Overall

This course aims to provide an overview of the concepts of sexuality, sexualization and orientation with an emphasis on how these dimensions of being human are engaged in the clinical encounter. Students are expected to participate in class discussions with case examples, provocative questions and a willingness to challenge personal and theoretical assumptions. Students are encouraged to bring papers not on the class reading list that they have found helpful.

Goals

1) Provide a theoretical overview of the concepts of sexuality, sexualization and orientation
2) Greater appreciation for how these concepts have changed over time
3) Greater awareness of the many ways these concepts are engaged or not engaged in the clinical encounter
4) Greater awareness of personal and theoretical assumptions and their influence on the clinical encounter
5) Greater awareness of social and political forces that shape the discussion, personal fantasies about, expression and understanding of human sexuality

Evaluation of Learning

A 10 to 15 page paper is due at the last class. Please select a case early in the class in which sexuality, sexualization or orientation is/are dominate theme(s). Provide enough patient and treatment history to help me understand the central dynamics of the case. Discuss how a concept from the course readings or a classroom encounter helped you better understand the patient and or the clinical process and deepened the treatment.

WARNING: Every time I have taught this class at least one “fight” erupts. This is an opportunity for learning. I ask everyone to attempt to “hold” their affects and discuss what was evoked by the material or discussion.

Class 1
Overview of the concepts of Sexuality, Sexualization and Orientation


Person, E. (2005) Erotic fantasies, self-soothing fantasies and romantic fantasies. Paper presented at Sex in the City, a Conference presented by the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis, September 16-17, 2005

In class exercise: What is sexuality? What is sexualization? What is orientation?

Class 2

Early formulations of infantile sexuality, its role in adult life and the problem of the theory of female sexuality


Freud, S. (1908) Hysterical phantasies and their relations to bisexuality. SE 9.


Class 3

Sexualization and its Discontents


Class 4

The View from Self Psychology

**Class 5**

**Women speak**


**Class 6**

**Political Wars and Sacred Cows (the tensions between culture and desire and self)**


**Class 7**

**Lesbians and Gay Men Speak**


Class 8 Gender, Sexuality and Postmodernism


