

## **It Takes Two Minds to Think Our Most Difficult Thoughts: Bion's Seminal Works on Thinking and Communicating**

In this class, we will study the early seminal works of Bion including his explication of psychotic functioning, his theory of thinking, and his great clinical works including Attacks on Linking and essays on arrogance and hallucination.

The first goal of the course is to study the seminal works that introduced psychoanalysts to many concepts that have become an integral part of psychoanalytic language, such as linking, container/contained, projective identification, alpha function, and O. By grounding our current understanding with Bion's conceptualizations of these concepts, we will be more able to integrate and use them in our clinical work. Secondly, we will apply our understanding of Bion's work on thinking and learning from experience to our own clinical work as we are moved to talk about a patient.

Spring, 2019 April 19, 2019 to May 31, 2019 9:45am-11:15am  
Instructor: Eileen Keller, PhD [kellerphd@gmail.com](mailto:kellerphd@gmail.com)

### **Section One: Bion's Theory of Mind**

Session 1, April 19

Bion, W. R. (1962) A theory of thinking. IJP,43, 306-310. **PEP**

Souter, K.M. (2009). The War Memoirs: Some origins of the thought of W. R. Bion. IJP, 90(4):795-808. **PEP**

Session 2, April 26

Bion, WR 1958. On Arrogance. 39:144-146. **PEP**

Bion, WR 1958 On Hallucination 39: 341-349. **PEP**

Session 3, May 3.

Bion, W. R. (1959) Attacks on linking. IJP, 40, 308-315. **PEP**

**Session 4 cancelled per instructor: May 10, 2019**

### **Section 2: Learning From Experience**

Session 5, May 17

Bion, from Seven Servants. Introduction: no page numbers. **PDF.**

Bion Introduction to "Learning From Experience." **PEP**

Bion: Learning from Experience. pp: 1-30. Chapters 1-11. **PEP**

Session 6, May 24: Linking in Love, Hate, Knowledge (L,H,K) and Transformations, Catastrophic change, Emotional storm

Bion Learning From Experience. Chapter 12, pp.31-37. Chapters 14-17, pp. 42-52; Chapter 21, pp. 64-65; **PEP**  
Learning From Experience. Chapters 26-28, pp.82-99 **PEP**

### **Section 3: Lies, Falsities, Truth**

Session 7, May 31 Catastrophic change, Truth

Bion. Attention and Interpretation. Chap 12, pp. 106-124. **PEP**

Bianchedi, Lies and Falsities. Melanie Klein and Object Relations. V. 11, #2, 1993. **PDF**

Make-up Session TBA, if possible. Review and discussion/digestion

#### **Recommended Reading**

Bion, WR **Seven Servants**. Combines Learning From Experience, Elements of Psychoanalysis, Transformations and Attention and Interpretation.

**Bion's Lectures:** There are several publications of consultations Bion did late in his life. I especially like the Tavistock Seminars, the Italian Seminars and a new one containing supervisions called Bion in Brazil that just came out.

Bion, W. R. **War Memoirs 1917-1919** Francesca Bion (ed.) London: Karnac Books, 1997.

**Bion Today**. ed. Chris Mawson. originating in a large conference on Bion, these papers show the wide-ranging engagement with Bion that continues these fifty years after his death.

**Attacks on Linking**, eds. Bronstein and O'Shaughnessy. Again, though focused on this concept, these papers illustrate Bion's continuing relevance to psychoanalysts today.

Grotstein, J. **A beam of intense darkness: Wilfred Bion's legacy to psychoanalysis**. London: Karnac

Grotstein, J. (2009) ...**But at the Same Time and on Another level:**

**Psychoanalytic Theory and Technique in the Kleinian/Bionian Mode**. Karnac Books.