

Syllabus:

Freud's Theory of Mind: The Centrality of Repression and the Development of Unconscious and Conscious Mental Processes

Speaker:

Bill Cornell M.A., TSTA (P)

Date:

October 28, 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: Is Freud still relevant? Michael Shulman thinks so. He provides a succinct critique of the evolution of Freud's thinking and its limitations, concluding with a description of what he considers the six essential aspects of Freud's work essential to working as a psychodynamic psychotherapist. He then invites the reader to consider what each finds essential from Freud to their own thinking. This class will invite each of us to do the same. Readings include two of Freud's most basic essays, on "Repression" and "Formulations on the Two Principles of mental Functioning". The emphasis here will not be on technique, but rather on Freud's theory of mind and its formation. We will then turn to Freud's own words for our initial exploration of Freud's conceptualization of the dynamics of the mind.

Program Objectives:

At the end of the program, participants will be able to:

1. To describe Freud's conceptualization of repression and consider its relevance to an understanding of how the mind develops
2. To consider and discuss Freud's conceptualization of mental functions.
3. To summarize the therapeutic intentions of psychoanalysis.

References/Readings:

1. Shulman, M.E. (2021), What Use is Freud? *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 69: 1108-1113. For the purposes of this class, pages 1108-1110 are essential reading.
2. Ogden, T.H. (2020). Toward a revised form of analytic thinking and practice: The evolution of analytic theory of mind. *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 86, 219-243. For the purposes of this class, please read pages 219-225. The remainder of this paper will be relevant over the course of subsequent classes.
3. Freud, S. (1915). Repression. *The Standard Edition*, Vol. 14, 141-158.
4. Freud, S. (1911). Formulations on the two principles of mental functioning. *The Standard Edition*, Vol. 12, 213-226.

A personal note from Bill: These requirements of the APA for 3 journal-based articles published within the last 10 years in order for a class to "merit" and be "awarded" CEU's is a contemporary, professional example of the valorization and perpetuation of a certain class of "knowledge" that marginalizes other forms of knowing, teaching, and representing the kind of living, literary, sociological, and political writings and voices that are so essential to the topics of the classes we are addressing this year. Attempting to limit recognized material to the past 10 years erases the history of ideas that we so need in order to both comprehend and critique any theory and method of practice. Freud, unfortunately, has not published any articles in a peer-reviewed journal during the past 10 years, so his 30+ volumes of writing do not meet APA standards.

The Speaker: Bill Cornell, M.A., TSTA (P), has maintained an independent private practice of psychotherapy and consultation in Pittsburgh, PA for over 50 years. Having studied behavioral psychology at Reed College in Portland, Oregon and phenomenological psychology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he followed his graduate program with training in transactional analysis and body-centered psychotherapy and has studied with several mentors and consultants within diverse psychoanalytic perspectives.

For the past 30 years, Bill has consulted, lectured, and trained in countries throughout the world, contributing annually to training programs in England, France, Switzerland, Italy, and

Romania. He has published more than 50 articles and book chapters, several books, and edited multiple others in psychoanalysis and transactional analysis.

A coeditor of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* for fifteen years, Bill 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. *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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