



THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

## Request for Proposals Friday Society Meetings

**Questioning the Body in Psychoanalysis – Integration or Disintegration**  
10-month series in 2019-20

The Program Committee plans to continue its Friday Society Meetings for the year 2019-2020 by hosting a 10-month series on “The body in psychoanalysis - integration or disintegration”, beginning September 2019. We hope that members and candidates, inspired by this theme, will present their work or design experiential workshops that will expand our thinking.

We are accepting proposals from now until July 15.

The female body and its distress, manifested through the hysterical symptom, was at the origins of psychoanalysis. In contemporary practice, the body has taken a backstage to the problems of character, ego, mind and relationships. If the body is referred to, it is more often in the role of the neuroscience and a neurological body. But how do we understand the suffering body today: the psychosomatic disorders, or the anorexic body for example? What can we understand about the role of the body and its manipulation: through cutting, tattoos and piercing. When are these acts of agency and self-transformation, or expressions of psychoneurosis that remain unsymbolized? What can we make of cosmetic changes when these are prevalent throughout the culture. The relationship with and to the body, either in the dyad, object relation or in phantasy is acted out throughout an analysis but how is this theorized today.

The committee hopes to offer a variety of case presentations, didactic seminars, panel discussions and experiential workshops. Special consideration will be given to panels that can creatively demonstrate approaches from diverse theoretical orientations (two or more approaches) to the same case, dreams or series of vignettes. (This is to honor a request from MITO).



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Proposals can address the question from a variety of angles, for example:

- How is the analytic dyad impacted by ...
  - The pregnant body?
  - The transitioning body?
- How is the intersubjective field effected by ...
  - The maturing (aging, impotent, infertile?) body?
  - Diseased body?
  - Dying body?
- What happens when the body breaks into the field in ways like the use of the analyst's toilet, intense body odor, skin picking, bed bug infestations?
- How do we understand the role of touch in analysis?
  - Is it taboo?
  - Useful?
  - Do we always have to work at the level and language and symbolization, or can we see our work incorporate other modalities?
  - Should we integrate body-based therapies in our work like Somatic Experiencing, dance therapy?
  - If so, what does this suggest is lacking in psychoanalytic work without it?
- What happens to the body when the parameters are changed by disembodied technological experiences like texting, phone sessions or video chatting?

These are some initial thoughts but we look forward to hearing yours, as we think about the body and integrate it back into the center of our work.

Proposals should not be more than 500 words.

Please include all names of people involved.

Suggested proposal with description.

Please also specify any preference for the months you could present (if necessary).

Please email completed proposal to Steve Yagerman at [sjy425@gmail.com](mailto:sjy425@gmail.com) by July 15<sup>th</sup>.



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## Proposal Form

### Friday Society Meetings

#### Instructions

Proposals should not be more than 500 words.

Please include all names of people involved.

Suggested proposal with description.

Please also specify any preference for the months you could present (if necessary).

1. Names of people involved in Proposal: Email Address:

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2. Suggested Proposal (feel free to use additional page):

3. Type of Presentation (please circle or fill in):

Case presentation(s)	Didactic seminar	Panel discussion
Experiential workshop	Other:	

4. Specify, if you have a preference, month to present from September, 2019 to June, 2020.

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice:

5. Proposal Submitter:

Email:

Phone Number:

Please email completed proposal to Steve Yagerman at [sjy425@gmail.com](mailto:sjy425@gmail.com) by July 15<sup>th</sup>.



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