



**919 (Elective) – Psychoanalysis and Artificial Intelligence:  
Understanding the impact of AI on Society and the Mind**

**Instructor:** Amy Levy, PsyD

**Meeting Dates:** Wednesdays – January 31, 2024 through March 20, 2024

**Time:** 7:00PM-8:30PM EDT

**Location:** Zoom/Virtual

**# of Credit hours:** CME Credits: 12 / CE: 12 clock hours/ NBCC: 12 clock hours / All others: Letter of Attendance

**Target Audience:** This class is intended for beginning to intermediate mental health professionals and is also open to the general public interested in these topics. All participants must commit to confidentiality, as case presentations will be involved.

**Format:** This class will combine lecture and seminar formats; student participation is required.

**Description:** This eight-week course offers an opportunity to study and discuss the impact of the smart phone and other AI driven personal technology on our minds and lives. We will read psychoanalytic texts on the subject by Bollas, Possati, Tugwell and Knafo, as well as writings from historian, Yuval Noah Harari, and tech innovators including Mo Gawdat and Mustafa Suleyman. Using Freud's "Civilization and Its Discontents" as a starting point, we will explore the human struggle to adapt to civilization and how objects as well as stories function to ameliorate the pain of reality. Racing up to the present, we will study the new religions "Techno-humanism" and "Dataism" observed by Harari and discuss how the smart phone functions as a cult-groomer, initiating users into these new ideological systems. Self-reflection, clinical vignettes, and student writing will all be encouraged and welcome.

**Prerequisites:** No prerequisites. All parties must share a commitment to the confidentiality of materials shared during this course. Please review the policy available via a link on the registration form.

**Course Syllabus:** [Psychoanalysis and Artificial Intelligence](#)

**Training Program Credit:** Matriculated students should contact their training track Director to confirm whether this course satisfies elective credits towards graduation requirements.

**Continuing Education Credit:** At the end of the course, participants must complete the evaluation form to receive continuing education credit. The instructor(s) has signed a financial disclosure form and has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose.

## About the Instructor:

**Amy Levy, Psy.D.** is a psychoanalyst and forensic psychologist who trained in San Francisco and Los Angeles, California. She has published on the intergenerational transmission of trauma, adolescent Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the civil legal arena, and her elaborations of some of Wilfred Bion's ideas. Dr. Levy is past chair of the Education Committee for the Northern California Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology. She has taught and lectured on the smart phone and AI, Bionian theory, object-relations theory, psychological and cognitive assessment, and group therapy. She is currently in private practice in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, faculty at the Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas, and a member of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

***Registration and Tuition Deadline is January 5, 2024.***

### Tuition

PCC Matriculated Students: **\$235**

Graduate Students and Residents: **\$290**

All others: **\$315**

Registration Fee: **\$25 per term** (*Matriculated Students are exempt from registration fee*).

*Payment plans can be arranged with the Business Manager.*

[Course Cancellation Policy](#)

[Register Here](#)

### Course Learning Objectives

Class participants will be able to:

1. Explain Freud's views on the function of civilization and apply those views to current civilization under the influence of AI technology.
2. Define Modernism and Humanism and explain their relationship to one another.
3. Explain the relationship between perversion and current technology, and the concept of the phone as an "enigmatic object."
4. Define "techno-humanism" and "dataism" and explain the risks they pose to the psychoanalytic enterprise.
5. Explain the phenomenon of unconscious communications among AIs and humans.
6. Explain the process of racial, sexual and other discriminatory algorithmic biases as theorized by Possati.

7. List two reasons why we are unlikely to be able to control AI in the future and two ways that we can influence our future relationship to AI.
8. Give three reasons why development of AI is unlikely to stop.
9. Explain what Bollas means by the term, “transmissive self” and relate it to Harari’s concept of Dataism.
10. Define “intersubjective” as put forward in Essig’s conceptualization of human and AI relations.
11. Explain the differences among the three modes by which AI transforms our sense data as explained by Levy.

**Confidentiality Statement:** All case material will be carefully disguised. We ask that participants agree to hold all material presented with the utmost care, following ethical and professional guidelines.

Course Participants agree to review and abide to the following:

[Professional and Ethical Guidelines for the Classroom](#)

**Accommodation Statement:** To request an accommodation for this program, please get in touch with the Administrator at [Kayla@CarolinaPsychoanalytic.org](mailto:Kayla@CarolinaPsychoanalytic.org) no later than two weeks before the start date.

**CE & CME Disclosures:**

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American Psychoanalytic Association and the Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.”

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates this Live Activity for a maximum of 12 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR ALL LEARNERS: None of the planners and presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s)\* to disclose with ineligible companies\* whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

\*Financial relationships are relevant if the educational content an individual can control is related to the business lines or products of the ineligible company.

-Updated July 2021-

The Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 6518. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. The Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas is solely responsible for all aspects of the program.

The Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Social workers will receive a letter of attendance documenting their hours of continuing education. This certificate may only be acceptable verification in some states.

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**Contact:** [Kayla@CarolinaPsychoanalytic.org](mailto:Kayla@CarolinaPsychoanalytic.org)

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*Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas: Promoting Emotional Resilience by Understanding the Mind Through Psychoanalytic Education, Practice and Service.*