

Syllabus:

“Madness”—in the Therapist and the Client

Speaker: William Cornell, M.A. TSTA

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Time: 6:15 pm – 9 pm

Seminar

2.75 CE Credits

Fee: Free to Members; Pay-What-You Can Model to Non-Members per our
Seminar Series Guidelines

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Description This course will be grounded in the work of Danielle Quinodoz. Working from a third-generation perspective of Kleinian object relations theory, Quinodoz describes how patients and therapists alike have aspects of one’s self that are considered intolerable, “mad,” that must be condoned off—split—from one’s conscious conceptualization of who I am. She introduces the concept of the heterogeneous patient (and therapist), collapsing the traditional distinction between neurotic and psychotic defenses. She argues for a curiosity with regard to “madness” and describes the use of language in ways to both welcome madness and speak respectfully to the patient’s subjective experience. Writing for a transactional analysis perspective, Zefiro Mellacqua, a psychiatrist who specializes in working with those diagnosed as schizophrenic, similarly argues that we not hide the madness. Additionally, optional readings will be suggested for those wishing to broaden their perspective on related psychoanalytic concepts, though the course will not directly cover these materials.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Analyze and describe anxieties regarding the experience of aspects of the self, feared to be “mad”.

2. Evaluate and focus on the means of describing and interpreting the anxieties that foster the need for splitting as a means of maintaining psyche equilibrium.
3. Develop perspectives on the ways in which countertransference anxieties about “madness” may interfere with or deepen one’s understandings of anxieties that may permeate the clinical encounter.

Required Readings:

1. Quinodoz, D. (2001). The Psychoanalyst of the Future: Wise enough to dare to be mad at times. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, Vol. 82, 235-248.
2. Quinodoz, D. (2003). Words that touch. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, Vol. 84, 1469-1485.
3. Mellacqua, Z. (2020). Don’t hide the madness. Chapter 10, *Transactional analysis of Schizophrenia: The Naked Self*. London: Routledge, 2020.

Optional Readings:

1. Steiner, J. (1994). Patient-centered and analyst-centered interpretations: Some implications of containment and countertransference. *Psychoanalytic inquiry*, , 14, 406-422.
2. McDougall, J. (1992-original in French, 1978). Plea for a measure of abnormality. Chapter 13, *Plea for a Measure of Abnormality*. New York: Brunner/Mazel, pp. 463-486.

The Speaker: William F. Cornell, M.A., maintains an independent private practice of psychotherapy and consultation in Pittsburgh, PA. He teaches internationally with a primary focus on working with somatic processes and sexuality. Bill is a founding faculty member of the recently inaugurated Western Pennsylvania Community for Psychoanalytic Therapies. He is the author of *Explorations in Transactional Analysis: The Meech Lake Papers*, *Somatic Experience in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy: In the expressive language of the living*, *Self-Examination in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy: Countertransference and subjectivity in clinical practice*, *At the Interface of Transactional Analysis, Psychoanalysis, and Body Psychotherapy: Theoretical and clinical perspectives*, and *Une Vie Pour Etre Soi*. He is a co-author and editor of *Into TA: A comprehensive textbook*, which have been translated into several languages. Bill has published numerous articles and book chapters, many of which have been translated into French, Italian, German, Portuguese, and Chinese. Bill edited and introduced books by James T. McLaughlin, Warren Poland, Wilma Bucci, and Maurice Apprey. An editor of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* for fifteen years, he is now the Editor of the

Routledge book series, “Innovations in Transactional Analysis.” Bill is a recipient of the Eric Berne Memorial Award and the European Association for Transactional Analysis Gold Medal, in recognition of his writing.

For additional information on the background and experience of the speaker, or to request the speaker’s CV, please contact inquiries@wpacommunity.org or see our faculty section on our website at www.wpacommunity.org

Who Should Attend and Instructional Level of Activity: Psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, counselors with interest in advancing their understanding and application of contemporary psychoanalytic concepts. Instructional level is suited for practicing mental health clinicians. Intermediate level of instructional programming.

Continuing Education Credits: 2.75 *The Western Pennsylvania Community for Psychoanalytic Therapies is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Western Pennsylvania Community for Psychoanalytic Therapies maintains responsibility for this program and its content.*

Attendance: To receive continuing education credit, you must sign in and be present for the entire seminar. You will be asked to complete an evaluation at the end of the session.

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