



Western New England
PSYCHOANALYTIC
SOCIETY

Courses &
Programs

2026-2027



Western New England
PSYCHOANALYTIC
SOCIETY

Courses & Programs 2026-2027

CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

PSYCHOTHERAPY PROGRAM

SYMPOSIUM 2027

WNEPS & CSPP JOINT CONFERENCE

THE HANS LOEWALD CENTER
AND CONFERENCE

SCHOLARS PROGRAM

WHAT IS PSYCHOANALYSIS?

PSYCHOANALYTIC DIALOGUES

For information, updates
& registration, please visit

www.westernnewengland.org

THE WESTERN NEW ENGLAND PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

The Western New England Psychoanalytic Society consists of psychoanalysts practicing throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. We treat patients in a variety of settings—universities, medical schools, community agencies, private practice—and share an interest in scientific research and evolving psychoanalytic theory. Monthly scientific meetings, a newsletter, and various activities serve to promote psychoanalytic practice and the application of psychoanalytic ideas to other fields. The Society is an affiliate of The American Psychoanalytic Association.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Erica Weiss, MD

erica.weiss@yale.edu

(2025-2027)

Past President

Christine Desmond, MD

Vice President

Lorraine Siggins, MD

Treasurer

Carole Goldberg, PsyD

Secretary

Gretchen Hermes, MD, PhD

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair, Gretchen Hermes, MD, PhD

Mary Ayre, MD

Bonnie Becker, PhD

Angela Capiello, MD, PhD

Debbie Fried, MD

Ira Moses, PhD

Lynn Reiser, MD

Jean Vogel, MD

CONTINUING EDUCATION DIVISION: DESCRIPTION

The spirit of the Continuing Education Program at Western New England takes its inspiration from a classic Calvin and Hobbes cartoon, the final panel of the series. In other words, you are sledding down a hill of newly fallen snow, so why not go exploring? These explorations, led by a faculty based locally, nationally, and internationally, include courses at the heart of clinical psychoanalysis (dreams, reverie, transference, countertransference, narrative and mourning) as well as interdisciplinary investigations of psychoanalysis and religion, climate, psychedelics, gender, race, addiction, and more. You may find your fellow students to be at least as fascinating and eclectic as the educational offerings! At the heart of the Continuing Education Program is the Reiser Psychoanalytic Core Curriculum, dedicated to Lynn Reiser, MD and Morton F. Reiser, MD in appreciation of their support of Psychoanalytic Education. This core curriculum includes, in addition to our standard offerings, three educational series: the **L** series, dedicated to explorations of children's literature and child psychoanalysis; the **M** series, dedicated to mind-body explorations at the interface of medicine, psychiatry, and psychoanalysis; and the **A** series, dedicated to psychoanalytic perspectives on aging.

FACULTY 2026–2027

Gretchen Hermes, MD, PhD

Susan McNamara, MALS, MD

Ellen Nasper, PhD

Jenifer Nields, MD

Naseem Daniel Rine-Reesha, RP, PhD (ABD)

Jamie Smith, RP, MA, B Ed

Rory Varrato, PhD

ACCME ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American Psychoanalytic Association and Western New England Psychoanalytic Society. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA CREDIT DESIGNATION STATEMENT

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates this live activity for a maximum of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The APsA CE Committee has reviewed the materials for accredited continuing education and has determined that this activity is not related to the product line of ineligible companies and therefore, the activity meets the exception outlined in Standard 3: ACCME's identification, mitigation and disclosure of relevant financial relationship. This activity does not have any known commercial support.

This program is being reviewed for Continuing Education Credit hours by the NASW-CT to meet the continuing education criteria for CT Social Work Licensure renewal.

A Certificate of Attendance for WNE Programs can be used to fulfill CE requirements for CT Psychologists.

AUDIENCE

Unless noted, all classes are appropriate for mental health professionals, trainees, scholars and others interested in the topic.



Western New England
PSYCHOANALYSIS

Continuing
Education
Courses

2026-2027

The Emergence of Childhood Attachment Trauma in Adult Psychopathology

Instructor: Ellen Nasper, PhD

Meetings: 5 sessions. Mon, 6:30-7:45pm.
Sept 28 - Oct 26, 2026. Zoom only.

Cost: \$160.00

Many psychoanalytically oriented therapists have not been introduced to attachment theory as a framework for understanding how early attachment patterns shape adult relationships. Attachment theory offers valuable insight into the origins of both interpersonal and intrapersonal dynamics that can create significant challenges in adulthood, often leading to self-destructive behaviors and emotional isolation. This course aims to deepen participants' awareness and appreciation of how early childhood relationships influence expectations in intimate relationships. By enhancing therapists' attunement and empathy, the course seeks to help them recognize and address the underlying expectations that drive maladaptive interpersonal strategies.

- **Describe** the developmental environments associated with secure, avoidant, preoccupied, and disorganized attachment
- **Recognize** clinical cues that suggest specific attachment patterns and inform hypotheses about a patient's developmental experiences and expectations in relationships
- **Recognize** signs of disorganized discourse and impaired mentalization that may indicate dissociation and attachment related trauma

REISER CURRICULUM

REISER PSYCHOANALYTIC CORE CURRICULUM

*Dedicated to
Lynn Reiser, MD and Morton F. Reiser, MD
in appreciation of their support of
Psychoanalytic Education*

The Reiser curriculum will offer three standing Educational Series:

L series dedicated to explorations of children's literature and child psychoanalysis.

M series entitled The Psychoanalytic Laboratory and dedicated to mind-body explorations at the interface of psychiatry, medicine and psychoanalysis.

A series dedicated to psychoanalytic perspectives on development and aging.

**Introduction to Environmental
Psychoanalytic Theory:
Harold Searles's
The Nonhuman Environment**

Instructor: Rory Varrato, PhD

Meetings: 6 sessions. Wed, 6:30-8:00pm.
Mar 3 - Apr 7, 2027. Zoom only.

Cost: \$225.00

Recent years have seen growing interest in the intersection of psychoanalysis and the environment, driven in part by the mental health consequences of climate change, including climate anxiety, ecological grief, and solastalgia. Much of this contemporary work, however, remains disconnected from Harold Searles's pioneering text, *The Nonhuman Environment in Normal Development and in Schizophrenia* (1960). Searles, who worked alongside Frieda Fromm-Reichmann at Chestnut Lodge treating borderline and schizophrenic patients, developed a groundbreaking account of the role of the nonhuman environment in psychological life. His book offers remarkably prescient insights into how human relationships with the natural world shape development, psychopathology, transference, and defensive processes. Searles also explores the psychological benefits of a healthy sense of kinship with the environment and raises important questions about cultural attitudes toward nature. This course uses Searles's work as an introduction to environmental psychoanalytic theory, providing a clinically rich and experience near foundation for understanding this increasingly important field.

- **Describe** Searles's concepts of the nonhuman environment in personality development
- **Explain** the role of the nonhuman environment in psychosis, neurosis, and transference
- **Discuss** the cultural and clinical implications of Searles's theory of the nonhuman environment

**Dynamics of Faith in
Psychoanalysis and Religion:
Developmental Perspectives
Centered on the Work of Hans Loewald**

Instructor: Jenifer Nields, MD

Meetings: 6 sessions. Tues, 6:45-8:15pm.
Jan 12, 26, Feb 2, 9, 23, Mar 2, 2027.
Zoom only.

Cost: \$225.00

Hans Loewald argued that Freud failed to recognize that religious life, like love, is capable of evolving into more mature forms. Taking this insight as our point of departure, we will explore faith as a developmental process rather than a fixed set of beliefs. Drawing on Loewald's writings, developmental theory, religious studies, and clinical experience, we will examine themes of separation and reunion, emergence and return, internalization and differentiation, and their relevance to religious life and psychological growth. We will consider how faith develops, transforms, and sometimes becomes rigid or extreme, exploring both the psychological and cultural functions of religious certainty.

Readings will include selected works by Hans Loewald, developmental theorists such as Erikson, Kohlberg, and Fowler, biographical accounts of faith journeys including Yossi Klein Halevi and Malcolm X, and contemporary writings on belief and doubt as universal dimensions of human experience.

- **Explain** how Loewald's concepts of internalization, ego development, and sublimation inform a psychoanalytic understanding of religious experience
- **Describe** the developmental movement from authoritarian religiosity toward mature, reflective engagement with—or freedom from—a religious tradition
- **Discuss** trajectories of faith in autobiographical narratives and clinical practice

STANDARD CURRICULUM

Personality and Its Discontents: Applications and Controversies in Personality in Clinical Practice

Instructors: Jamie Smith, RP, MA, BEd;
Naseem Daniel Rine-Reesha, RP, PhD (ABD)

Meetings: 7 sessions. Tues, 7:30-9:00pm.
Jan 5 - Feb 16, 2027. Zoom only.

Cost: \$265.00

Personality is a central concern of psychoanalysis and psychodynamic psychotherapy. Contemporary understandings of personality have been shaped by influential works such as Nancy McWilliams's *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis* (2nd ed., 2011) and the recently published *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual, Third Edition (PDM-3)*, edited by Vittorio Lingiardi and Nancy McWilliams. This course explores a deceptively simple but clinically important question: What do psychodynamic clinicians actually do with personality? Although clinicians from different psychodynamic traditions frequently draw upon the language of personality organization, character structure, defenses, and internal experience, they often understand and apply these concepts in markedly different ways. These differences reflect distinct theories of mind, psychological development, psychopathology, and therapeutic action. Through close attention to theory and clinical practice, participants will examine how personality concepts guide assessment, case formulation, and treatment. The course will foster a lively and interactive exchange among clinicians from diverse psychoanalytic and psychodynamic orientations, highlighting both areas of convergence and enduring theoretical differences.

- **Compare** contemporary perspectives on the role of personality formulation in psychodynamic psychotherapy
- **Apply** personality formulation frameworks to inform therapeutic stance, intervention selection, and treatment goals

Psychoanalytic Writing Workshop

Instructor: Susan McNamara, MALS, MD

Meetings: 5 sessions. Wed, 6:30-8:00pm.
Oct 21-Nov 18, 2026.

Cost: \$190.00

We do psychoanalytic writing for ourselves, our colleagues, and our patients, whether scribbling process notes or, more formally, for presentations, journals, or discussions. We search for exactly the right words and think hard about how to organize those words precisely to capture the elusive. This workshop delves into how one might explore the dynamics of a treatment or elaborate a psychoanalytic idea in a formal paper for a psychoanalytic journal. Aspects of the craft of writing and the building blocks and structure of a psychoanalytic journal article will be examined by reading and deconstructing prize-winning psychoanalytic journal articles and by working on our own manuscripts. Practical topics such as confidentiality, development of ideas, literature review, and mechanics of submitting to a journal will be covered.

- **Identify** key elements of effective psychoanalytic writing
- **Select** relevant clinical material and psychodynamic concepts for scholarly publication
- **Apply** inclusive, bias-free language in psychoanalytic writing

Studies in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Program

Studies in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy: Didactic, Supervision, Personal Therapy

A Two-Year Program

Steering Committee

Jennifer Myer, MD, Co-Director

Brian Tobin, MD, Co-Director

Bonnie Becker, PhD

Elinor Kotchen, LCSW

Chris Leveille, PsyD

Janet Madigan, MD

Wendy Peterson, APRN

Jennifer Nields, MD

Prakash Thomas, MD

Robert White, MD

Erica Weiss, MD

Admission Criteria

Graduate of a certified mental health program at a Masters level or above, with a degree such as MD, LCSW, PhD, PsyD, EdD, LMFT, LPC, APRN. Psychiatry residents who are completing or have completed their second year of classes are welcome to apply.

Currently working in a clinical setting that would support seeing patients in regular psychodynamic psychotherapy. If the applicant is employed by a clinic or other organizational setting, they will need permission from the clinical director to use clinical material in supervision or case presentations.

Appropriate license in mental health field for practice in the state of Connecticut. If in private practice, adequate malpractice insurance (currently 1 million/3 million).

Submission of a summary of experience with psychotherapy, including number and types of patients seen, range of diagnoses and modality of psychotherapy. Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from someone who is well acquainted with the applicant's current clinical work.

A brief statement of interest by the applicant including how the applicant envisions the program shaping their practice.

Applicants will be interviewed by two members of the Program Committee. The Program Committee will then review applications and determine admission.

Courses

3 trimesters per academic year, with two courses of 8 sessions each trimester. The two courses will run back-to-back on one night of the week. Each will be one hour and 15 minutes, and there will be a 15 minute break between courses.

FIRST YEAR

First Trimester

- Development I
- Fundamentals of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy I

Second Trimester

- Fundamentals of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy II
- Case Conference I

Third Trimester

- Development II
- Case Conference II

SECOND YEAR

First Trimester

- Elective
- Case Conference III

Second Trimester

- Psychoanalytic Schools of Thought
- Case Conference IV

Third Trimester

- Relational Perspectives in Psychotherapy
- Ethics and Termination

PERSONAL THERAPY

In order to be an effective psychodynamic psychotherapist, one must have experience being a patient and have some familiarity with one's own unconscious processes.

Each applicant therefore should have an experience of personal psychodynamic psychotherapy or psychoanalysis either before beginning this program or concurrently at the beginning of the program.

Supervision

Ongoing psychotherapy cases from the student's caseload will be presented in weekly supervision. Two such cases will be required. The student will have 1 or 2 supervisors, each one year. The patients presented will be agreed upon by the clinician and supervisor together.

Fees will be individually arranged between clinician and supervisor and will be paid directly to the supervisor.

All supervision will take place in the office of the supervisor and will be arranged as a private contract between participant and supervisor.

Supervisors will be graduate psychoanalysts who are also regular, special or lifetime members of the WNEPS, or for Psychiatry residents, supervision will be provided by their program supervisor. Each patient will give written informed consent acknowledging awareness that his or her therapist is a student in the WNE Psychotherapy Program or Long Term Psychotherapy Program.

Progression

Students will progress to the second year if there is reasonable attendance and participation in class, and if they have met supervisory requirements.

A certificate will be awarded at the end of the 2-year program.

Fees

Tuition – \$1800, of which \$1350 is covered by the Clarity Endowment Fund, with a remaining \$450 per year trainee cost

Application Fee – \$50

Supervision – arranged individually

If you have further questions or wish to receive an application for the next class, please contact Jennifer Myer, MD at jennifer.myer@yale.edu or 203-752-1733.

Conferences & Symposia

RITVO CASE CONFERENCE 2026

Saturday September 26, 2026
10:00am - 12:00pm

I Was Made For Loving You Baby, You Were Made for Loving Me

Presenter: Holly Dwyer Hall, PsyD
Discussant: Matthew Shaw, PhD

In person at WNEP, 255 Bradley Street, New Haven

\$25 for non-WNEPS members,
Free for trainees and members

YALE CHILD STUDY CENTER IN COLLABORATION WITH CSPP

April 3, 2027
11:00am - 1:30pm, Lunch 1:20-2:30

Young Men In Crisis

Ken Corbett, MD

In person at Albertus Magnus College
and available in Hybrid on Zoom

RITVO LECTURE 2026

Saturday September 26, 2026
1:00pm - 3:00pm

"If I Say No..." Parental Affect Tolerance and Limit Setting in the Current Context of Complex Trauma

Presenter: Holly Dwyer Hall, PsyD
Discussant: Linda Mayes, MD
Moderator: Matthew Shaw, PhD

In person at WNEP, 255 Bradley Street,
New Haven and Hybrid on Zoom

\$25 for non-WNEPS members,
Free for trainees and members

SPRING SYMPOSIUM 2027

April 24, 2027
11:00 am - 2:00pm

Homesickness, Nostalgia, and the Internalized Sense of Home

Presenter: Aisha Abbasi, MD
Discussants:
Angela Capiello, MD, PhD and TBD
Virtual on Zoom

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

Sheryl Silverstein, PhD, Co-Chair
Elinor Kotchen, LCSW, Co-Chair

THE DAVID CARLSON LECTURE

October 31, 2026
4:00pm - 6:00pm
In honor of Jonathan Lear

On Tragedy: Theatre, Psychoanalysis, and Political Life

Daniel Pick, PhD
Professor, University of London

Moderated by: Lawrence Levinson, MD
and Kay Long, PhD

In person at Cohen Auditorium at the
Yale Child Study Center and Hybrid on Zoom

WNEPS & CSPP JOINT CONFERENCE FALL/WINTER 2027

Date TBD

Topic & Presenters: TBD

JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Erica Weiss, MD, Co-Chair
Amanda Michael, PsyD, CGP, Co-Chair

THE HANS W. LOEWALD CENTER
PSYCHOANALYSIS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

October 4, 2026
10:00am-12:00pm

**Ghosts in the Dyad: Holding the
Infant in Mind through the Therapist's
Countertransference**

Amanda Gropp, MD
Jeanine Vivona, PhD

November 15, 2026
10:00am-12:00pm

**'How Can I Trust You When I Know You
Can Die?' Loss and Mourning in a Latency
Age Child**

Aneta Stojnic, PhD
Matthew Shaw, PhD

December 6, 2026
10:00am-12:00pm

**From Ghost to Ancestor:
A Boy Survives Adolescence**

Francesca Schwartz, PhD
Prakash Thomas, PhD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Natasha Black, PhD

**WNEPS REPRESENTATIVES
TO THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Emily Ogden, PhD
Guy Orly, LMFT

Registration at

loewaldcenter.org/events

General Admission: \$90. Loewald Center

Members: \$75. Candidates: \$45.

CE credits available.

Scholars Program & Analytic Clinic

Scholars Program

Western New England Institute
for Psychoanalysis

Coordinator: Kay Long, PhD

This is a two-year program for scholars and academics interested in psychoanalytic theory and its application to their work. The program has two components. The first consists of seminars in analytic theory, from Freud to contemporary theorists, taught by faculty of the Western New England Institute whose viewpoints are informed by their immersion in psychoanalytic practice.

The second component addresses the use of psychoanalytic concepts in the participants' scholarly work. This segment includes tutorials and workshops in which participants present and develop their work in collaboration with faculty who offer perspectives on the scholars' specific research projects.

Although this program is not designed as clinical training, mental health professionals and trainees who are interested in deepening their understanding of psychoanalytic theory are welcome to participate.

For questions about the program please contact Dr. Long at 203-526-5923 or kay.long@yale.edu

What Is Psychoanalysis?

Psychoanalysis is a therapeutic modality, dedicated to alleviating psychic suffering. It aims to explore emotions and behavioral patterns that can impede individuals from attaining fulfilling relationships, pursuing meaningful goals, and authentic human connections. It has been shown to markedly reduce psychological distress and enhance overall well-being, opening up the potential for greater fulfillment in life. Psychoanalysis is an intense treatment that consists of meeting on a regular basis several times per week. The duration of psychoanalytic treatment varies according to the individual's specific needs and circumstances, often spanning an extended period to achieve comprehensive healing and growth.

The Institute & Psychoanalytic Clinic

The Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis, founded in 1952, is a training institute accredited by the American Psychoanalytic Association. It maintains a Psychoanalytic Clinic dedicated to providing low-cost psychoanalytical treatment to individuals for whom psychoanalysis is the preferred therapeutic approach.

The intake process involves a series of consultations to assess if psychoanalysis through our Institute is appropriate and feasible. Psychoanalytic treatment is conducted by clinicians who have already completed their training in psychiatry, psychology or social work and they are now pursuing advanced training in psychoanalysis. These clinicians are supervised by a senior psychoanalyst from the Institute. Our selective intake process ensures efficient allocation of resources, as treatment facilities are limited.

For inquiries regarding psychoanalytic treatment through the Clinic, please contact:

Dr. Angela Cappiello

Email: angela.cappiello@yale.edu

To request a Clinic application form, you may:

- **Visit www.westernnewengland.org**
Select the “Clinic” section, then click on the red text labeled “Clinic Application” to download a printable PDF form.
- **Contact** Ms. Anne Rodems by mail, telephone, or email:

Western New England Institute
for Psychoanalysis
255 Bradley Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Telephone: 203-562-2103

Email: arodems@wneps.org

Psychoanalytic Dialogues

Psychoanalytic Dialogues

Inspired by Freud's Wednesday Psychological Society, founded in Vienna in 1902, Psychoanalytic Dialogues continues a tradition of rigorous inquiry, thoughtful conversation, and intellectual community. Each year, distinguished scholars engage our community around the evolving questions of psychoanalytic theory, clinical practice, research, and the human condition.

Held on Saturday afternoons throughout the academic year, these gatherings bring together psychoanalysts, candidates, physicians, psychologists, social workers, trainees, and other mental health professionals for sustained dialogue across generations and theoretical perspectives. More than a lecture series, Psychoanalytic Dialogues is a living conversation—one that fosters curiosity, critical reflection, and clinical acumen while honoring psychoanalysis as both a scientific discipline and a deeply humanistic endeavor.

For registration, please find our site online at www.westernnewengland.org. As the date approaches an option to buy tickets (and receive the Zoom link) will appear beneath the lecture. For members and trainees for whom there is no charge, it is still necessary to register (with a charge of \$0) in order to receive the Zoom link. There is also an option for mail-in registration at the back of the brochure. Psychoanalytic Dialogues seeks to provide post-graduate education for psychoanalysts who are members of the Society, addressing issues of practice, technique, theory, and research relevant to the field of psychoanalysis, as well as offering educational opportunities for physicians and practitioners of other mental health professions.

Trainees and residents: no fee
Society members: no fee
Individuals 65 and older: \$35.00
Other attendees: \$50.00

CME/CEC credit is available upon completion of required paperwork.

All meetings are on Saturdays
from 4:00 to 6:00pm.

Psychoanalytic Dialogues Committee

Gretchen Hermes, MD, PhD, Chair
Christopher Fuddy, LCSW

**Psychoanalytic Dialogues
2026-27**

October 24, 2026

**Apartheid Thinking –
A Psychoanalytic Perspective**

Speaker:

Paula Christian-Kliger, PhD, ABDD

Discussant: Kirkland Vaughans, PhD

November 14, 2026

**Phantasy in Authoritarian Scenarios/
Imagining Beyond**

Speaker: Judith Butler, PhD

Discussant: Daniel Judt, MPhil

December 5, 2026 (Zoom)

**Heroin Addiction and the Grammar of
Inherited Loss in the Española Valley**

Speaker: Angela Garcia, PhD

Discussant: Linda Mayes, MD

January 23, 2027 (Zoom)

**Beyond the Dyad: Theoretical and
Clinical Implications from Community**

Psychoanalysis

Speakers: Francisco Gonzalez, MD

and Rachael Peltz, PhD

March 20, 2027

**Appetite and Its Discontents:
Psychoanalysis in the Age of GLP-1**

Speaker: Jean Petrucelli, PhD

Discussant: Rosemary Balsam, MD

May 22, 2027

**Why Psychoanalysis Still Matters:
Reclaiming Depth in Contemporary**

Psychotherapy

Speaker: Nancy McWilliams, PhD, ABPP

Please apply to Ms. Rodems for tuition
reduction if you wish to take a course but
cannot afford the fee.

Questions?

Contact Ms. Anne Rodems @ 203-562-2103
or arodems@wneps.org

WNEPS Continuing Education
255 Bradley Street
New Haven, CT 06510