CASE CONFERENCE
ON CASES RELATING TO TRAUMA AND DISSOCIATION

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Course Description and Goals

The goals of this course are to provide a richer understanding of the manifestations of trauma and dissociation as they unfold in the clinical hour. Participants will increase their understanding of the emotional meanings associated with traumatic experience and be able to identify the presence of these meanings in transference and countertransference configurations. A wide range of dissociative phenomena will be addressed, providing opportunities to recognize dissociative experiences and extend knowledge of treatment considerations in connection with dissociative states. Readings are drawn from a range of theoretical formulations, allowing comparison and contrast of perspectives on these very important topics.

Course Objectives

1. Participants will increase their understanding of trauma’s impact on patients’ experiences of self and relationships.

2. Participants will increase understanding of the impact of traumatic experiences on the transference and countertransference manifestations in treatment and will expand ideas about treatment considerations.

3. Participants will increase their understanding of the different manifestations of dissociation and expand awareness of ways to deal with dissociation in treatment.

Course Outline

Each class meeting will involve presentation of case material and a discussion of the assigned reading(s).

Session 1.


Session 2.


Session 3.

Session 4.


Session 5.


Session 6.

Session 7.


Davey, H. Inside the mind of a war vet. Blog post at huffingtonpost.com 10/18/11.

Session 8.


**ITEM 1**

Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to list and describe at least three ways a patient’s traumatic experiences affect his or her experiences of self and relationships with others.

2. Participants will be able to identify at least three basic elements of trauma treatment.

3. Participants will be able to identify different manifestations of dissociation and describe ways to treat dissociation.

**ITEM 2**

The content of this course includes contributions from an extensive range of authors, all of whom are distinguished in the fields of trauma and dissociation. Their writings draw upon a wide range of empirical research on the effects of trauma, links between trauma and dissociation, trauma and memory, and neurobiological findings connected to trauma and dissociation. The different authors represent a range of theoretical perspectives as well, allowing students the opportunity to compare and contrast an array of ideas about treatment.

**ITEM 3**

While some of the information in the course is based on empirical research, other information is drawn from clinical case experience and is illustrated with single case reports. Thus, the applicability of many of the treatment ideas studied in this class must be decided on a case by case basis using clinical judgment. While this course is designed to improve and refine clinical judgment in dealing with cases involving trauma and dissociation, the applicability of any given treatment ideas to any given case must be assessed by the treating clinician.

**ITEM 4**

A history of trauma is extremely prevalent in clinical populations. In addition, dissociation in one form or another frequently manifests in clients who have been traumatized. Untreated trauma and untreated dissociation have been linked to an extensive range of social problems, including criminal behavior, addictions, eating disorders, work difficulties, relationship problems, and physical symptoms. Hence, improved treatment of trauma-related disorders and dissociative symptoms is of great benefit to society.

**ITEM 5**

The list of assigned readings contains at least four to five citations concerning the work presented.