

GENERAL INFORMATION

**Membership:**  
To join NCSPP, visit the NCSPP website: [www.ncspp.org/join-renew](http://www.ncspp.org/join-renew).

**Disabilities:**  
NCSPP, CAMFT, and Division 39 are committed to accessibility and non-discrimination in its continuing education activities. If participants have special needs, we will attempt to accommodate them. If you have concerns about accessibility, please contact Niki Clay.

**Privacy and Confidentiality:**  
All participants are asked to be aware of the need for privacy and confidentiality throughout all programs. NCSPP, CAMFT, and Division 39 are committed to conducting all activities in conformity with the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles for Psychologists. Participants are asked to be aware of the need for privacy and confidentiality throughout the program. If program content becomes stressful, participants are encouraged to process these feelings during discussion periods. Please address questions, concerns or complaints to Niki Clay.

Participants will be informed of the utility/validity of the content/approach discussed (including the basis for the statements about validity/utility), as well as the limitations of the approach and most common (and severe) risks, if any, associated with the program's content.

**Target Audience and Level:**  
The ISG is for clinicians with moderate to extensive experience in clinical work with some background in the principles of psychoanalytic approaches or laypersons with a strong academic or cultural interest in applied or clinical psychoanalysis. Class size in each study group is limited to the first 15 students.

**Commercial Support:**  
There is no commercial support for NCSPP programs nor are there any relationships between the CE Sponsor, presenting organization, presenter, program content, research, grants, or other funding that could reasonably be construed as conflicts of interest.

**A \$25 bank charge plus \$15 administrative charge will be issued on all returned checks.**

**The Northern California Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology (NCSPP)** is the local chapter of Division 39, American Psychological Association. NCSPP is committed to the study of psychoanalytic psychology and the encouragement of its interests in the professional and general communities. It is a multidisciplinary, nonprofit educational membership organization open to all mental health professionals. For information visit our website at [www.ncspp.org](http://www.ncspp.org).

FACULTY

**Janie Riley, LMFT**, is a psychotherapist and psychoanalyst with a private practice in Oakland. She is on the faculty at PINC and supervises and teaches throughout the Bay Area. She has also served in several clinical and leadership roles in the public health and community mental health sectors.

**Daniel G. Butler, Ph.D., LMFT**, is a psychoanalytic candidate at PINC and a graduate of UC Santa Cruz's History of Consciousness Program. In addition to teaching at SFCP and Access Institute, he serves on the editorial boards of *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* and *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*. His private practice is in San Francisco's Hayes Valley.

**Michael Levin, Psy.D.**, is a Training Analyst and Faculty Member at SFCP. He has taught courses on Freud, Laplanche, phenomenology, and psychoanalysis in the context of cultural history. He co-authored *Here I'm Alive: The Spirit of Music in Psychoanalysis* (Columbia University Press, 2022) and maintains a private practice in San Francisco.

**Sydney Tan, Psy.D.**, is a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, practicing in San Francisco. She teaches on Lacan and Freud and is a member and faculty at SFCP. Her film review, "The Films of Our Lives," was published in *fort da*, and several of her Latin translations can be found in *Impulse*.



184 Blackstone Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
[www.ncspp.org](http://www.ncspp.org)



NCSPP

NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
SOCIETY FOR  
PSYCHOANALYTIC  
PSYCHOLOGY

2025-2026  
ISG  
*Intensive Study Group*

2025-2026  
ISG  
*Intensive Study Group*

On Perversion

In this yearlong course, we will explore the provocative and “polymorphous” psychoanalytic topic of perversion and its manifestations and intersections in the clinic and beyond. The course brings together classical and contemporary psychoanalytic approaches to examine perversion’s complex place in our individual dimensions and broader collective formations.

As we face an urgent time in our contemporary moment in which perversity is increasingly visible in sociopolitical discourse and practice, we will aim to study perversion with the depth and focus it requires as both an intrapsychic and sociocultural phenomenon. The course will survey the shifting definitions and uses of the concept of perversion, from Freud’s foundational metapsychological formulations to its reworkings by figures such as Bollas, Stein, and Grunberger. The course will consider how psychoanalysis has historically pathologized or marginalized certain forms of desire, and how recent interdisciplinary scholarship opens space for more nuanced and liberatory understandings.

Clinically, perversion’s creative-destructive potential will be investigated, drawing from diverse psychoanalytic schools which will include thinking from French psychoanalysis, the British Independent tradition, and American Intersubjectivists. We will supplement our inquiry with philosophical and political texts by writers such as Foucault, Bataille, Bersani, and Sharpe. Finally, the course will culminate with a thorough examination of Lacan’s structural reading of perversion, inhabiting its contradictions in clinical and cultural life.

For full course information and course objectives, please visit our website: [www.ncspp.org](http://www.ncspp.org)

INTRODUCTORY EVENT

On Perversion  
Sunday, July 20, 2025; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Location: Zoom

This introductory event to NCSPP’s year-long Intensive Study Group (ISG) features the course’s four instructors – Janie Riley, Daniel Butler, Michael Levin, and Sydney Tan – each describing their own approach to this year’s theme: On Perversion. The yearlong course explores the provocative and “polymorphous” psychoanalytic concept of perversion and its varied expressions in both clinical practice and the wider cultural sphere. Drawing from classical and contemporary psychoanalytic approaches, we will consider perversion as both an intrapsychic structure and a sociocultural phenomenon. From Freud’s foundational formulations to later reworkings by Lacan, the British Independent group, American Intersubjectivists, and more, we will examine how psychoanalysis has formulated perversion clinically while at times also pathologizing certain forms of desire. Emerging interdisciplinary scholarship reimagining perversion is more nuanced and liberatory terms will enrich our perspective.

CLASS SCHEDULE

On Perversion  
29 Weeks | September 5, 2025 – April 17, 2026  
Fridays | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Location: Access Institute |  
110 Gough Street, Suite 301 | San Francisco, CA 94102

Turning Towards and Away: A Psychoanalytic Inquiry into Perversity  
Janie Riley, LMFT  
September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025

Perversity turns human relating on its head: Instead of people coming together to develop structures of mutual care, relationships become a field of impending confusion. Perversity portends to pursue a desirable goal, but its method is curiously intent on its own destruction, as well as the destruction of those in its path. Or, it demands homeostasis over uncertainty, aiming for a familiar “stability” even if that means remaining stuck in endless repetitions. But where does perversity take root? Is it an intrapsychic or a sociocultural phenomenon? What are the conditions in which such a phenomenon arises? Psychoanalysis can help address these questions, though in our field’s history, our theories have fomented perverse elements in society rather than countered them. Over the last few decades, thinkers and writers have shifted their focus away from discussions of perversion, instead turning toward more equitable and expansive ways of understanding the human condition. More recently, many have revisited the subject with a new sensibility, reinterpreting classic theories of perversity with fresh perspectives. In this class, we will draw on both the old and the new to explore how we can serve ourselves, our patients, and our communities, even when the change we seek seems impossible to achieve.

Surging Disquiet: Perversion Now  
Daniel Butler, Ph.D., LMFT  
October 31; November 7, 14, 21; December 5, 12, 19, 2025; January 2, 2026

This course examines perversion’s creative-destructive potential from clinical, philosophical, and metapsychological perspectives. Rather than condemn or romanticize perverse phenomena, we’ll consider perversions’s multiple, often contradictory effects on psychic, social, and political life. Although we turn primarily to authors in or adjacent to psychoanalysis, interdisciplinary scholarship will (hopefully) enrich and (certainly) problematize our clinical inquiry into this historically fraught topic. Readings span multiple psychoanalytic schools, including French Psychosomatics (De M’Uzan, McDougal), British Independents (Khan, Bollas), American Intersubjectivists (Benjamin, Stein), and the principal seduction theorists (Freud, Ferenczi, Laplanche). We may discuss philosophers such as Bataille, Fanon, Foucault, and Klossowski, as well as theorists of fascism (Fromm, Reich, Theweleit), sexuality (Bersani, Berlant, Edelman), and antiblackness (Farley, Sharpe, Marriott).

Where Reality Was, There Infantile Pleasure Shall Be:  
Perversion as Pathological Defiance  
Michael Levin, Psy.D.  
January 16, 23; February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 2026

This course will explore a psychoanalytic understanding of perversion, focusing first on the foundations of psychoanalytic metapsychological theories of perversion in Freud’s work, and then on their extension in the work of Grunberger, Bollas, and Stein. The latter will also offer opportunities to study the application of psychoanalytic theory to the understanding of perverse social and political formations and their functioning.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Lacan’s Oedipal Reading of Perversion:  
The Knotting of Imaginary and Symbolic Registers  
Sydney Tan, Psy.D.  
March 20, 27; April 3, 10, 17, 2026

In Seminar IV, Lacan poses the question of the phallus’s status and theorizes perversion in relation to the imaginary and symbolic phallus. Seeking to extract perversion from the problematic of the drive – the commonly held idea that perversion has to do with a fixation of the partial drive that was not sufficiently elaborated upon or accidentally arrested – Lacan understands perversion solely through the organization and articulation of the Oedipus complex. Situated within the field of the pre-Oedipal, within the realm in which the imaginary function is predominant, perversion is not a form of psychic structure, but a supplementation to psychosis. In this section, we will utilize the three logical, yet also chronological, moments of Oedipus to examine the interweaving of the imaginary and symbolic registers and explore where perversion fits within this framework.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

On Perversion

Registration Deadline:	Friday, August 22, 2025
Tuition: General Public:	Tuition: \$2610; \$500 deposit with registration; \$2110 remainder due by Friday, August 22, 2025.
NCSPP Members:	Tuition: \$2030; \$500 deposit with registration; \$1530 remainder due by Friday, August 22, 2025.
NCSPP CMH Members:	Tuition: \$1856; \$300 deposit with registration; \$1556 remainder due by Friday, August 22, 2025.
Scholarship:	One scholarship may be granted based on space available. Deadline for application is Friday, August 22, 2025. For more information and to request a scholarship application, please contact Niki Clay.

NOTE: Tuition does not include the cost of reading material.

CE Credit: 16 CE credits will be earned for segment 1; 16 CE credits will be earned for segment 2; 16 CE credits will be earned for segment 3; 10 CE credits will be earned for segment 4. A course evaluation will be due immediately after each segment.

Participants must attend 80% of any given segment and will need to submit a brief assignment for missed sessions to earn CE credit. Attendance for less than 80% or failure to submit assignments for missed sessions will render participants ineligible for CE credit. For NCSPP’s full CE Policy, please visit <https://ncspp.org/content/policies-ce-info>

LCSWs/LPCCs/LEPs/MFTs – These courses meet the qualifications for CE credit as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. CAMFT Provider #57020.

Psychologists – Psychologists receive credit through Division 39 upon completion of this course. Division 39 is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Division 39 maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Refunds: Students not admitted due to space limitation will receive a full refund of their deposit. Cancellations prior to Friday, August 22, 2025: Full refund of deposit minus \$100 administration charge. Cancellations after Friday, August 22, 2025: No refund provided.

Administration | Registration questions:  
Niki Clay, [info@ncspp.org](mailto:info@ncspp.org) or (415) 496-9949

ISG Program questions:  
Sullivan Oakley, MA, [soakley@ncspp.org](mailto:soakley@ncspp.org)