. Explain why E’s choice of surgery does not imply a less than successful outcome of the treatment or question the validity of the postmodern-psychoanalytic solution.
9. Name three problems that Scarfone sees with the way psychoanalysis views the feminine.
10. State why Scarfone believes we can’t escape the male/female dichotomy in Psychoanalysis or Life!
11. Define the difference between interoception, proprioception and exteroception in gender studies.
12. From Laplanche’s formulations, explain the difference between the two destinies of the early enigmatic—those that are translated and those that are not.
13. State why the Copernican revolution remains incomplete.
14. State three psychological difficulties intersexed people are likely to experience.

Required Reading: All monthly required readings can be found through Google Drive sent to participants.

Optional Reading: Eugenides, J. (2002). *Middlesex*. Picador USA.

Monthly Assignments in Google Drive

<p>Session 1: Date: October 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Genderqueer: One Family's Experience with Gender.</i> Marcus, L., Marcus, K., Yaxte, S.M., & Marcus K. (2015). 2. <i>The Transforming Nexus: Psychoanalysis, Social Theory, and Queer Childhood.</i> Corbett, K. (2017). 3. <i>Falling Outside of the 'Nice Little Binary Box': A Psychoanalytic Exploration of the Non-Binary Gender Identity.</i> Losty, M., & O'Connor, J. (2018). <p>Session 2: Date: November 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Minding the Gap: Intersections Between Gender, Race, and Class in Work with Gender Variant Children.</i> Saketopoulou, A. (2014). 2. <i>Gender and Culture.</i> Giuliano, P. (2020). 3. <i>Retransitioning: The Experiences of Youth Who Socially Transition Genders More Than Once.</i> Durwood, L., et al. (2022). <p>Session 3: Date: December 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Mourning the Body as Bedrock: Developmental Considerations in Treating Transsexual Patients Analytically.</i> Saketopoulou, A. (2014). 2. <i>Both Given and Made: Commentary on Saketopoulou.</i> Dimen, M. (2014). 3. <i>Broaching Partially-Shared Identities: Critically Interrogating Power and Intragroup Dynamics in Counseling Practice with Trans People of Color.</i> Erby, A. N., & White, E. M. (2020). <p>Session 4: Date: January 2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>From Fragmentation to Fluidity: A Postmodern Solution to a Case of Gender Identity Disorder.</i> Lippe, W., & Offner, D. (2000). 2. <i>From the Womb to the Therapeutic Relationship: Human Interaction, Biology, and the Shaping of Gender Identity.</i> Slavin, M. O. (2000). 3. <i>Realness with a Twist: Gender Creativity in the LGBTQ Ballroom.</i> Baker-Pitts, C., & Martin, D. (2021). 	<p>Session 5: Date: February 2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The Feminine, the Analyst, and the Child Theorist (From The Reality of the Message).</i> Scarfone, D. (2023). 2. <i>Conversation (From The Reality of the Message).</i> Scarfone, D. (2023). 3. <i>Transitioning Gender, Transitioning Race: Transgender People and Multiracial Positionality.</i> Mattias de Vries, K., & Sojka, C. J. (2020). <p>Session 6: Date: March 2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Being and Knowing.</i> Langer, S. J. (2019). 2. <i>Foundations of Consciousness and Gender.</i> Langer, S. J. (2019). 3. <i>Thick Trust, Thin Trust, Social Capital, and Health Outcomes Among Trans Women of Color in New York City.</i> Hwahng, S. J., Allen, B., Zadoretzky, C., Doucet, H. B., McKnight, C., & Jarlais, D. D. (2021). <p>Session 7: Date: April 2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>A Feminine Boy: Trauma As Resource for Self-Theorization.</i> Saketopoulou, A., & Pellegrini, A. (2023). 2. <i>On Taking Sides: They/Them Pronouns Gender and the Psychoanalyst.</i> Saketopoulou, A., & Pellegrini, A. (2019). 3. <i>The Imposition of Gender: Psychoanalytic Encounters with Genital Atypicality.</i> Williams, N. (2002). 4. <i>Qualities of Mentalization and Perception of Parental Mirroring in a Group of Italian Transgender People: An Empirical Study.</i> Esposito, G., Scandurra, C., Freda, M. F., Pepicelli, G., Valerio P., & Vitelli, R. (2022). <p>Session 8: Date: May 2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Mourning the Loss of the Idealized Self: A Transsexual Passage.</i> Hansurby, G. (2005). 2. <i>Gender, Sex, and the Sexual.</i> Saketopoulou, A., & Pellegrini, A. (2023). 3. <i>Radical "Boyhood" Futures for the Twenty-First Century, or, Pinocchio (Finally) Gets His Phallus.</i> Hammer, K. A. (2019).
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Continuing Education Certificates and Credits

This course meets the qualifications for 12 hours of continuing education credit for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and/or LEPs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. The Listening Perspectives Study Center is approved by the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists to sponsor continuing education for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and LEPs. The Listening Perspectives Study Center maintains responsibility for this program/course and its content.

Certificates will be distributed upon successful completion of all coursework and course evaluation.

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Further, individual therapists of different sexes, gender orientation, socioeconomic status, age, ability, and disability as well as individuals with differing religious and political beliefs are regularly welcomed to participate in our continuing education classes.

References

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- Durwood, L., Kivalanka, K. A., Kahn-Samelson, S., Jordan, A. E., Rubin, J. D., Schnelzer, P., Devor, A. H., & Olson, K. R. (2022). Retransitioning: The experiences of youth who socially transition genders more than once. *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 23(4), 49-427.

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- Esposito, G., Scandurra, C., Freda, M. F., Pepicelli, G., Valerio, P., & Vitelli, R. (2022). Qualities of mentalization and perception of parental mirroring in a group of Italian transgender people: An empirical study. *Psychoanalytic Psychology, 39*(1), 59-68.
- Giuliano, P. (2020). Gender and culture. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy, 36*(4), 944-961.
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- Hwahng, S. J., Allen, B., Zadoretzky, C., Doucet, H. B., McKnight, C., & Jarlais, D. D. (2021). Thick trust, thin trust, social capital, and health outcomes among trans women of color in New York City. *International Journal of Transgender Health, 23*(1), 214-231.
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