

Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Infidelity Tamara Feldman, Psy. D.

NEW DATE, TIME AND LOCATION!

Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31

1:10 to 2:40

126 Prospect St., Cambridge

Enrollment limit: 10 participants

Infidelity is the second most common reason couples seek treatment. Yet what, as the couples' therapist, are we treating? Is infidelity a problem of the "transgressor", the dynamic of the couple, or the cultural framework that privileges fidelity? To explore these questions, we will address the intrapsychic, relational/intersubjective, cultural, and evolutionary aspects of infidelity. Readings will include "The Monogamous Ideal" by Karen Horney, Lawrence Josephs' the "Seductive Superego", "Revisiting the Sadomasochistic Marriage" by Robert Mendelsohn, and excerpts from Adam Phillip's "Monogamy". We will discuss implications for couples' therapy though the course will be relevant to all clinical work.

Tamara Feldman, Psy.D. has a private practice in Cambridge and Wellesley where she offers psychotherapy, couples' therapy, psychoanalysis and supervision. She is on the faculty of MIP and Tufts Medical School, department of psychiatry. She has presented and published on the topic of psychoanalytic couples' therapy. Her most recent article, "From Container to Claustum: Projective Identification in Couples" was published in Couple and Family Psychoanalysis.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- identify factors that lead to infidelity
- compare theories on the cause of infidelity
- generate interventions for couples seeking treatment for infidelity
- establish a frame within initial sessions for working with infidelity in couples

REFERENCES

- Nathans, S. (2012). Infidelity as Manic Defence. *Cpl. Fam. Psychoanal.*, 2:165-180
- Lemma, A. (2005). The many faces of lying. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 86:737-753
- Mendelsohn, R., REVISITING THE SADOMASOCHISTIC MARRIAGE: The *Paranoid-Masochistic* Relationship. *The Psychoanalytic Review* Vol. 101, No. 5, October 2014
- Josephs, L. & Shimberg, J. (2010). The Dynamics of Sexual Fidelity. *Psychoanal. Psychol.*, 27:273-295
- Josephs, L. (2001). The Seductive Superego. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 82:701-712
- Horney, K. (1928). The Problem of the Monogamous Ideal. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 9:318-331

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