



CMPS

Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies

Presentation

Our Difficulties with Otherness:

Cultivating Curiosity in Psychoanalytic Treatment and Organizations

Too often, psychoanalysis misses the opportunity to attend to the task of penetrating the surface of otherness. This presentation will examine both the resistances to, and the necessity for, psychoanalytic engagement with—and prioritization of—issues of otherness, difference, and diversity. Anxieties associated with authentic, curious, exploratory dialogue about difference and diversity are identified. Hart argues for a stance of curiosity in relation to difference and also for an emphasis on noticing and learning from those moments where diversity-related communication seems to break down. Attention to such breakdowns is portrayed as crucial to facilitating forms of dialogue that can lead to a more diverse—and diversely applied—psychoanalysis. Proceeding from the premise that racial, ethnic, sexual, socioeconomic, and other forms of prejudice and discrimination represent dissociative defenses involving profound failures of curiosity, this workshop will offer an approach to diversity, discrimination, and otherness that stands in contrast to prevailing approaches emphasizing multicultural “literacy” or “competence” and will conclude with practical recommendations for psychoanalytic practitioners.

4 CE Credits for Licensed Psychoanalysts, Social Workers, and Psychologists

■ **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018 · 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM** ■

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PRACTITIONERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC: \$80 | STUDENTS: \$20



Anton H. Hart, PhD, FABP, is a training and supervising analyst and on the faculty of the William Alanson White Institute in New York City. He is chair of the American Psychoanalytic Association's Department of Education's Diversities Section. He has published papers on issues of mutuality, disruption, and safety, and has work in press on issues of diversity and racism. He served as associate coproducer of the film "Black Psychoanalysts Speak," in which he was also featured. He is in full-time private practice in New York City.

CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Participants will be able to (1) describe resistances to psychoanalytic engagement with issues of otherness, difference, and diversity; (2) explain why it is important for psychoanalysts to engage with issues of otherness, difference, and diversity; (3) describe the importance of curiosity in relation to difference in the analytic process; and (4) describe how breakdowns in curiosity are a function of dissociative defenses.

Licensed Psychoanalysts: *The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies (CMPS) is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychoanalysts (#P-0032).*

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