Couse 31b: Advanced Winnicott

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The aim of this Advanced Course on the work of Donald Winnicott is to reflect on the proposal that Winnicott’s work constitutes a Kuhnian paradigm change in psychoanalysis. Throughout the seminars we will focus particularly on his late work, asking related questions to the proposal i.e. does Winnicott’s final theoretical matrix constitute a Kuhnian scientific revolution in psychoanalysis? Do the themes presented in Playing and Reality amount to a new metapsychology in psychoanalysis? What is the difference between a Kuhnian scientific revolution and an (ordinary) psychoanalytic advance?

To focus on these questions, we will be reading all the chapters in Playing and Reality. The secondary readings from The Language of Winnicott can be used as a guide to the key themes in Winnicott’s writings.

It is strongly recommended that participants refer to the reading list from Course No 31 An Introduction to the Work of DW Winnicott which constitutes the foundations of this advanced course. **Chapter 4 in Donald Winnicott Today, in which Željko Loparić made the original proposal, should be re-read before the beginning of this course.**

WEEK 1 – **Transitional Phenomenon**

Essential Reading: Chapter 1

Subsidiary Reading: ILLUSION (of omnipotence); HOLDING; TRANSITIONAL PHENOMENA

WEEK 2 – **Playing**

Essential Reading: Chapters 2 & 3

Subsidiary Reading: PLAYING; SPATULA GAME; SQUIGGLE GAME

WEEK 3 – **Creative Activity**

Essential Reading: Chapters 4 & 5

Subsidiary Reading: CREATIVITY; REGRESSION

WEEK 4 – **Object relating to object usage**

Essential Reading: Chapters 6, 7 & 8

Subsidiary Reading: AGGRESSION; COMMUNICATION; CONCERN

WEEK 5 – **Mirror role of Mother and Father**

Essential Reading: Chapters 9, 10 & 11

Subsidiary Reading: MOTHER; PRIMARY MATERNAL PREOCCUPATION; SELF