

**Pacific Northwest Psychoanalytic Society
A Local Chapter of Division 39
Of the American Psychological Association**

Spring 2010 Program

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

7:30-9:30 P.M., doors open at 7:00

**An Analytic Approach to Couple's Therapy: Following the Web of
Projective Identification**

Presented by: Kay English, LICSW

Meeting Location: at the home of Susan Radant, PhD

There are strong resonances between a couple's relationship and the foundational mother/child relationship, both sharing psychological and physical space. Within both, there is the dynamic tension between connectedness and separateness. Within both, there is the dynamic tension of managing loving and hating feelings as the inevitable frustrations and disappointments arise. Often, one or both of the couple can be so frightened by their powerful hating, negative feelings, that they move to expel them. Projective identification often becomes the means of expulsion. There can be a remarkable unconscious fit of the interlocking patterns of projective identification between the couple. Untangling the web of projective identification within a couple often involves the therapist being caught within the web and working to become free.

This presentation will be on developing skills to listen for the interplay of the couple's projective identification system while attending to the analytic therapist's counter-transference. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity for discussing a case.

After attending this seminar, participants will have the opportunity to better understand:

1. How does the ambiguous process of projective identification show itself within the joint marital personality.
2. How does one's own countertransference response give clues to understanding this interplay.

Kay English, LICSW graduated from New York University School of Social Work in 1984 and the Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis in 1990. During the last five years of her 24 years of private practice in New Jersey, she was part of the Met Center of Object Relations Couples Institute. She has been in private practice in Seattle since November of 2008.

CE credits: 2

This program, when attended in its entirety, is offered for 2 CE credits. Division 39 is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Division 39 maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The instructional level is intermediate. Free to members, \$15 for non-members.

PNPS and Division 39 are committed to conducting all activities in conformity with the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles for Psychologists. Division 39 is committed to accessibility and non-discrimination in its continuing education activities. Participants are asked to be aware of need for privacy and confidentiality throughout the program. If program content becomes stressful, participants are encouraged to process these feelings during discussion periods. If participants have special needs, we will attempt to accommodate them. Please address questions, concern and any complaints to Bev Osband, (206) 324-5455.