An Evolutionary Window on Psychoanalytic Theory

HIS TWO-SESSION WORKSHOP examines the theory that human nature and culture are grounded in biology. It is proposed that feelings serve an adaptive function and that defenses and the repetition compulsion are manifestations of evolutionary trade-offs. A defense that appears to be irrational or maladaptive in the present may actually be a facultative adaptation (a developmental option shaped by natural selection) that serves a survival or reproductive function over evolutionary time. Our response to stressful factors depends on what is most functionally relevant at that time, but survival and reproductive goals are the ultimate driving force behind human behavior. We will look at these concepts through the lens of evolutionary principles which examine drive theory, affect theory, trauma theory, life history theory, and attachment behavior. In doing so we will explore whether a defense that appears to be irrational or maladaptive can actually serve as a survival function.

WEDNESDAYS: JUNE 5th and 12th-3:40-5:10 PM
CMPS, Sixteen West Tenth Street, New York City

There is no charge for the workshops. Clinicians and the Public are welcome
To register or to request information: 212.260.7050 • cmps@cmps.edu

PRESENTER: EUGENE B. KALIN, PhD, LP

Dr. Kalin sits on the faculty of the Center for Modern Psychoanalysis and the New York Graduate School of Psychoanalysis. He has presented papers on the topic of evolution and psychoanalysis in a number of venues and recently published an article in the journal Modern Psychoanalysis: “The role of anatomy and psyche in destiny: an integration of psychology, neuroscience and psychology.” He is in private practice in NYC and Great Neck.