

Faculty

Penelope S. Starr-Karlin, Ph.D., LMFT, is Faculty, and a Supervising and Training Analyst at the Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis, Los Angeles. Penelope teaches the core theory class in intersubjective-systems theory and various electives including psychoanalytic theory of dreams. She regularly presents her papers at relational psychoanalytic conferences, and a recent Jungian conference, and has published on various topics in psychoanalysis. She is mentored by Robert D Stolorow and George Atwood, co-founders of intersubjective-systems theory, and participates in a monthly philosophy group for psychoanalysts.

Penelope is a former associate editor for the *International Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology/PSC*, and for four years has run an educational Facebook site dedicated to intersubjective-systems theory with well over 2000 'friends' (over fifty percent are mental health professionals around the world). Penelope practices contemporary relational psychoanalysis, and marriage and family therapy in her private practice in West Los Angeles, California.

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73157



Oklahoma Society for
PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDIES

A CHAPTER OF DIVISION 39 OF THE
AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Penelope S. Starr-Karlin,
Psy.D., LMFT

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018
9:00AM - 12:00PM

Traumatic States and the Phoenix
Myth: The Journey from Dissociation
to Integration- The Royal Road of
Image, Word, and Relationship

3 CEUs approved for Psychologists, Social Workers,
LPCs, LMFTs, and LADCs

Description of Course Content

Mythology and dreams have most consistently been adopted for use by Jung's analytical psychology but I will demonstrate their usefulness to contemporary psychoanalytic work by using a relational-systems approach called intersubjective-systems theory. The case involves an analysand whose analysis was abruptly terminated when her analyst 'disappeared' leaving her in a traumatized state. Our dialogic exploration of meaning in the myth brought dissociated experience into language and assisted with the integration of the trauma through imaginative use of mental images evoked by the stories.

More than a simple metaphor of self-renewal, the Phoenix myth has a richness of culturally elaborated sub-plots known as mythemes, that relate to the following existential moods and affects - loss of the absolutes of everyday life, a reduced sense of being, alienation, isolation, uncanniness, being-toward-death, traumatic temporality, resoluteness, and solicitude (Stolorow 2007, 2011). These will be described, along with the way mythemes and dreams can assist in the process of bringing dissociated or pre-verbal affect into language. I conclude that this ancient myth's longevity (pre-dating the pharaohs of Egypt) may be due to a useful psychological function, that of facilitating survivors' ability to integrate catastrophic loss, because its images can aid in the organizing of unformulated unconscious experience.

Learning Goals and Objectives

Participants will be able to:

1. Recognize, understand, and provide language for the specific universal existential emotions that follow in the wake of traumatic loss.
2. Use a myth to build a working relationship and become a 'relational home' when the analysand cannot trust the analyst due to previous traumatic experience in therapy.
3. Select mythemes in the Phoenix myth to facilitate exploration of existential emotions.
4. Utilize the relational aspects of the analytic dialogue to practice 'dwelling-with' the analysand, reducing dissociation and increasing the integration of experience.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 17, 2018
8:30am Registration and Coffee
9:00am - 12:00pm Presentation

LOCATION

OU College of Public Health
Auditorium
801 NE 13th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

MAP LINK

<https://goo.gl/maps/Ez9gg4NzNP82>

Registration

To Register Online Visit:
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- \$100 Non-Members
 - \$80 Members
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 - Free to St. Anthony Employees and 1st year Foundation Class participants
- *(Full-Time Undergraduate, Graduate, Doctoral students and LMFT, LADC, LPC, Social Work, Psychology, and Psychoanalytic licensure/certification candidates, and 2nd year Foundation Class participants.)

For information email Kay Smith at kay@kaysmithlcs.com