TRAUMA, SUBJECTIVITY AND SUBJECTALITY

with Dominique Scarfone, MD

Saturday, March 13, 2021 9:30AM - 1:30PM PST

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How do we define trauma in psychoanalytic terms i.e. what do we mean by "psychic trauma"? In which way is the psyche traumatized? Is trauma a subjective experience, an objective fact, or is it possible to think of trauma in relation to the specific reality addressed by psychoanalysis: psychic reality? What kind of result can be expected from analytic treatment? What ethical stance is required of the analyst with regard to the traumatized subject?

These are among the many questions that shall be addressed, directly or indirectly, during the presentation.

As the title suggests, we shall distinguish between two different positions on the part of the human subject: subjectivity (and its related intersubjectivity) and subjectality, which will be introduced theoretically and illustrated clinically.

Related topics: a translational model of the psychoanalytic mind and process; objectivity and subjectivity; the notion of subject; subjectivism and mass psychology; subjectality (and a possible intersubjectality).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Revisit the notion of psychic trauma, from Freud, through Ferenczi, to Laplanche.
- Acquire a critical view of the notions of objectivity and subjectivity in psychoanalysis, through the notion of psychic reality;
- Acquire a clinically useful conception of the notion of subject in psychoanalysis;
- Distinguish between subjectivity and subjectality, especially in relation to psychic trauma;

BIOGRAPHY:

Dominique Scarfone, M.D., is a psychoanalyst in private practice, a training and supervising analyst in the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society & Institute (Montreal French Branches), and a former full professor at the Université de Montréal. Formerly an Associate Editor of the International Journal of Psychoanalysis, he is presently chairing the Executive committee of the journal's College.

The author of numerous journal articles and book chapters, he published a number of books, among which Laplanche: An Introduction and The Unpast: The Actual Unconscious, both published in 2015 in New York by UIT-The Unconscious in Translation. He coedited with Howard B. Levine and Gail Reed. Unrepresented States and the Construction of Meaning (Karnac, 2013). A new book is in preparation: The Reality of the Message. Seduction, Trauma and Transference (provisional title) to be published by UIT.

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Health Professionals

Continuing Medical Education

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