

Psychoanalytic Dimensions

RECONSIDERING MALE DEVELOPMENT AND MASCULINITY IN PSYCHOANALYTIC THEORY AND CULTURE

Paul J. Letendre, LMHC

From Freud to contemporary relational thinkers, we discover that the positioning of males in theory, the theorizing of their conflicts, and the construction of a gender identity, is culturally contextual. These contextual discourses on men and masculinity have ranged widely – from the revered and noble to oppressive and even toxic. In this beginner/intermediate level course, we explore how the context of male gender theories contribute to our introjected images of males (and by default, our images of females and non-binary genders as well). The course emphasizes how these introjected images of gender appear in our clinical work and practice. We reconsider our multiple stances, both conscious and unconscious, so we may come to use our theories of gender, rather than our theories of gender using us.

4 Thursdays: October 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2019
6:30 -- 8:30PM
1 Nashua St., Suite 1717, Boston

Enrollment limit: 5 participants

Learning Objectives

At the end of this intermediate program, participants will be able to:

1. Describe how sociocultural context contributes to a sense of self in male identity
2. Consider the role of cultural narratives in internalizing images of men and masculinity
3. Identify the intrapsychic and relational factors that facilitate personality development and expression in males
4. Critique the pros and cons of various cultural perspectives on men and masculinity
5. Develop a framework for applying various psychoanalytic perspectives to clinical interventions when working with males.

Bibliography

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Elise, D. (2001). Unlawful entry: Male fears of psychic penetration. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 11 (4), 499-531.

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Paul J. Letendre, LMHC is a psychotherapist in private practice in downtown Boston and a graduate of the Postgraduate Fellowship Program at MIP. He has lectured as a professor of psychology at the graduate and undergraduate level, has co-authored published psychological research, and presented at psychology conferences internationally. His clinical and professional areas of interest include psychological trauma, sociocultural issues, the interaction between electronic media and psychological processes, romantic relationships, and personality development.

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