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Course Directors:
Su Baker, MEd  
Joan A. Turkus, MD  
subaker@videotron.ca  joan.turkus@verizon.net

**Intended Participants:** Licensed mental health professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, mental health counselors, accredited psychotherapists, etc.) who are interested in developing their skills in treating clients with complex trauma and dissociative disorders. For Part I of the course, there is no need to have a client with a dissociative disorder.

**Course Format:** Sixteen, two and a half hour sessions of literature discussion, lecture, discussion of a “teaching case” and discussion of your cases. For the first session, the class will be three hours to allow for introductions and review of the course syllabus.

**Course Materials:** Required textbooks are listed below and must be purchased by the participant. Additional materials including journal articles and Additional Materials will be provided at no cost via the online course portal. **Please note that time spent completing required and recommended readings is not eligible for continuing education credit.** Access to the course portal is sent to registered participants two to three weeks in advance of the first class.

**Recommendation:** We recommend that you join ISSTD. Membership in ISSTD gives you free access to every past issue of the Journal of Trauma & Dissociation and a wealth of clinical articles and discussions from past issues of The ISSTD Newsletter.

**Preamble to Part 1**
This course necessitates an understanding of psychodynamic psychotherapy, as it provides the framework for the treatment of complex trauma and dissociative disorders. If the student has not had either a course in psychodynamic psychotherapy, or training as a psychodynamic therapist, it is highly recommended that the following book be read before embarking on the course, From Complex Trauma to Dissociative Disorders Part 1.

Required Texts


Required Articles


Liotti, G (2017) Conflicts between motivational systems related to attachment trauma: Key to understanding the intra-family relationship between abused children and their abusers, Journal of Trauma & Dissociation, 18:3, 304-318


Additional Materials

ISSTD Guidelines for Treating Dissociative Identity Disorder in Adults, Third Revision
Memory Slides - O'Neil (with permission)
Memory-Traumatic memory – Turkus (with permission)
PCL-M for DSM-IV (11/1/94) Weathers, Litz, Huska, & Keane National Center for PTSD - Behavioral Science Division (public domain)
The Dissociative Experiences Scale (DES-II), Bernstein, E and Putnam, F – public domain
DES-Taxon (Excel spreadsheet to be emailed to students)
The case of Harold (Parts 1a, 1b, 2, 3 and Harold’s sleep diary)
Pre-treatment slides – Turkus
Powerpoint slides on Working with traumatic memory – O’Neil
The integration continuum – Frankel
Rules for blending – Frankel
Session One – Content Level: Beginning and intermediate
The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD) Guidelines for treating DID in adults
A history of trauma and dissociation
Attachment and dissociation

Objectives:
1. Discuss the ISSTD Guidelines for treating DID in adults
2. Discuss the history of the understanding of dissociation and its antecedents
3. Discuss the interplay of dissociation, trauma and multiplicity within the dynamic unconscious
4. Explain the role of attachment in the development of dissociative disorders and the impact of other competing motivational systems

Readings:

Additional Materials:
ISSTD Guidelines for Treating Dissociative Identity Disorder in Adults, Third Revision (2011)

Timed outline:
30 minutes: Introduction of students and instructors (not eligible for CEs)
10 minutes: Introduction of ISSTD Adult Treatment Guidelines & their importance
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading A - history of understanding of dissociation
60 minutes: Discussion of Readings B & C – interplay of trauma, dissociation and multiplicity and the unconscious
Session Two – Content Level: Intermediate

*From complex trauma to dissociation*

Objectives:
1. Discuss the effects of chronic trauma and victimization
2. Describe developmental trauma in children
3. Define and describe dissociation and its phenomena

Readings:
C. DSM5 PTSD

Additional Materials:

Timed outline:
45 minutes: Discussion of Reading A & C – DSM5 PTSD, chronic/complex trauma and victimization
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading D - developmental trauma in children
45 minutes: Discussion of Reading C – dissociation and dissociative phenomena
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading E – impact of trauma and neglect in various research samples

Session Three – Content Level: Intermediate

*Assessment and diagnosis of Dissociative Identity Disorder (and OSDD-1)*

*Integrating theory into clinical work (Part 1a)*
Objectives:
1. Define “index of suspicion” and describe subtle clues that may indicate a dissociative process, including hearing voices
2. Describe various assessment tools for dissociative disorders
3. Discuss the use of structured interviews in assessing dissociative disorders.
4. Apply theory from previous sessions to cases of Harold

Readings:
C. DSM5 Dissociative Disorders.

Additional Materials:
Dissociative Experiences Scale II (DES-II) (DES-T Excel file sent as attachment for scoring)
PTSD Checklist – Civilian version (PCL-C)
The case of Harold: Part 1a and Harold’s sleep diary

Timed outline:
45 minutes: Discussion of Readings A and C, and additional provided assessment tools – index of suspicion for dissociative disorders
30 minutes: Discussion of Readings C – use of structured interview
15 minutes: Discussion of Reading D – hearing voices and dissociation
60 minutes: Discussion of the Case of Harold, Part 1a using theory from past 3 classes

Session Four – Content Level: Intermediate
Trauma, dissociation and memory
Integrating theory into clinical work (Part 1b)
Objectives
1. Outline the different forms of memory (implicit, explicit, declarative, autobiographical, etc.)
2. Discuss the effect of dissociation on memory
3. Apply theory from previous sessions to the case of Harold

Readings:

Additional materials:
Turkus PowerPoint on memory
O'Neil PowerPoint on memory
The case of Harold: Part 1b

Timed outline:
45 minutes: Discussion of O'Neil and Turkus PowerPoints on memory theory
30 minutes: Discussion of Readings A - effects of dissociation on memory
75 minutes: Discussion of the Case of Harold, Part 1b – memory and dissociation

Session Five – Content Level: Intermediate
*Beginning therapy and its vicissitudes*

Objectives:
1. Define phase-oriented treatment of complex trauma and dissociative disorders
2. Discuss the rationale for phase-oriented treatment of dissociative disorders
3. Outline the issues in developing self-care in patients with dissociative disorders
4. Discuss the impact of training in dissociative disorders on the treatment of dissociative clients

Readings:
15 minutes: Discussion of Readings A and B – defining phase oriented treatment of dissociative disorders
45 minutes: Discussion of Readings A and B - rationales for phase oriented treatment of complex trauma and dissociative disorders
60 minutes: Discussion of Readings C – developing self-care in clients/patients
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading D– research into patient care and trauma-dissociation-informed therapist

Session Six – Content Level: Intermediate
Beginning therapy and its vicissitudes (continued)
Integrating theory into clinical work (Part 2)

Objectives:
1. Discuss the role of safety in the first stage of treatment in patients with dissociative disorders
2. Describe the need for and use of containment in treating dissociative disorder patients
3. Apply theory from previous sessions to the cases of Harold

Readings:

Additional Materials:
The case of Harold, Part 2

Timed outline:
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading A – establishing safety
30 minutes: Discussion of Readings B - containment
90 minutes: Discussion of the Case of Harold, Part 2 – stage one stabilization

Session Seven – Content Level: Intermediate
The treatment frame and beyond

Objectives:
1. Discuss the relational dilemmas in treating complex trauma and dissociative disorders
2. Describe and discuss the outcomes of chronic disempowerment as they are played out in therapy with dissociative disorder and complex trauma patients
3. Describe and discuss the need for good boundaries in treating dissociative disorder patients.
4. Discuss the impact of attachment in therapeutic relationship with DID clients/patients

Readings:

Timed outline:
45 minutes: Discussion of Reading A – complexities of therapeutic relationships
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading B - chronic disempowerment and its role in therapeutic relationships
45 minutes: Discussion of Reading C – boundary maintenance
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading D – research on attachment in DID and therapeutic relationships

**Session Eight** – Content Level: Intermediate
*Treating Dissociative Identity Disorder*
*Integrating theory with clinical work (Part 3)*
*Future directions in trauma and dissociation (intro to Level II course, part II)*

Objectives:
1. Outline some of the special features of treating DID patients
2. Identify some of the controversies and future direction in the treatment of dissociative disorder patients.
3. Apply theory from previous sessions to the cases of Harold
Readings:

Additional Materials:
The case of Harold, Part 3

Timed outline:
45 minutes: Discussion of Reading A – some special issues in working with DID
45 minutes: Discussion of Reading B – dealing with controversies in treatment of DID clients/patients and future directions of treatment of DID
90 minutes: Discussion of the Case of Harold, Part 3

**Session Nine** – Content Level: Intermediate

*Opening treatment of dissociative disorders*

Objectives:

1. Discuss dissociative parts or self-states theory as it applies to dissociative disorders
2. Identify different types of parts or self-states and their roles in the internal organization of the mind in dissociative disorders
3. Discuss the theories of detachment and compartmentalization in dissociation
4. Describe important factors in opening the treatment of dissociative disorders clients/patients
5. Apply theory to case material provided by the students and instructor

Readings:

Additional Materials:
Individual instructors may provide material from own patients to illustrate the beginning of treatment of dissociative disorders. The material may be in any format including verbal discussion, PowerPoint presentation, handout, video, etc.

Timed outline:
30 minutes: Introduction of students and instructors (not eligible for CEs)
15 minutes: Discussion of Readings A & B – ego- or self-states in dissociative disorders
15 minutes: Discussion of Readings A & B – role of self-states in the internal organization of the mind in dissociative disorders
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading D – detachment and compartmentalization
30 minutes: Discussion of Readings C and Turkus slides – opening of treatment
60 minutes: Discussion of application of readings to disguised case material from students

Session Ten – Content Level: Intermediate
Dissociation, trauma and disorganized attachment

Objectives:
1. Discuss the role of trauma in the etiology of dissociative disorders
2. Discuss attachment theory and the role of disorganized attachment in the etiology of dissociative disorders
3. Apply theory to case material provided by the students and instructor

Readings:

Timed outline:
45 minutes: Discussion of Reading A – complex trauma in dissociative disorders
45 minutes: Discussion of Reading B - attachment theory and disorganized attachment in dissociative disorders
60 minutes: Discussion of application of theories in A and B to disguised case material from students

Session Eleven – Content Level: Intermediate and advanced
Dissociation, emotion and neurobiology

Objectives:
1. Discuss the neural processes related to dissociative experiences
2. Define and discuss affect, feelings and emotions
3. Discuss the centrality of emotion in the treatment of dissociative disorders
4. Apply theory to case material provided by the students and instructor

Readings

Timed outline:
45 minutes: Discussion of Reading B – neural processes related to dissociative experiences
25 minutes: Discussion of Reading A – affect, feelings and emotions
20 minutes: Discussion of Reading A – centrality of emotion in treatment
60 minutes: Discussion of application of theories in A and B to disguised case material from students

**Session Twelve** – Content Level: Intermediate and advanced
Self (ego) states: A hallmark of DID

Objectives:
1. Recognize and distinguish self- self (ego)-states (parts) as they occur in dissociative disorders
2. Discuss self (ego)-states (parts) from psychodynamic theories of mind
3. Discuss the research findings of the impact of dissociation on intrapsychic and interpersonal functioning
4. Apply theory to case material provided by the students and instructor

Readings

Timed outline:
30 minutes: Discussion of Readings A – self (ego-states) through the psychodynamic theories of mind
30 minutes: Discussion of Readings B- ego states in dissociative disorders

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30 minutes: Discussion of Readings C – dissociation’s impact on intrapsychic and interpersonal functioning
60 minutes: Discussion of application of theory to disguised disguised case material from students

Session Thirteen – Content Level: Intermediate and advanced
Treatment and techniques
Internal communication, collaboration
(Discussion on use of workbooks and cautions concerning “manualization” of treatment)

Objectives:
1. Discuss the importance of taking dissociation in account when applying therapeutic modalities to clients with complex trauma and dissociation
2. Summarize overall treatment strategies in phase oriented work with DID clients
3. Discuss the use of techniques specific to working with DID, such as developing internal communications, collaboration, cooperation, etc.
4. Describe the use of Treatment Manuals and identify possible pitfalls
5. Apply theory to case material provided by the students and instructor

Readings

Timed outline:
15 minutes: Discussion of Reading B and C – understanding the impact of dissociation when applying therapeutic modalities to treatment
5 minutes: Discussion and cautions on the use of treatment manuals
40 minutes: Discussion of Readings A, B and C – overall treatment strategies and phase oriented treatment
60 minutes: Discussion of Readings A, B, D, E and F – specific treatment strategies
30 minutes: Discussion of application of theory and techniques to disguised case material from students

**Session Fourteen** – Content Level: Intermediate and advanced

**Specific techniques for dissociative disorders: Stage One**

- Safety, self-care, functionality
- Suicidality and self-injury in dissociative disorders

**Objectives:**
1. Identify methods for developing a sense of safety with DID patients
2. Discuss various aspects of daily self-care and how to encourage a structured daily routine with DID patients
3. Describe the differences between suicidality and self-harm in DID patients and develop strategies for dealing with each
4. Apply theory to case material provided by the students and instructors

**Readings:**


**Timed outline:**

30 minutes: Discussion of Reading A – developing safety
30 minutes: Discussion of Readings B and C – daily self-care, sleep and routine
30 minutes: Discussion of Readings D and E – self-harm and suicidality
60 minutes: Discussion of application of theory and techniques to disguised case material from students

**Session Fifteen** – Content Level: Intermediate and advanced

**Specific techniques for dissociative disorders: Stage One (continued)**

- Affect and sensate regulation
- Conflict resolution and working with angry and persecutory self-states

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Mindfulness

Objectives:
1. Describe the window of tolerance and affect regulation and apply it to DID clients
2. Discuss techniques for working with anger, fear, shame and guilt with DID clients
3. Outline methods of conflict resolution with self (ego)-states and with angry and/or persecutory self (ego) –states
4. Discuss mindfulness and dissociation
5. Apply theory to case material provided by the students and instructor

Readings:

Timed outline:
15 minutes: Discussion of Reading A – window of tolerance and affect regulation
45 minutes: Discussion of Readings B, C and D – working with anger, fear, shame and guilt
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading E – dealing with angry and/or persecutory ego states
15 minutes: Discussion of Reading F – using mindfulness with DID clients
45 minutes: Discussion of application of theory and techniques to disguised case material from students

Session Sixteen – Content Level: Intermediate and advanced
Specific techniques for dissociative disorders: Stages two and three
Memory work and abreaction
Integration techniques

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Dissociative disorders in consultation

Objectives:
1. Discuss various techniques for working with traumatic memory in stage two treatment of DID
2. Discuss the integration continuum and describe various techniques for integration with DID clients
3. Discuss how dissociative disorders inform consultation and how consultation informs treatment of dissociative disorders
4. Apply theory to case material provided by the students and instructor

Readings:


Additional Materials:
Slides on working on traumatic memory – O’Neil
Slides on Integration – O’Neil
The integration continuum – Frankel
Rules for blending – Frankel

Timed outline:
60 minutes: Discussion of Reading A, B, C and O’Neil slides – working with traumatic memory (phase 2)
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading D and Frankel integration continuum – integration and blending techniques (phase 2-3)
30 minutes: Discussion of Reading E – consultation issues
30 minutes: Discussion of application of theory and techniques to disguised case material from students

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Recommended Readings (not provided)

Putnam, FW (1989) Diagnosis and treatment of Multiple Personality Disorder. NY, NY: Guilford Press. – Highly recommended – while terminology might be out-of-date and some ideas and techniques are no longer used, it remains one of the best general texts on dissociative disorders, especially DID (formerly called MPD) – it is generally available second hand from online second hand booksellers


Course Chairs and Directors:
Professional Training Program Chair: Sandra Bouabjian, MA
Email: sbouabjiam@hotmail.com
Professional Training Program Past Chair: Su Baker, MEd
Email: subaker@videotron.ca
Professional Training Program Chair-elect: Rebeca Gonzalez-Scherman, PsyD
Email: rebeca.scherman.psyd@gmail.com

Complexities of Complex Trauma: Theory and Practice director:
Su Baker, MEd
Email: subaker@videotron.ca

From Complex Trauma to Dissociative Disorders: Theory and Practice directors:
Su Baker, MEd
Joan A. Turkus, MD
Email: joan.turkus@verizon.net

Advanced Topics in Complex Trauma and Dissociative Disorders directors:
Su Baker, MEd
Joan A. Turkus, MD
Email: joan.turkus@verizon.net

Master Seminar Director: Joan A. Turkus, MD
Email: joan.turkus@verizon.net

International Course Director: Sandra Baita, MS
Email: sbaita@fibertel.com

Child & Adolescent Course Director: Frances S. Waters, DCSW, LMSW, LMFT
Email: fswaters@aol.com