



**OREGON
PSYCHOANALYTIC
CENTER**

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May 21, 2025

Dear OPC Community,

The Oregon Psychoanalytic Center (OPC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing inclusive, high-quality programming that promotes psychoanalytic learning locally and beyond. We rely heavily on the volunteer efforts of clinicians in our community, and while we strive to be thoughtful in the programming we offer, we recognize that we do not always anticipate how these efforts may impact members of our broader community.

In Fall 2023, the Continuing Education Committee invited Dr. Alessandra Lemma to speak on her clinical work with transgender youth. This invitation was extended at the suggestion of a respected clinician who found Dr. Lemma's writing valuable in their work with young people. At the time, the CE Committee was unaware of how Dr. Lemma's work is situated within the broader discourse on gender identity.

In early May 2025, members of our organization brought forward concerns about the event. On May 15, we received a letter signed by community members and OPC members requesting that the event be canceled. We are grateful for this feedback and deeply regret the distress this may have caused. Affirming the dignity and humanity of trans people is essential to who we strive to be as an educational community. We are listening and learning from this experience.

Over the past two weeks, members of the CE Committee and the OPC Board have met with some of the individuals who voiced concerns. The OPC leadership has devoted much time to discussing these concerns. These conversations were thoughtful, complex, and challenging. Many within our membership and Board expressed concern, discomfort, and ambivalence, and a diversity of viewpoints and feelings were considered. After careful deliberation, a decision was made by the Board to proceed with the program. We want to acknowledge that some viewed cancellation as necessary to stand in solidarity with trans people, while others hoped to use this moment to engage in critical dialogue without reinforcing binary or adversarial thinking—either about gender or about ideological disagreements.

We recognize that continuing with this event may be alienating and upsetting for some. We take this very seriously. Our intent is to develop a space where divergent perspectives can be held with care, including a commitment to protect and uplift marginalized voices. We have asked Dr. Lemma to directly address the critiques and concerns that have been raised about her work. The event will include moderated breakout discussions designed to create space for thoughtful, respectful participation from attendees, including those who may disagree with her views. We will moderate a space to debrief without Dr. Lemma present directly after the event. If you are interested in attending—even if to voice

dissent or raise questions—we welcome your presence. If cost is a barrier, we are offering a sliding scale, including free tickets. Please contact lindseystevens@oregonpsychoanalytic.org to inquire.

We are grateful for the relationships and new conversations this experience has opened up, particularly with trans clinicians and community members. We are committed to continuing this engagement and to developing programming that affirms and reflects the experiences of transgender, non-binary, and queer lives within psychoanalytic practice. In recent years, we have hosted programs featuring Avgi Saketopoulou and Gila Ashtor, and in the coming year, we are organizing a year-long study group focused on psychoanalysis and transgender experience, which we hope will be developed in direct partnership with trans clinicians.

To our trans, non-binary, and queer colleagues: we want your voices and leadership in shaping our educational offerings. To this end, we are planning a listening session over the summer of 2025 to hear your ideas and invite your participation on shaping OPC's programming as an ongoing effort—stay tuned for details.

If you are interested in contributing ideas, sharing feedback, or participating in the Continuing Education Committee, please contact Alice Huang at alice.huang.md@gmail.com, anytime. If you would like to connect with the OPC Board and share comments, please reach out the OPC President, Duane Dale at daled@ohsu.edu. Other feedback and questions can be sent to our Executive Director, Lindsey Stevens, at lindseystevens@oregonpsychoanalytic.org. Your perspectives and participation are vital to our growth.

Sincerely and respectfully,

The OPC Board and Continuing Education Committee

