

The Tree of Life: Lecture Descriptions

Morning Lectures

11:10AM – 12PM

A: *The Importance of the Teacher/Student Relationship When Working with People on Hospice Service*

Presenter: Megan Andriano

Over the last six years, I have worked as an Art Therapist with people of all ages on hospice services and have come to see an important theme emerge in their goals. These goals include wanting to learn or wanting to teach. Both of these approaches can help support a space of empowerment and expression through creation for the client. In this presentation, I will share case studies and discuss the benefits of having learning and teaching present in the art therapy session with people who are terminally ill.

B: *Art from the Outside: Branches on Art Therapy's Family Tree*

Presenter: Randy Vick

Significant branches on our professional family tree; psychiatric, folk, and “outsider” art have informed art therapy yet they are located at the very fringe of the art historical canon. Conversely, clinical and social topics have pushed art history to the edge of art therapy scholarship. Reflection on the intersection of these histories stands to enrich both disciplines.

12:10 – 1PM

The Use of Art Therapy in Three Forms of Cognitive Behavior Therapies

Presenter: Ashley Samson

This lecture will give art therapists a basic understand of three forms of CBT including; Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Behavioral Activation for depression and Exposure and response Prevention for OCD and explore how art therapy can be used to compliment as well as enhance these forms of treatment both directly and indirectly through the use of materials, directives and common goals.

Afternoon Lectures

2PM – 2:50PM

A: *Roll Camera/Camera Roll: Considering the Interplay between Participatory Video Practice and Tenets of Art Therapy*

Presenter: Daniel Lanctot

The presentation will address the practice of participatory video both globally and locally, drawing from the presenter's own work experience as a participatory video facilitator and filmmaker, while also sharing the work of other practitioners. After presenting an outline of participatory video practices and showing video clips, the presentation will then explore the

parallels and potential crossover from participatory video to art therapy. The presenter will provide a framework for participants to develop video projects with their own clients, particularly considering group and broader community applications.

B: *A Neurodevelopmental Approach to Art Therapy with Traumatized Youth: Theory and Practice*

Presenter: Katie Kamholz

Looking through at art therapy through a neurodevelopmental lens can provide us with a guide to better understanding the impact of and healing from trauma. We will review and discuss the integration of various neurodevelopmental models of therapy and how to develop specific interventions for treatment within this framework.

3PM – 3:50PM

A: *Translating between Words and Images: Poetry as dialogue with Images and Self*

Presenter: Caroline Edasis

This presentation introduces poetry as a therapeutic tool in both individual and group art therapy, with case vignettes highlighting poetry written by older adults living in skilled nursing, assisted living, and memory support settings. Poetry is offered as a method of self-expression that allows participants to engage in profound dialogue with art images, create and reflect on personal meaning, explore major life transitions due to prevalent diagnoses and changes in independence, and bring to light emergent themes including longing, love, loneliness, and memory. This session will provide an overview of three approaches to integrating poetry into individual and group work with older adults, with broader applications to clients throughout the lifespan and in diverse settings.

B: *Stages of Life, Stages of Faith*

Presenter: Shawn Kafader

Based on the work of American author and monastic Thomas Merton, this interfaith lecture will present five stages of psycho-spiritual development – Formative, Awakening, Transformative Dark Night and Unitive - that are common across all social constructs. Particular attention will be offered to transitions between these developmental stages, what keep those we work with developmentally stuck and how we as helping professionals can invite clients to a deeper level of self-development. The lecture will assist attendees in understanding classic stages of spiritual development in order to assess what may be a healthy spiritual formation from psychological clinical distress.