

10-WEEK ADVANCED LEADERSHIP SEMINAR
THURSDAYS | OCT 9, 2025 – DEC 18, 2025 | VIRTUAL
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM ET | 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM GMT

LINKING FIELD THEORY AND SYSTEMS PSYCHODYNAMICS TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP:

**Exploring Our Complex Identities
and Finding Social Resonance in
Turbulent Times**

29
CME/CE
CREDITS

*Developed by the Department of Psychoanalytic Education
Council for Leadership and Organizational Studies*



American
Psychoanalytic
Association



INTERNATIONAL
PSYCHOANALYTICAL
ASSOCIATION

PROGRAM

10-WEEK ADVANCED LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

LINKING FIELD THEORY AND SYSTEMS PSYCHODYNAMICS TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP:

Exploring Our Complex Identities and Finding Social Resonance in Turbulent Times

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The American Psychoanalytic Association (APSA) and the International Psychoanalytical Association (IPA) are co-sponsoring the third iteration of this innovative virtual seminar. Developed by the Council for Leadership and Organizational Studies (CLOS) of the Department of Psychoanalytic Education (DPE), this seminar is open to those currently in leadership positions or with strong interests in leadership in our psychoanalytic and community-based organizations from various countries and cultures to help us all engage more effectively.

This 10-week virtual seminar will focus on critical concepts in systems psychodynamics and field theory such as the social unconscious, projective identification, splitting, social defenses, complex identities, and intersubjective processes. Widening our conceptual lens so that we can think of individual, group, organization, and the social-political-cultural surround as co-creating the field and influencing and shaping each other, we will use these concepts to deepen our understanding of leadership challenges as we engage racism and othering in ourselves and in the groups and systems in which we are embedded.

Each session will be evenly divided between theoretical and experiential components. In the group-as-a-whole, presenters and participants will discuss key points in the assigned readings; break into pre-assigned small self-study groups to reflect on our own group process as it relates to our primary task of learning together about the challenges of leadership as we encounter and address racism and othering; and return to the large group to continue our self-reflection and organizational self-study.

Ultimately, the primary aim is to enhance our individual and collective efforts, particularly in the face of hate and human destructiveness, to become more inclusive, more open in our thinking, and equitable in sharing power.

Department of Psychoanalytic Education
Council on Leadership and Organizational Studies

Co-Chairs:

Paula Christian-Kliger, Ph.D., ABPP

James W. Barron, Ph.D., ABPP

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PRE-READING: *Akhtar, S. (2018) Humility.*
American Journal of Psychoanalysis 78:1-27

SESSIONS INTENTIONS: Improve Skills and Strategies

Confidentiality Statement

Ensuring the confidentiality of all clinical material presented at our meetings is of the utmost importance to APsA. Attendance is contingent on an agreement to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Clinical material must not be discussed outside of the session in which it is presented and furthermore must not be recorded, conveyed, or disseminated in written or electronic form.
- Participants must agree to maintain a secure environment to be utilized solely by the registered participant and protected from intrusion by, or exposure to, unauthorized persons.
- Presenters of case material must have either obtained informed consent from the patient (or guardian) or taken other carefully considered measures to safeguard confidentiality. If at any time a participant suspects he, she, or they may recognize the identity of a patient in a case presentation, the participant must leave the session immediately.
- All participants are urged to be especially vigilant about protecting confidentiality during discussion periods and informal exchanges.
- Failure to observe these guidelines constitutes a breach of APsA's ethical principles and may be cause for disciplinary or legal action or both.

rv 10.14.2024

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES Mental health professionals, particularly those in psychoanalytic and leadership roles, often lack the integrative frameworks, reflective tools, and institutional support necessary to recognize and address the complex interplay of systemic racism, othering, identity-based trauma, and sociopolitical polarization in clinical, organizational, and community contexts. Despite increasing exposure to these challenges, practitioners may struggle to effectively respond to the internalized and external forces of discrimination, exclusion, and disempowerment — both in themselves and in the systems they serve. This practice gap limits their capacity to lead equitably, work inclusively across diverse identities, and foster transformative change within their practices and institutions.

After attending, participants should be able to:

1. Analyze the dynamic interactions between individual identity, systemic forces (e.g., racism, othering, trauma), and institutional structures to better understand their impact on leadership, clinical practice, and organizational functioning.
2. Evaluate the influence of sociocultural and historical contexts on psychoanalytic theory and practice, particularly as they relate to race, gender, migration, and power, in order to inform more ethically grounded and socially responsive interventions.
3. Design and apply inclusive leadership strategies and self-reflective practices that address intergenerational trauma, internalized oppression, and polarization to foster leadership transformation within group, organizational, and community settings.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

This program is intended to satisfy the requirements of those states that require CE/CME credits in the area of cultural competency for license renewal, but the final judgment for such qualification is made by each state's board.

PHYSICIANS



The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates this live activity for a maximum of 29 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

AMERICAN BOARD OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY — MOC APPROVAL STATEMENT



Through the American Board of Medical Specialties ("ABMS") ongoing commitment to increase access to practice relevant Continuing Certification

Activities through the ABMS Continuing Certification Directory, the Linking Field Theory and Systems Psychodynamics to Enhance Leadership: Exploring Our Complex Identities and Finding Social Resonance in Turbulent Times has met the requirements as a Lifelong Learning CME Activity (apply toward general CME requirement) for the following ABMS Member Boards: Psychiatry and Neurology

PSYCHOLOGISTS



The American Psychoanalytic Association is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The American Psychoanalytic Association maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

APPROVED FOR ABPN SELF-ASSESSMENT CME CREDITS



The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology has reviewed Linking Field Theory and Systems Psychodynamics to Enhance Leadership and has approved this activity as part of a comprehensive Self-Assessment (SA) CME activity, which is in compliance with the ABMS Continuing Certification standards.

NEW YORK STATE PSYCHOLOGISTS

The American Psychoanalytic Association, Inc. is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0153.

NEW YORK STATE LICENSED PSYCHOANALYSTS

American Psychoanalytic Association, Inc. 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-0013.

SOCIAL WORKERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (NASW)

This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886504845-3464) for 29 continuing education contact hours.

NEW YORK STATE SOCIAL WORKERS

American Psychoanalytic Association, Inc. is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0186.

COUNSELORS

American Psychoanalytic Association has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 7556.

OTHER PROFESSION TYPES

NP's, PA's, MFTs, and other profession types will receive a certificate of attendance upon completion of the activity and online evaluation confirming their participation. Participants may claim credit for recertification; however, their professional organization/institute hold the final say on which accredited activities they accept.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT None of the planners and presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s)* to disclose with ineligible companies* whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. There is no commercial support for this activity. APsA verifies that all materials generated by AI are accurate, including cited publications and posttests.

**Financial relationships are relevant if the educational content an individual can control is related to the business lines or products of the ineligible company. — Updated December 2022*

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10:30 AM - 1:30 PM ET | 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM GMT

WEEK 1

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

SESSION 1: SYSTEMS PSYCHODYNAMICS AND FIELD THEORY PERSPECTIVES ON LEADERSHIP

Presenters: Paula Christian-Kliger, Ph.D., ABPP
James W. Barron, Ph.D., ABPP

Leaders and members of our various institutions are experiencing powerful forces in the field attacking the freedoms of independent thinking and expression; proscribing and perverting the language that recognizes and bridges multiple complex identities; reinforcing social dissonance, scapegoating, racism, discrimination, and multiple forms of othering. When we feel ourselves besieged by these forces, our ordinary leadership capacities and functions become extraordinarily challenged. Widening our conceptual lens so that we can think of individual, group, organization, and the social-political-cultural surround as co-creating the field and influencing and shaping each other, this session will use these concepts to deepen our understanding of leadership challenges as we engage racism and othering in ourselves and in the groups and systems in which we are embedded.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Describe individual and collective efforts, particularly in the face of hate and human destructiveness, how to be more inclusive, more open in their thinking, and equitable in sharing power; 2) Demonstrate greater emotional readiness, containment, self-reflection, and social resonance in the context of leadership challenges.

CME/CE 3

WEEK 2

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

SESSION 2: OTHERING, COMPULSION TO REPEAT, AND HUMAN DESTRUCTIVENESS

Presenters: Paula Christian-Kliger, Ph.D., ABPP
James W. Barron, Ph.D., ABPP.

This session aims to deepen our awareness and understanding of the social surround that lives inside and outside of us, our inner “state of the world” in these turbulent times. “We are Human First” is an evocative experience-near film that becomes the “holding environment” that awakens participants’ minds and emotions; and enhances emotional readiness and social resonance. Laura Thipphawong (2020) wrote: “Freud loved art. The effect of art, according to Freud, was fundamental to empathy and a necessary part of any civilized society.” The film captures an enduring aspect of our human condition, the cross-generational and cross-cultural ways we can repeat othering, divisiveness, misuse of power, and acting out our destructive impulses. The goal is to generate discussion from multi-dimensional, historical/trans-generational, socio-cultural, and global viewpoints.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Describe the powerful force of repetition of patterns of othering and destructiveness across generations, cultures, race, and belief systems; 2) Demonstrate self-analytic function leading to greater emotional readiness, attunement, and social resonance.

CME/CE 2

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10:30 AM - 1:30 PM ET | 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM GMT

WEEK 3

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025

SESSION 3: COMPLEX IDENTITIES OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Presenters: Mona Jain, M.D.
Kris Yi, Ph.D., Psy.D.

There is a paucity of conversation and psychoanalytic literature on understanding the various factors such as racism, geopolitics, global warming, autocratic governments, genocides, and poverty, that play a role in forced migration and voluntary immigration. This session fills in the gap and focuses on the traumatic psychological sequelae of such migration and invites psychoanalysts and therapists to think about immigrants' and refugees' complex experiences and identities. It is widely acknowledged that forced displacements and migrations are psychologically traumatic experiences. The case of Asian Americans will be discussed to address intergenerationally transmitted traumas and anti-Asian racism.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Explain the psychological formation of the Model Minority role in Asians as a way of survival in an anti-Asian American context; 2) Describe how and why the loss of home and familiar space can compound traumas associated with immigration and forced migration.

CME/CE 3

WEEK 4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025

SESSION 4: ASIAN AMERICAN ANALYST AND EUROPEAN AMERICAN CANDIDATE IN DIALOGUE: EXPLORING EXPERIENCES OF RACISM AND OTHERING ACROSS CULTURES THROUGH PRIDE AND SHAME

Presenters: Himanshu Agrawal, M.D., DFAPA
Konstantinos Taliouridis, Ph.D., Psy.D., MBA

This session invites an Asian American analyst and a European American candidate to engage in a profound exploration of their experiences with racism and othering, framed through the lenses of pride and shame. Participants will delve into how cultural identity influences their emotional responses to discrimination and societal expectations, examining the duality of pride in one's heritage alongside the shame that can arise from experiences of marginalization. Through personal stories and collective discussions, attendees will analyze the interplay of these emotions, reflect on their own experiences, and explore how cultural backgrounds shape perceptions of pride and shame. The seminar will create a safe and supportive environment for open dialogue, equipping participants with strategies to transform feelings of shame into sources of strength and enhance their sense of pride. Ultimately, this experience aims to inspire advocacy for a more inclusive workplace, fostering understanding, resilience, and empowerment in the pursuit of a supportive professional landscape for all.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Differentiate between 'othering' and 'minoritization' and how to approach each issue during sessions; 2) Analyze the interplay of pride and shame in relation to cultural identity and experiences of racism, fostering a deeper understanding of these emotions.

CME/CE 3

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10:30 AM - 1:30 PM ET | *3:30 PM - 6:30 PM GMT

**For international registrants, please note that, after Daylight Savings Time ends on Nov 2nd, the GMT times for the sessions will change to 3:30pm - 6:30pm.*

WEEK 5

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

SESSION 5: LIVING AND WORKING IN A TURBULENT WORLD

Presenters: Mira Erlich-Ginor, M.A.
Shmuel Erlich, PhD.

We live in a world characterized by sudden and unexpected shifts, unpredictability, erratic and corrupt leadership, and serious military and aggressive threats. One question that arises from this is: How do we continue to work and provide the kind of healing environment that is necessary. A more fundamental question is: How can we understand, especially psychoanalytically, these current phenomena? In this regard, our presentation will focus on understanding the roots of othering, hatred and discrimination as reflected in the rise of nationalism, extreme religiosity, racism and antisemitism. This session will develop skills to identify and distinguish various external destructive forces at work from internal ones and increase the ability to defuse and resolve them. We will endeavor to suggest some points for practitioners to stay on task in these erratic and toxic conditions.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Demonstrating and analyzing the various forms in which social and group-dynamic factors manifest will increase participants awareness and prepare them to identify their impact; 2) Identify and define how othering and hatred undermines their capacity as psychotherapists and psychoanalysts, as well as that of the people undergoing treatment, to attain greater awareness and insight of internal conflicts and destructive tendencies in need of resolution.

CME/CE 3

WEEK 6

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025

SESSION 6: LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES IN A POLARIZED CONTEXT: APPLICATION TO ORGANIZATIONS & SOCIETY

Presenters: Gerard Fromm, Ph.D.
Harriet L. Wolfe, M.D.

Psychoanalytic and other mental health organizations generally do not study leadership, even though effective leadership is critical to the success of an organization. Nor do leaders within psychoanalytic and related organizations have much help in thinking about problematic processes, like polarization, which may be affecting how those organizations are carrying out their missions. Developing a psychoanalytically-informed framework for understanding challenging leadership issues and possibilities in the context of polarization helps practitioners become valuable resources within their own institutions and to other organizations. This session will address leadership challenges in polarized contexts both within such organizations and in the broader social context. This important topic describes elements of leadership that might otherwise go unarticulated. The topic is timely and important because polarization can undermine an organization's core mission and its members' morale. By articulating often overlooked dimensions of leadership, the session offers participants insights and strategies for navigating divisive dynamics effectively.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Recognize how leadership was exercised in a seriously polarized group and identify leadership lessons that can be applied in similar contexts; 2) Analyze the dynamics of polarized organizations and social conflicts.

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WEEK 7

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

SESSION 7: LEADERSHIP AND GROUP RELATIONS PERSPECTIVES ON RACISM

Presenters: Samuel P. Wyche, D.O.

Kathleen Pogue White, Ph.D.

This session is intended for psychoanalysts, psychoanalytic psychotherapists, and community practitioners who are currently in leadership roles or will be assuming leadership roles in the future, and who aspire to help their organizations address the persistent challenges posed by internalized and systemic racism, discrimination, and othering. This session aims to increase awareness and sensitivity to racialized dynamics and enactments in the dyadic clinical setting, and enhance leadership knowledge in skill in the group/organizational setting. It will accomplish these goals by promoting interest and curiosity about the operations of internalized and systemic racism, and by examining the critical role of leadership in organizational transformation over time to become more just and equitable.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Explain how two concepts presented and discussed in this session help participants observe and analyze manifestations of internalized racism at the individual level and systemic racism at the group organizational level; 2) Describe how their experience in the experiential self-study group enhanced leadership capacities of attunement and social resonance.

CME/CE 3

WEEK 8

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

SESSION 8: CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Presenters: Jack Drescher, M.D.

Sien Rivera, M.D.

This session invites psychoanalysts and therapists to engage with contemporary perspectives on gender and sexuality through a critical examination of Freud's theory of bisexuality and the medicalization of intersex bodies. Participants will explore how implicit cultural values shape clinical theory and practice, often in unrecognized ways. Emphasizing an intersectional approach, this session aims to deepen clinicians' capacity to work with patients across a spectrum of genders and sexual identities. By tracing both historical foundations and evolving frameworks, the workshop offers tools to make analytic work more inclusive, reflective, and ethically grounded.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Analyze the historical, theoretical, and cultural contexts that shaped Freud's theory of bisexuality as well as the unnecessary medical treatment of intersex infants and children; 2) Describe how an intersectional approach to psychoanalysis and psychotherapy that takes into account diverse genders and sexualities can inform and deepen clinical work.

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WEEK 9

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

SESSION 9: UNSEEN STRUCTURES: RACE, CLASS, AND COLLECTIVE TRAUMA IN A CARCERAL SETTING

Presenter: Tom Hennes
Barbara Bethea, Ph.D.

Many societal factors that include race, class, collective trauma, patterns of abuse, lack of opportunity, and internalized expectations shape individual selves in ways that operate with near-complete invisibility as differentiated elements in everyday experience. This session will explore a case study of the pressurized environment New York City jails on Rikers Island to reveal aspects of its complex social system that are otherwise far more diffuse and difficult to observe in the society that surrounds it. It will offer practitioners insight into the effects of this system on the individuals, family systems, and the groups that are a part of it in order to open fresh perspectives on similar implications for work in more normalized settings.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Describe some of the intersecting factors acting on individuals and groups in a carceral setting, how they shape the social system of such institutions, and how these patterns reflect the normalized society we are all a part of; 2) Identify ways this kind of social system can provide insights in working with individuals, groups, and institutions that are part of participants' everyday practices.

CME/CE 3

WEEK 10

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

SESSION 10: RACISM, RUPTURE, MOURNING, AND REPAIR

Presenters: Paula Christian-Kliger, Ph.D., ABPP
James W. Barron, Ph.D., ABPP

This session builds on the individual and collective work throughout the course to deepen awareness of the links between self and the social surround and how they shape the social unconscious; continues to explore multiple complex identities as powerful forces in the field that influence how participants lead, use power, and determine who belongs, who is left out, and who is experienced as the other. The session explores internalized racism in the clinical setting and also examines intervention strategies to address intergenerational collective trauma. Participants observe the connections and movement from self-reflective functioning to relational attunement in the consulting room, groups and organizations, wider communities, and the world at large.

After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Examine their own multiple complex identities and become more open to recognize complexity in individuals, groups, organizations and communities at large; 2) Demonstrate enhanced leadership skills of self-reflection, emotional readiness and engagement, capacity for collaboration and social resonance, and openness to more equitably sharing power.

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