



Presentation Title: Human Evil and Societal Trauma

Presentation Time: 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM US Eastern Time

Content Level: Intermediate

Abstract: This presentation will discuss the psychodynamics and cognitive processes of the psychopath. What interpersonal processes they use to seduce and manipulate others in the service of self-interest and personal gain. Psychopaths who gain access to power are particularly dangerous and have been responsible for mass genocide. The relatively new concept of “successful” or “corporate” psychopaths will be presented and discussed.

We will discuss the dangerousness of psychopaths not only in the destruction they cause but, their ability to tap into and intermesh with peoples’ dissociated need, greed, and fears. The sadistic and often inhuman behavior psychopaths engage in expresses a severe dissociation of attachment needs and their envy of the emotional bonding others are able to achieve. This can drive them to destroy it in others. Because psychopathy is found among highly functional and successful individuals there is also the danger of it becoming a cultural ego ideal.

American chattel slavery has had profound, transgenerational traumatic impact on the descendants of slaves. But slavery as an institution has also had negative effects on the descendants of the slave holders as well. We will discuss how American chattel slavery has shaped the lives of those whose ancestors were slave owners and overseers.

Young children particularly from marginalized populations are increasingly becoming victims of childhood sexual abuse. We will discuss the emergence of dissociated, trauma-bearing, self-states emerging in treatment and the value this information offers in helping to create psychological profiles of perpetrators of such crimes.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe the psychodynamics of psychopathy and the concepts of the "successful" and "corporate" psychopath
- Discuss the role of dissociation in psychopathy particularly as it pertains to the dissociation of attachment needs and their attempts to destroy relatedness in others
- Describe the effect of American chattel slavery on the descendants of the slave owners and overseers
- Describe the nature of the abusive behaviors of highly sadistic offenders against children in order to be able to provide a therapeutic container to allow victims to process such trauma

Presenter(s)

Sheldon Itzkowitz, PhD

Dr. Shelly Itzkowitz is an adjunct clinical associate professor of psychology and clinical consultant at the NYU Postdoctoral Program, Guest Faculty, the Eating Disorders, Compulsions, and Addictions Program, the William Alanson White Institute. He is on the teaching and supervisory faculty of the National Institute for the Psychotherapies, and the Trauma Studies Program of the Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis, he is an honorary member of the William Alanson White Society, a Fellow and a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society for the Study of Trauma & Dissociation (ISSTD). Dr. Itzkowitz has presented his work on dissociation and dissociative identity disorder both nationally and internationally. He, and Elizabeth Howell are co-editors of their recently published book, "Psychoanalysts, Psychologists and Psychiatrists Discuss Psychopathy & Human Evil." They have also co-edited, "The Dissociative Mind in Psychoanalysis: Understanding and Working with Trauma" which received the 2016 Media Award-Written by ISSTD and was nominated for the 2017 Gradiva Award. And his chapter, "The Interpersonal-Relational Field, Countertrauma, and Counterresilience: The Impact of Treating Trauma and Dissociation." Appears in Richard Gartner's edited volume, Trauma and Countertrauma, Resilience and Counterresilience: Insights from Psychoanalysts and Trauma Experts. Dr. Itzkowitz is in full time private practice in Manhattan working with both individuals and couples and provides clinical consultation individually and in groups.

Elizabeth F Howell, PhD

Dr. Elizabeth Howell is on the faculty of the NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis; faculty and supervisor for the Trauma Program, Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis, past Co-Director and Faculty, International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD) Professional Training Program on Dissociative Disorders, and on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Trauma and Dissociation. In addition to over thirty-five professional articles on the topics of trauma and dissociation, her books include: Trauma and Dissociation Informed Psychotherapy: Relational Healing and the Therapeutic Connection; The Dissociative Mind; Understanding and Treating Dissociative Identity Disorder: A Relational Approach; The Dissociative Mind in Psychoanalysis: Understanding and Working with Trauma, (Howell & Itzkowitz), Psychoanalysts, Psychologists & Psychiatrists Discuss Psychopathy and Human Evil (Itzkowitz & Howell), and Women and Mental Health, (Howell & Bayes). Dr. Howell is the recipient, from ISSTD, of the Cornelia Wilber Award for outstanding clinical contributions in the field of dissociative disorders, and the Lifetime Achievement Award. She is the recipient, with Dr. Sheldon Itzkowitz of the Author's Recognition Award from the National Institute for the Psychotherapies (NIP), and a Gradiva Award nominee for The Dissociative Mind in Psychoanalysis. She has lectured nationally and internationally. She is in private practice in New York City, where she works with clients, does consultations, and runs consultation and study groups.

Heather Hall, MD

Dr. Hall is a board-certified adult psychiatrist. She has over thirty years of experience. She combines her expertise in psychopharmacology and psychotherapy in developing a treatment plan tailored to the needs of each individual. Before establishing her private practice, Dr. Hall was an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at UCSF and then UC Davis. She is currently on the board of directors of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation and specializes in the treatment of complex trauma. Dr. Hall is a graduate of Smith College in Northampton MA. She completed her medical training at Drexel University in Philadelphia PA and her psychiatric training at The Institute of Pennsylvania hospital, also in Philadelphia. She lives in the Sacramento area with her husband of twenty-five years and enjoys playing classical piano.

Ellen Lacter, PhD

Ellen P. Lacter, Ph.D., is a California licensed Clinical Psychologist in private practice and Academic Coordinator of the Play Therapy Certificate program at University of California- San Diego, Division of Extended Studies.

She has expertise in the treatment of dissociative disorders and severe trauma, particularly ritualistic abuse, mind control, and victims of the production of child abuse materials, has many publications on these subjects, and is an activist on the behalf of victims based in her website: www.endritualabuse.org.

Continuing Education

The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD), #1744, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. ISSTD maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 08/20/2020 – 08/20/2021. Social workers completing this course receive 3 continuing education credits.