

OREGON PSYCHOANALYTIC CENTER

LISTENING IN THE LINKS: TOWARD A MATRIX OF CONTACT

WITH JEFFREY EATON, MA, FIPA

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

TIME: 9 AM - 1 PM

LOCATION: TBD*

4 CMES

Course Description

Wilfred Bion famously advised that an analyst should try to listen without memory, desire, or understanding. While this advice has perplexed many, Bion's intention is rooted in questions about an analyst's capacity for observation, intuition, and the relationship between those two kinds of experience.

In this presentation I will explore the idea of "listening in the links". I propose to describe how openness to what emerges in a session can gradually allow an analyst to describe "a matrix of contact". A matrix of contact attempts to describe a level of complexity not always available in the more familiar term transference.

An object relationship is usually described as having three aspects: self, object, and relationship. This presentation will focus on describing different registers of relationship, as well as different kinds of links, that can be observed in the interaction between self and object. Shifting focus to links and their transformation enlarges the analyst's awareness and appreciation of an analytic field.

Particular attention will be given to the different forms of experience organized by the self as agent and the self as object and how these forms of experience are transformed at different levels of emotional connection or contact. From this a kind of "listening grid" can be pictured to aid the analyst's task of self reflection and enlarge the capacity for appreciating a patient's complex and changing "picture of the world".

While this presentation is deeply informed by the work of Bion and others (Meltzer, Grotstein, and Ferro) emphasis will be on a personal synthesis and some implications of Bion's model, rather than on an academic presentation of Bion's ideas. Familiarity with Bion's ideas will be helpful but not necessary to engage with the ideas presented.

Learning Objectives

1. The participant will be able to recognize and describe the importance of a structure described as "the self as agent".
2. The participant will be able to recognize and describe the importance of a structure described as "the self as object".
3. The participant will be able to recognize and describe three different forms of anxiety and their relationship to forms of contact with an object.

****We aim to have this event in person, but will be keeping tabs on COVID-19 as the event draws nearer and may need to switch to a virtual format***



Biography

Jeffrey L. Eaton, MA, FIPA is a graduate and faculty member of the Northwestern Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, a member of the IPA, and a board certified psychoanalyst. His writing has appeared as several chapters in edited collections as well as in the book *A Fruitful Harvest: Essays after Bion* (2011, Alliance Press). He has been Margaret Jarvie Memorial Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, Beata Rank Memorial Lecturer at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society, and 2017 International Guest Lecturer for the Australian Psychoanalytic Society. He is a Frances Tustin Memorial Lecture Prize winner and a frequent speaker at international Tustin Trust and Bion conferences. He was a founder of The Alliance Community Psychotherapy Clinic in Seattle, a Consultant Child Psychotherapist to the Gunawirra Project in New South Wales, and for over a decade participated in INSPIRA, an international symposium on the psychoanalytic study and treatment of Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

PRICING:

\$150 - NON-MEMBERS

\$135 - MEMBERS

**\$75 STUDENTS /RESIDENTS/
INTERNS/ COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

Continuing Medical Education: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the American Psychoanalytic Association and the Oregon Psychoanalytic Center. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The American Psychoanalytic Association designates this Live Activity for a maximum of 4.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR ALL LEARNERS: None of the planners and presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s)* to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

***Financial relationships are relevant if the educational content an individual can control is related to the business lines or products of the ineligible company.**

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.OREGONPSYCHOANALYTIC.ORG