



COMMUNITY
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY
FOR PSYCHOANALYTIC THERAPIES

Syllabus:

Exploring Mind/Body Splitting in the Understanding of the Psychotic Dilemma

Speaker: William Cornell, M.A. TSTA

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 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

For general programming questions email: inquiries@wpacommunity.org

Description This course will be grounded in the work of Ricardo Lombardi, a pioneer in working with psychotic processes. The class will experiment with the use of somatic receptivity and interventions in the psychotherapy of patients experiencing severe levels of psyche/some splitting and disembodiment. This class stresses the therapist's primary attention to the mind-body splits (the vertical axis), in contrast to interpersonal/transference interpretations (the horizontal axis), in the treatment of chronic disembodied defenses.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. To describe the potential threats of the body to the capacities of the mind in psychotic defenses.

2. Evaluate and focus on the differentiation of interventions along the vertical and horizontal axes in working with psychotic levels of splitting.
3. Develop perspectives on the ways in which countertransference anxieties about bodily distress that may interfere with attention to the vertical, intrapsychic experiences of the bodily self.

Required Readings:

1. Lombardi, R. (2011). The body, feelings, and the unheard music of the senses. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 47, 3-24.
2. Cornell, W.F. (2022). Wishing I weren't here: Therapeutic engagements with disembodied states. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 42, 253-265.
3. Lombardi, R. (2010). The body emerging from the "Neverland" of nothingness. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 79: 879-909.

Optional, Additional Readings:

1. Lombardi, R. (2016). Conversations with clinicians. *Fort da*, 22, 68-74.
2. Goldberg, P. (2022). Embodiment, dissociation, and the rhythm of life. In Harrang, C., Tillotson, D., & Winters, N. C. (Eds.), *Body as psychoanalytic object: Clinical implications from Winnicott to Bion and beyond* (pp. 118–133). Routledge. [To be provided in hard copy at the time of the class]

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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