American
Psychoanalytic
Association

APsA Priority Topics for Developing Education

This list was created from the data received in the Spring APsA 2024 Educational Needs Report

Ranked Priority Topics in Theory

1. British Object Relations
2. Trauma theory
3. Relational Theory
4. Modern Ego Psychology
5. Drive Theory
6. Field Theory
7. Interpersonal Theory
8. Self Psychology
9. Attachment Theory
10. Theories of Gender and Sexuality
11. Compromise Formation
12. The impact of Race and Ethnicity
13. Social Theories
14. Power Dynamics

Ranked Priority Topics in Psychoanalysis

1. Analytic mind and attitude: how do we understand the analytic attitude in 2024?
2. How do providers recognize inevitable enactments, and how do they process them with patients?
3. How do we develop the therapeutic relationship?
4. How and when do we terminate treatments?
5. Models and theories of child development.
6. Analytically oriented work with families and groups.
7. How is play used in child and adult treatments?
8. How we can support under-represented populations within the APSA community.
9. How providers can better reach out to underserved communities.

Additional Ranked Priority Topics in Psychoanalysis

Understanding the unconscious in 2024

1. How do we help our patients engage in symbolic thought if they are not able to do so at the start of treatment?
2. What are challenges to symbolic thought?
3. What external factors, such as trauma, race, gender, culture, and the social influence the unconscious?

Understanding transference in 2024

1. How can the provider help the patient to recognize transference?
2. How does the provider identify transference?
3. What distinguishes transference analysis from 'gas-lighting' about social reality?

Frame issues

1. How do providers choose a frame?
2. How do we understand patients' reluctance to follow the frame?
3. How do we switch between virtual and in-person frames?
4. What issues of the frame are sensitive to matters of race, culture and sexuality?

Diagnosis and Formulation

1. What are ways to formulate dynamics, using different theories, during an ongoing treatment?
2. How do we assess suitability for psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, medications, and other forms of treatment?
3. Problems of dual diagnosis patients.

Affect
1. How do providers manage intense affects?
2. How do we bear witness to painful experiences in our patients lives?
3. How do we manage affects between the dyad?

Ethical questions
1. How do we address our own misjudgments and those of colleagues?
2. When do we decide to get consultation?
3. What are confidentiality concerns in 2024, e.g. internet therapy

Identifying and managing countertransference
4. Erotic transference and countertransference specifically.
1. Racial/ ethnic transferences and countertransferences specifically.
2. Religious transferences and countertransferences.

Developing the therapeutic relationship
1. What is meant by deepening the process?
2. How do we identify a process of deepening a patient's self-understanding through the treatment?
3. How do the provider and patient talk about the deepening of their relationship?
4. When and how do we increase frequency of treatments?
5. What makes providers reluctant to deepen treatments and/ or increase frequency?

Money
1. Meaning expressed in money
2. Practice building
3. Money in patients' lives
4. Practice will and closing a practice

Diagnoses warranting more attention
1. Masochism
2. Pathological narcissism
3. Borderline pathology
4. Dissociation
5. Co-Dependency
6. Somaticization
7. Sociopathy
8. Drug and alcohol abuse
9. Sex addiction
10. Internet addiction
11. Climate anxiety
12. Cult survivors