



NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
SOCIETY FOR  
PSYCHOANALYTIC  
PSYCHOLOGY

FALL 2025  
PROGRAMS  
*Courses & Events*

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For full course information and course objectives, please visit our website:  
[www.ncspp.org](http://www.ncspp.org)

On Perversion

Study Group

Instructor: Janie Riley, LMFT; Daniel Butler, Ph.D., LMFT;  
Michael Levin, Psy.D.; Sydney Tan, Psy.D.

Dates: Fridays, September 5, 2025 – April 17, 2026

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Access Institute  
110 Gough Street, Suite 301, San Francisco, CA 94102

CE: 16 CE credits will be earned for each 8-week segment,  
10 CE credits will be earned for the final segment

Tuition: \$2,610 General Public | \$2,030 NCSPP Member  
\$1,856 NCSPP CMH Member

- Course Segments:
- *Turning Towards and Away: A Psychoanalytic Inquiry into Perversity*
  - *Surging Disquiet: Perversion Now*
  - *Where Reality Was, There Infantile Pleasure Shall Be: Perversion as Pathological Defiance*
  - *Lacan’s Oedipal Reading of Perversion: The Knotting of Imaginary and Symbolic Registers*

This year-long course explores the provocative and “polymorphous” psychoanalytic concept of perversion and its varied expressions in clinical practice and the wider cultural sphere. Drawing from classical and contemporary psychoanalytic approaches, we will consider perversion as both an intrapsychic structure and a sociocultural phenomenon.

Amid increasing visibility of perversity in public discourse, the course invites sustained inquiry into its evolving definitions – from Freud’s foundational formulations to later reworkings by Bollas, Stein, and Grunberger. We will also examine how psychoanalysis has historically pathologized certain forms of desire, and how emerging interdisciplinary scholarship reimagines perversion in more nuanced and liberatory terms.

Clinically, we will engage perversion’s creative and destructive capacities, turning to diverse psychoanalytic traditions including French psychoanalysis, the British Independent group, and American Intersubjectivists. Supplemental readings from Foucault, Bataille, Bersani, and Sharpe will enrich our perspective. The course culminates in closely studying Lacan’s structural reading of perversion and its enduring relevance in clinical and cultural life.

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## INTRODUCTORY EVENT

### On Perversion

Event

Instructor: Janie Riley, LMFT; Daniel Butler, Ph.D., LMFT;  
Michael Levin, Psy.D.; Sydney Tan, Psy.D.

Date: Sunday, July 20, 2025

Time: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Tuition: \$20 General Public | \$15 NCSPP Full Members  
\$12 NCSPP CMH Members | \$12 NCSPP Associate Members  
\$10 NCSPP Student Members | \$10 Scholarship Rate (*approval required*)

This introductory event to NCSPP's year-long Intensive Study Group (ISG) features the course's four instructors – Janie Riley, Daniel Butler, Michael Levin, and Sydney Tan – each describing their own approach to this year's theme: On Perversion. The course explores the provocative and "polymorphous" psychoanalytic concept of perversion and its varied expressions in both clinical practice and the wider cultural sphere. Drawing from classical and contemporary psychoanalytic approaches, we will consider perversion as both an intrapsychic structure and a sociocultural phenomenon. From Freud's foundational formulations to later reworkings by Lacan, the British Independent group, American Intersubjectivists, and more. We will examine how psychoanalysis has formulated perversion clinically while at times also pathologizing certain forms of desire. Emerging interdisciplinary scholarship reimagining perversion in more nuanced and liberatory terms will enrich our perspective.

If you're considering registering for the 2025–2026 ISG, this is an opportunity to bring your questions and thoughts into conversation with the instructors.

## THE PSYCHODYNAMICS OF BODY IMAGE

Course

Instructor: Tom Wooldridge, Psy.D., ABPP, CEDS-C

Date: Tuesdays, September 9, 23; October 7, 21, 2025

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Zoom

CE Credit: 6 CE Credits

Tuition: \$270 General Public | \$210 NCSPP Full Members

\$192 NCSPP CMH Members | \$180 NCSPP Associate Members

\$90 NCSPP Student Members | \$90 Scholarship Rate (*approval required*)

This seminar explores the complexities of psychology, culture, and embodiment, with a focus on body image and its manifestations in clinical practice. Through a psychodynamic lens, students will delve into the multifaceted nature of body image, examining its stability, instability, and the resulting psychological impacts. The course is structured around four key themes: (1) foundational psychodynamics of body image, (2) obesity and binge eating, (3) cultural influences, cosmetic surgery, and body modification, and (4) interpersonal dynamics of embodiment. Throughout the course, students will engage with in-depth theoretical readings and discuss clinical vignettes, emphasizing critical thinking, clinical application, and ethical considerations. Through readings, discussions, and case studies, participants will develop a nuanced understanding of the psychodynamics of body image and its implications for clinical practice.

## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ART TOUR

Social

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025

Time: 11:15 am – 1:30 pm

Location: Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University  
328 Lomita Dr, Stanford, CA 94305

Tuition: \$10 General Public | \$10 NCSPP Full Members

\$10 NCSPP CMH Members | \$10 NCSPP Associate Members

\$5 NCSPP Student Members | \$5 Scholarship Rate (*approval required*)

Join us for a tour of the indoor and outdoor Rodin Sculptures. Cantor's collection spans three galleries, an outdoor sculpture garden, and features nearly 100 Rodin sculptures essential to telling the artist's story and representing his groundbreaking engagement with the body. After the tour, we will share drinks and snacks at the picnic tables in front of Tootsie's Cafe.

TEACHING AMONGST DIVERSITY  
IN THE PSYCHOANALYTIC CLASSROOM:  
Facing the Adaptive Challenge

Workshop

Instructor: Brian Ngo-Smith, LCSW  
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025  
Time: 12:00 – 2:00 pm  
Location: Zoom  
CE Credit: 6 CE credits  
Tuition: \$70 General Public | \$50 NCSPP Full Members  
\$44 NCSPP CMH Members | \$40 NCSPP Associate Members  
\$30 NCSPP Student Members | \$30 Scholarship Rate (approval required)

This workshop will explore and discuss material related to diversity in the psychoanalytic classroom. In particular, the workshop will offer attendees an opportunity to address the anxieties that arise when teaching in diverse groups that include a variety of opinions. The particular learning environment within psychoanalytic institutes presents unique challenges and opportunities to grapple with themes related to diversity. Following Kimberlyn Leary’s paper, “Race as an Adaptive Challenge,” attendees can explore their own reactions and resistances to addressing sociocultural ideas that challenge their psychoanalytic loyalties. Furthermore, how might they think about offering/facilitating a learning environment for students?

WHY WAR?

Workshop

Instructor: Michael Korson, MFT  
Date: Saturday, October 11, 2025  
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Location: Zoom  
CE Credit: 4 CE Credits  
Tuition: \$180 General Public | \$140 NCSPP Full Members  
\$128 NCSPP CMH Members | \$120 NCSPP Associate Members  
\$60 NCSPP Student Members | \$60 Scholarship Rate (approval required)

Inspired by the International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy (IARPP) May 2024 online colloquia under the same name, we will delve into the question: Why war? Our work begins with the famous correspondence between Einstein and Freud. We’ll study Fromm’s contributions to the understanding of human aggression and look at psychic mechanisms such as splitting, projection, displacement, othering, and identification with the aggressor. We’ll explore Rozmarin’s ideas about what “belonging” means and the “demands” of violence a group puts on its members. Other topics may include the notion of a “just” war, the pleasure of violence, and gender aspects of violence. The class is not intended as a debate between ideological positions. Rather, we will employ psychoanalytic thinking, concepts, and theories towards an understanding of why war exists and persists. Participants can contribute topics and readings to enrich our study.

WHAT MAKES THE SUPERVISION  
PROCESS RELATIONAL?

Workshop

Instructor: Joan Sarnat, Ph.D., ABPP  
Date: Friday, October 17, 2025  
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Location: Zoom  
CE Credit: 2 CE Credits  
Tuition: \$90 General Public | \$70 NCSPP Full Members  
\$64 NCSPP CMH Members | \$60 NCSPP Associate Members  
\$30 NCSPP Student Members | \$30 Scholarship Rate (approval required)

After teaching relational psychoanalytic supervision for over 40 years, I have observed that most supervisors have limited mastery over how to help supervisees learn from their experience in the supervisory relationship, though doing so helps supervisees develop the emotional and relational skills a psychoanalytically oriented clinician requires. This course provides an opportunity to analyze an expert supervisor’s actual supervision sessions – a powerful way to learn rarely offered in CE courses.

# DISCUSSANTS, FACULTY, PRESENTERS

**Daniel G. Butler, Ph.D., LMFT**, is a psychoanalytic candidate at PINC and a graduate of UC Santa Cruz's History of Consciousness Program. He teaches at SFCP and Access Institute, serves on the editorial boards of *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* and *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, and practices in Hayes Valley.

**Michael Korson, LMFT, CGP**, is a personal and supervising analyst at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California (PINC) and on the faculties at PINC (Group Process Faculty) and the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis (SFCP). He has a private practice in San Francisco. He has published on topics including the candidate's experience as well as practice during the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Michael Levin, Psy.D.**, is a Training Analyst and Faculty Member at SFCP. He has taught courses on Freud, Laplanche, phenomenology, and psychoanalysis in the context of cultural history. He co-authored *Here I'm Alive: The Spirit of Music in Psychoanalysis* (Columbia University Press, 2022) and maintains a private practice in San Francisco.

**Brian Ngo-Smith, LCSW**, is a psychoanalyst and clinical social worker in Denver, CO. He is on faculty at the Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis at the University of Colorado and the Sue Fairbanks Psychoanalytic Academy at the University of Texas at Austin. He has worked in the mental health field for 20+ years.

**Janie Riley, LMFT**, is a psychotherapist and psychoanalyst with a private practice in Oakland. She is on the faculty at PINC and supervises and teaches throughout the Bay Area. She has also served in several clinical and leadership roles in the public health and community mental health sectors.

**Joan Sarnat, Ph.D., ABPP**, has been teaching and writing about relational psychodynamic supervision since 1992. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and a Supervising Analyst and member of the Faculty at PINC). She co-authored her first book, *The Supervisory Relationship* (Guilford Press, 2001), with Mary Gail Frawley-O'Dea. Her second book, *Supervision Essentials for Psychodynamic Psychotherapies* (American Psychological Association, 2016), was published in tandem with a DVD, *Relational Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Supervision*, which features Dr. Sarnat conducting a supervisory session. She is in supervisory and consultative practice in Berkeley, California.

**Sydney Tan, Psy.D.**, is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, practicing in San Francisco. She teaches on Lacan and Freud and is a member of and faculty at SFCP. Her film review, "The Films of Our Lives," was published in *fort da*, and several of her Latin translations can be found in *Impulse*.

**Tom Wooldridge, Psy.D, ABPP, FIPA, CEDS-C**, is Chair in the Department of Psychology at Golden Gate University as well as a psychoanalyst and board-certified, licensed psychologist. His latest book is *Eating Disorders: A Contemporary Introduction*, published in 2022. He also received the JAPA Award in 2025. He is a Personal and Supervising Analyst and faculty at PINC and a Training Analyst at SFCP. He is on the Scientific Advisory Council of the National Eating Disorders Association, while also being Faculty for SFCP, NCSPP, and the William Alanson White Institute's Eating Disorders, Compulsions, and Addictions program. Dr. Wooldridge has a private practice in Berkeley.

# NCSPP PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEES

## Community Mental Health Committee

Katherine Eng, Ph.D., Chair

Geetali Chitre, Psy.D.

Hoa My Nguyen, LCSW

## Education Committee

Natasha Oxenburg, MA, Chair

Mara Gerson, Psy.D.

Elana Guy, Psy.D.

## Intensive Study Group

Sullivan Oakley, Psy.D., Chair

Melodee Au, AMFT

Rikki Feuerstein, Psy.D.

Rebecca Shapiro, Psy.D.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

# NCSP

For full course information, course objectives, late registration, and refund policies for each of the courses/events listed within, please visit our website at [www.ncspp.org](http://www.ncspp.org).

**Tuition & Registration Deadlines:** All tuitions listed in this brochure are for early registration (\$40 discount, \$15 discount for NCSPP Student Members). Early registration ends two weeks prior to the event or start of a multi-week course; after this date the full tuition will be applied to all registrations. For details, please see individual course/event listings on our website.

**Questions:** For questions related to enrollment, locations, CE credit, special needs, course availability, and other administrative issues, contact Niki Clay at [info@ncspp.org](mailto:info@ncspp.org) or 415-496-9949.

**Membership:** To join NCSPP, please visit the NCSPP website at [www.ncspp.org/join-renew](http://www.ncspp.org/join-renew)

**Target Audience & Instructional Level:** These courses are open to all licensed mental health professionals, residents, interns, and graduate students in training, as well as members of the lay public who have an interest in psychoanalytic psychology. For specific instructional level, please see individual course/event listing on our website at [www.ncspp.org](http://www.ncspp.org).

**Class Size & Eligibility for Enrollment:** For specific class size, please see individual course/event listings on our website at [www.ncspp.org](http://www.ncspp.org). Class minimums will be 6 to 8 participants. Courses that do not fill will be cancelled and payment will be refunded. In filling courses, priority will be given to NCSPP members.

**Locations & Readers:** For classes where location is listed as TBA (to be announced), information on location will be updated online at [www.ncspp.org](http://www.ncspp.org). Enrollment confirmation with course location and reader information will be emailed to enrolled participants. **Tuition does not include the cost of readers.**

**Cancellation:** Enrollees who cancel at least SEVEN DAYS prior to the event or start of a multi-week course will receive a refund minus an administrative charge. No refunds will be allowed after this time. For details, please see individual course/event listings on our website.

**Returned Checks:** A \$25 bank charge and an additional \$15 administrative charge will be issued on all returned checks.

**Continuing Education Credits:** Please see individual course/event listings for number of CE credits awarded, if applicable. Courses offering CE credit meet the requirements for CE credit for LCSWs, MFTs, and Psychologists. Upon completion of a course evaluation form, a CE certificate will be issued. This serves as documentation of attendance for all participants.

**LCSWs/MFTs:** Courses meet the requirements for CE credit, as required by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences, through CAMFT (Provider #57020).

**Psychologists:** Division 39 is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Division 39 maintains responsibility for these programs and their content.

**Scholarship Information:** We have established the NCSPP Scholarship Fund to broaden community access to our events by subsidizing the greater part of our tuition costs for a limited number of attendees. For information regarding eligibility and availability, contact Niki Clay.

**Disabilities:** NCSPP, CAMFT, and Division 39 are committed to accessibility and non-discrimination in its continuing education activities. If participants have special needs, we will attempt to accommodate them. If you have concerns about handicapped accessibility, please contact Niki Clay.

**Privacy and Confidentiality:** All participants are asked to be aware of the need for privacy and confidentiality throughout all programs.

NCSPP, CAMFT, and Division 39 are committed to conducting all activities in conformity with the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles for Psychologists. Participants are asked to be aware of the need for privacy and confidentiality throughout the program. If program content becomes stressful, participants are encouraged to process these feelings during discussion periods. Please address questions, concerns and any complaints to Niki Clay.

Participants will be informed of the utility/validity of the content/approach discussed (including the basis for the statements about validity/utility), as well as the limitations of the approach and most common (and severe) risks, if any, associated with the program's content.

**Commercial Support:** There is no commercial support for NCSPP programs nor are there any relationships between the CE Sponsor, presenting organization, presenter, program content, research, grants, or other funding that could reasonably be construed as conflicts of interest.

The Northern California Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology (NCSPP) is the local Chapter of Division 39, American Psychological Association. NCSPP is committed to the study of psychoanalytic psychology and the encouragement of its interests in the professional and general communities. It is a multidisciplinary, nonprofit educational membership organization open to all mental health professionals.



# FALL 2025 PROGRAMS

*Courses & Events*