

**DANCES OF INTIMACY:  
Moving in the Spaces with CHALLENGING COUPLES -  
The Potential of Transference, Countertransference and Enactment**

Workshop Leader: **Claire Steinberger, Ed.D., J.D.**

**Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011; 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Where:** 16 West 16th Street (betw 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> ave); # 6MN; NYC, 10011

**Fees:** Pre-registration: \$75/\$40 – regular/ students. At the door: \$85/\$50 – regular/ students.

Who am I? Who are we? What is happening between us – then, now, tomorrow? What kind of ‘chemistry’ makes this particular dyad or triad a happening? In therapy, does the analyst’s unconscious understanding make a difference?

This “Dances of Intimacy” workshop (Part II, 2011) aims for the cutting edge: exploring ‘traditional’ as well as ‘contemporary’ epistemologies for analytic intervention with ‘challenging’ couples. While “Dances of Intimacy” (Part I, 2010) focused on a more traditional ‘object relations’ approach, this workshop extends to a ‘post-modern’ epistemology – a relational frame for appreciating dyadic (couple) and triadic (couple-analyst) process. In so doing, the focus moves from the *couple’s (or patient’s) transference* to the *analyst’s* unconscious or subjective self – a broadened (totalistic) view of countertransference experience. In a didactic format, clinical vignettes and theoretical considerations highlight the complexity of transference, countertransference and enactment possibilities – and potentiality (Aron, 1991; 1999, Mitchell & Aron).

The contemporary frame emerges from a changing view of analytic countertransference as well as the exciting application of developmental and infant attachment research (e.g., Bowlby and Main, Stern, Winnicott). In therapeutic work with couples we are challenged by the “dance” – the unconscious mutual co-constructions of ‘internal working model (s)’: self-object relationships and affect, “alter egos”, projected identifications, ‘dissociated’ states and multiple roles or selves – a complex psychic world of developmental bonding, rupture, defensive protection – and repair. Exploring theory and clinical examples, we consider the multiple ways couples try to balance reliability and stability with autonomy, imagination, unpredictability -- and passion. Ultimately, relationships must manage ever-shifting and sometimes paradoxical needs: dependency and surprise, security and change, stability and fantasy, admiration and disappointment, jealousy, hatred, guilt and betrayal, fluctuating feelings of hope and dread.

**For more information**, visit [www.orinyc.org](http://www.orinyc.org) (click on the “workshops” tab).

**To register**, please send the registration form (available at [www.orinyc.org](http://www.orinyc.org)) and the fee to: ORI Administrator; 75-15 187 Street, Fresh Meadows, NY, 11366-1725. **For more information**, email at [admin@orinyc.org](mailto:admin@orinyc.org).)