

**Oklahoma Society for Psychoanalytic Studies  
Open Membership Meeting, Saturday, April 29, 2017  
Information Gathering for Section IV**

**I. Structure:**

**A. Officers**

President:	Sharon Neuwald, Dr. PH
Vice President:	Laura Lochner, Ph.D.
Secretary:	Amber Prather, M.A.
Treasurer:	Tara Hall, M.A.
Program Chair:	Kay Smith, M.S.W
Chair of the Education and Training Committee:	Carol Mason-Straughan, MSW
Division 39 Representative:	Rebecca Thompson, M.S.
Ex-officio Member:	Jeff Fine-Thomas, M.A
Endowment Chair	Joe Couch, Ph.D.

**B. Membership**

- Division 39: 25
- Psychologist: 13
- Social Work: 27
- Certified Psychoanalysts: 21
- LMFT: 4
- LPC: 15
- MD: 3
- Other :20
- Total: 82

**C. Diversity in Membership**

We have endeavored to be relevant to members of the community not already familiar with psychoanalytic theory and/or therapies. To that end we have made efforts to reach out to residents in psychiatry, mental health staff of the facilities in which we meet, and licensing candidates/people beginning their careers as therapists.

**II. Governance:**

The board positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and Division 39 Representative are elected to two-year terms; committee chairs are appointed by the president. Those elected to the board may serve two consecutive terms. The board meets formally two times per year, with additional meetings called as needed to make decisions at hand. Additionally, board members stay in very active communication via email to manage routine operational tasks.

Committees meet as needed, and are called by the respective chairs. The production of the monthly seminars utilizes the work of many volunteers: ordering, receiving and

setting up refreshments/snacks at each meeting; directing traffic to the meeting room on-site; registering seminar participants; securing CEU credits for seminars, tracking attendance signatures, and handing out records of attendance; organizing meals for seminar presenters and board members compiling seminar evaluations into usable reports for the Board; identifying and making contact with new attendees/OSPS members; etc.

A designated OSPS member helps facilitate the organization of formal training groups when there is enough interest to do so.

Day to day operations and coordination of OSPS activities are done on a volunteer basis; some technical, data entry, financial bookkeeping, and mass email functions are done by paid contractors, website page design and brochure printing is also contracted out.

### **III. Programming 2016-2017**

#### **A. Programs (Conferences, seminars, etc.)**

Our primary objective involves teaching and learning about psychoanalytic thought. To that end, we have three primary modes of providing education to the community.

- Monthly seminars during the academic year for continuing education credits.
- A one year course entitled “Foundations in Psychoanalytic Thought.” This is described more fully below.
- Periodic study groups organized when interest has sufficiently coalesced around a particular subject matter.

#### **MONTHLY SEMINARS**

Monthly seminars are organized and produced by the program chair with the assistance of the board of directors and additional volunteers in doing the many small tasks that support successful seminars. A separate, designated volunteer helps with the following tasks: setting up and monitoring the table with snacks at each seminar, organizing volunteers who do the on-site registration, arranging meals with the presenter and local personnel, coordinating application, approval, and handing out of CEU's for each program, and compiling the results of evaluations from each seminar.

We have been fortunate to utilize professional training and seminar settings in the wider community in which to hold our seminars, so we have access to good quality audio-visual and computer technology in the production of the seminars.

We utilize presenters from our local community, around the nation, and a few from around the world when their travel schedules have made it conducive to include us in their venue.

The seminars have prior approval for CEU's from the state boards regulating continuing education and licensing for psychologists, social workers, LPC's,

LMFT's, and LADC's. Typically, the September seminar is approved for three hours of credits in ethics for these respective boards, and is often one of the highest attended seminars of the year.

Attendance at our seminar has ranged from about 43 to 85, with an average of about 66. It is a challenge to accurately anticipate attendance and set fees that cover the costs of the seminars, and we have been fortunate to do this adequately.

Here is a listing of seminars for 2016-2017:

September 2016

John Riker, Ph.D., "The Psychoanalytic Concept of Otherness: Working with Non-Anglo Patients."

October 2016

Charles Fisher M.D., "The Contemporary Status of Conflict Theory."

November 2016

James Fosshage, Ph.D., "Pivotal Issues in Understanding and Working with Dreams."

January 2017

Erika Miller, LCSW, Psy.A., "Howling Through the Graveyard: The Vicissitudes of Countertransference When the Analyst is a Replacement Child."

February 2017

Frank Summers, Ph.D., "The Psychoanalytic Vision: The Experiencing Subject, Transcendence, and the Therapeutic Process"

March 2017

Christopher Christian, Ph. D., "Historical Developments Between Modern Conflict Theory and Intersubjectivity."

April 2017

Phillip Ringstrom, Ph.D., Psy.D., "A Relational Psychoanalytic Approach to Couples Therapy."

May 2017

James Sturgis, Ph.D., "Knot in Love: The Paranoid Twist and Bad Candidate Feeling."

#### ONE YEAR COURSE: FOUNDATIONS IN PSYCHOANALYTIC THOUGHT

This program is given oversight by the Chair of the Training and Education Committee. The 'Committee' is made up of the faculty members who teach the courses; the course content is divided into three Pods—Conflict Theory, Object Relations Theory, and Relational Theory—with each Pod coordinated by a Pod

Leader who is responsible for classroom support for faculty and collecting and distributing attendance and evaluation forms.

Readings for individual classes are made available directly to students by faculty at each class, or are posted on the OSPA website for the students to download for themselves.

## STUDY GROUPS

Study groups are time limited (usually 6-12 weeks), topic oriented discussion groups that are formed when a sufficient interest is expressed in a particular area, or are made available when someone expresses an interest in leading such a discussion around a topic that might hold interest for others. Examples include a focused study of writings by a visiting speaker, just before they arrive, or a topic of interest that has coalesced in discussion among students in the One Year Course.

## **B. Education/Training (Courses, etc.)**

### PSYCHOANALYTIC TRAINING

Certification in psychoanalysis in our community has been provided through several institutes: Colorado Center for Psychoanalytic Studies, Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California, and Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis Los Angeles. Certifications have been given to individuals pursuing their own training at an institute, and through the formation of organized, local training groups. The content of these training programs is managed by the respective training institutes.

### ONE YEAR COURSE: FOUNDATIONS IN PSYCHOANALYTIC THOUGHT

In an effort to expose psychoanalytic thinking to a broader clinical community, OSPA organized a one year course in psychoanalytic theory. The intent was to teach this course and conduct case conferences that would show the utility of incorporating into clinical practice, the observation and dialogue about what is happening between therapist and patient, the possibility of unspoken realities that might benefit from discussion, and a process of internal development that might under-gird a lifelong process. It was also hoped that the course would pave the way for additional formal psychoanalytic training groups.

The course was designed to be taught when sufficient community interest would coalesce into a class. Initially, this happened every few years. For about the last five years, we've had a class every year.

For the last several years, psychiatric residents from the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, and fourth year residents at the regional state hospital have been strongly encouraged by their supervisors to participate in this course; about 4-7 per year have done so.

Following is the description as shown on our website:

**Course Description:**

OSPS offers various educational opportunities including monthly seminars, study groups, and the Foundations in Psychoanalytic Thought course. The Foundations course is an intensive survey course that aims to deepen understanding in three schools of thought in Psychoanalysis. This course will occur on a weekly basis, Fridays from 1:00pm – 4:00pm, usually from September through May. Following the two introductory sessions, each week's time will be divided equally between didactic presentation and case conference. The course work will be divided into four sections. The first section, Introduction to Psychoanalytic Models, will take place over the first two weeks and will provide an overview of the three overarching psychoanalytic models. The other three sections will include Conflict Theory, Object Relations Theory, and Relational Theory. Each of the sections will feature major theories within these schools of thought, incorporating how these views translate into the clinical work between the therapist and client. Students will be invited to present cases to be discussed from the various psychoanalytic models. The Case Conference faculty orientation will roughly correspond to the section being presented. Up to one hundred five hours of continuing education units are available for psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists.

**Learning Goals and Objectives**

1. Participants will gain an understanding of each of the major theoretical views within psychoanalytic thought.
2. Participants will learn to differentiate between these theoretical positions both theoretically and in the clinical session.
3. Participants will gain an understanding of the application of each of the theoretical positions in the clinical setting through presentation and discussion of clinical material in case conferences as well as observation of such presentations by fellow participants.

**C. Other Professional Events**

**D. Public Programs**

One outcome of a strategic planning process utilized in the past year is the development of a goal to educate the general public about psychoanalysis and its benefits to our state's citizens. To that end a committee has been formed which is charged with planning and organizing an event addressing a topic relevant to public interest. In March of 2017, we completed our first Outreach Conference. We hosted Dr. Malberg who is currently the Associate Clinical Professor at the Yale Child Study Center in New Haven Connecticut. Dr. Malberg's conference was titled, "Imagining the Inner World of the Child: Listening to the

Language of Attachment in Everyday Life Interactions.” The target audience was individuals like parents, teachers, educators, nurses, and paraprofessionals who are on the front lines of interacting with children.

#### **IV. Key Initiatives or innovations this year**

- Making more efficient use of volunteers and committees to carry out the work of OSPS
- Our web site, [www.osps.info](http://www.osps.info), has been a useful means to communicate with members and the public about the work of OSPS, registering for and receiving payments for seminars, and hosting digital copies of reading materials for students in the One Year Course in Psychoanalytic Thought.
- We are planning on offering a “pilot version” of a second year class beginning in August for a follow up course to the “One Year Course in Psychoanalytic Thought.”

#### **V. Current challenges**

- Following the outcomes of our strategic planning process:
  - Moving board leadership to a style of overseeing task assignments given to committees and volunteers, rather than “doing all the work ourselves”
  - Effectively and efficiently communicating our vision of the future OSPS to constituents
  - Developing a two-year training course in psychoanalytic psychotherapy (which is currently in the planning stages, with a “pilot class” coming in the fall.)

#### **VI. What I want to learn from other chapters**

- Ideas for outreach to universities, colleges, agencies
- Ideas for outreach to the general public
- Ideas for how to create helpful incentives for membership via online resources, etc.