Northern California Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology Chapter Report

Each year the Pre-Licensed Committee (PLC) hosts a number of events aimed at supporting the cultivation of community, professional development, and intellectual interests of graduate students and early career clinicians. This year we continued our efforts to understand the relevance psychoanalytic thought and practice has in relation to social and political structures and expanded our programing to include collaboration with the C.G. Jung Institute of San Francisco. Our Fall Salon with Jungian analyst John Beebe, MD highlighted the many points of convergence between Jungian and Freudian derivatives of psychoanalysis, challenging the unnecessary separation of these two systems of thought and practice.

The PLC collaborated with the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California (PINC) to host four outreach events at various internship clinics in the East Bay and San Francisco, creating opportunities for younger clinicians to encounter psychoanalytic thinking.

The committee also organized its second Early Career Panel, hosted at California Institute for Integral Studies, in which the committee members facilitated dialogue around marketing a private practice, publishing and presenting at conferences, clinical specialization, and finding community.

The education committee of NCSPP offered numerous programs that set us apart from other centers for psychoanalytic learning. Our foundations series continued with an in-depth study on Freud,

- From Oral to Oedipal: The Drama of infantile Sexuality.

In the fall we offered courses entitled,
- Presence, Absence, and Dread.
- Writing as ‘Coming into Being.’
- Are you My Mother? Psychodynamic Psychotherapy in the Adoption Constellation.

Our spring teachings included hot topics such as
- Distant Learning: Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy by Phone and Skype.
- Bion and the Movies: The Matrix and Beta-Mentality.

The programming offered by the Intensive Study Group Committee has served as an important gateway for many NCSPP members seeking analytic training who wish to get a taste for immersive didactic work before applying to the institutes.

Our Annual event in 2014, A Day with Anne Alvarez, was a delightful opportunity to hear from the influential analyst in person. Dr. Alvarez presented on tailoring interventions to connect with difficult-to-reach patients. Her theoretical ideas were further developed in discussion with Dr. Mary Margaret McClure and Dr. Paula Mandel.

Dr. Salman Akhtar, our presenter for the 2015 Annual Event, gave a presentation entitled The Mental Pain of Minorities: Amelioration and Treatment. The event was well-attended and deeply inspiring to many who were present.