



928 (Elective)

When our Patients Feel Like the Least of our Problems: Taking a Psychodynamic Look at the Systems and Structures Within Which We Practice

Instructor: Elizabeth (Beth) Kita, PhD, LCSW
Antoinette Calabria Guest Lecturer in Psychoanalysis

Meeting Dates: Wednesdays

2026: Oct. 14, Oct. 21, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 9

Time: 7:00PM-9:00PM Eastern
(Time and Dates Subject to Change)

Location: Zoom/Virtual

of Credit hours: CME Credits: 16 hours / APA Category A CE: 16 clock hours / NBCC: 16 clock hours / All others: Letter of Attendance

Target Audience: This course is designed for beginning to advanced level clinicians who practice psychodynamically and are interested in thinking about the sociopolitical systems and structures within which we work in the United States from a multidisciplinary perspective as they relate to our clinical practices.

Enrollment will be limited to 16 students.

Prerequisites: Students should bring their “psychodynamic sensibilities” with them into this course and be able and willing to think about course material while holding fundamental theoretical assumptions such as the role of the unconscious, the primacy of anxiety and defense, attachment needs, drives, etc. in mind. Students should have an interest in deep-diving into a multidisciplinary exploration of field-level forces related to race, class, gender, tech, politics, and economics that both implicate us and interpellate us (i.e., that we both make and that make us) and look at the ways in which better understanding these dynamics can help us to situate our clinical work and the problems with which our patients struggle (and with which we struggle to help them). Students should be able to hold in mind the ways in which individual experiences are shaped by racial, gender, and class positionalities in a larger collective context where power operates differentially and be able to hold in mind how those differences live within themselves and their fellow students in the class.

Course Description: Especially when practicing in settings like prisons, schools, or county clinics, clinicians often have the experience of feeling that despite all the profound difficulties inherent in individual clinical work, it is their *individual* patients and clients who are the least of their problems when compared to the seeming relentlessly complicated *systems* within which they provide care – the dynamics of which often seem to work to thwart the provision of that care. Yet in this moment of Interregnum, Late-Stage Capitalism, The End Of The World As We Know It, The Polycrisis, Anthropocene Age, The Broligarchy, Technofascism, or AI Apocalypse (just a few of the names given to this current epoch), all of us in the United States are (to varying degrees) implicated and/or interpellated by the dynamics of racial capitalism, neoliberalism, and this emerging era in ways that leave all of us struggling with how to think (perhaps unable to think) about our clinical work with our patients and clients when feeling so overwhelmed by the systems and structures within which we are working and living. How these dynamics live in us and in our patients/clients as well as how they emerge as

normative unconscious processes in our clinical work to be taken up (or not) as forces to be resisted or reenacted will be the topic of exploration in this course. In the spirit of “thinkability,” a core value of psychoanalysis, we will strive to deploy psychodynamic concepts that so often help us so much in our clinical work with individuals to the systems and structures that - however disavowed - are in the room with us all the time, wherever those rooms may be.

Course Syllabus: [When our Patients Feel Like the Least of our Problems](#)

Training Program Credit: Students who successfully complete this course can earn elective credit in the training programs that require elective hours.

Continuing Education Credit: At the end of the course, participants must complete the evaluation form to receive continuing education credit. The instructor(s) have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

About the Instructor: Elizabeth (Beth) Kita, PhD, LCSW, is a clinical social worker who lives and works in San Francisco, California. She became interested in psychoanalysis when its ideas helped her to better understand her work in a state prison, and obtained her MSW from UC Berkeley and PhD from Smith College. In her private practice, Beth works with people contending with complex trauma. Her practice in a public clinic has also focused on treating complex trauma, but solely with people who are incarcerated and formerly incarcerated, particularly those who’ve returned home after serving life sentences. She teaches, writes, and thinks about the relationship between racial capitalism, neoliberalism, trauma, and incarceration from a psychodynamic perspective.

Email: bethkita@gmail.com

Registration and Tuition Deadline is August 4, 2026

Tuition

PCC Matriculated Students: **\$360**

Graduate Students and Residents: **\$465**

All others: **\$505**

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

Payment plans can be arranged with the Finance and Operations Manager. Please email Finance@CarolinaPsychoanalytic.org

[Course Cancellation Policy](#)

[Register Here](#)

Course Learning Objectives

Class participants will be able to:

1. Examine various psychoanalytic models of the social in the unconscious.
2. Prepare a working definition of racial capitalism and use it to understand how racial capitalism structures systems in the US.
3. Examine organized abandonment and organized violence, and consider their clinical implications.
4. Describe the economic, political, moral, and psychodynamic aspects of neoliberalism.
5. Examine the differences between the Kleinian notion of responsibility and the neoliberal artifact of responsibilization.
6. Analyze normative unconscious processes as they appear in students' own clinical work.
7. Demonstrate understanding of Bion's theory of container/contained, and make connections between it and implications of concentrated extreme wealth.
8. Analyze the role of potential risks of AI, especially in terms of their impact on human attachment needs.

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.

For this reason, students are asked to not record any class sessions including personal/AI listening/transcribing wearables or devices.

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 contact the Administrator at Kayla@CarolinaPsychoanalytic.org by two weeks before the start date.

CE & CME Disclosures:

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 not be acceptable verification in all states.

ACCME Accreditation Statement

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.

AMA Credit Designation Statement

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates this live activity for a maximum of 16 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Disclosure Statement

The APSA CE Committee has reviewed the materials for accredited continuing education and has determined that this activity is not related to the product line of ineligible companies and therefore, the activity meets the exception outlined in Standard 3: ACCME's identification, mitigation and disclosure of relevant financial relationship. This activity does not have any known commercial support.

Contact: Kayla@CarolinaPsychoanalytic.org

Kayla Schilke, Training and Education Program Manager

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