BPC Bibliography of key texts in the field of sexuality and gender
For teachers and supervisors working within the Member Institutions of the BPC

Compiled by Wayne Full MSc September 2014
Developed with the BPC Task Group working to develop policy to make the profession more accessible and attractive to people with different sexual orientations
**Introduction by the chair of the task group**

In 2013, the BPC established six Task Groups to examine key issues for the psychoanalytic psychotherapy profession in the UK. One of these Task Groups was charged with developing the BPC policy on making the profession more accessible and inclusive to people with different sexual orientations, for both patients and trainees.

The Task Group believes that training within MIs should consider the significant differences that affect individual identity and embed this thinking within the training programme as a whole rather than only as aspects of a diversity agenda. With this in mind, the Task Group has compiled a pluralistic and varied bibliography on sexuality and gender (with a focus on homosexuality) for use by teaching and supervising staff at the Member Institutions (MIs) of the BPC.

This bibliography attempts to cover all five major traditions within the UK psychoanalytic psychotherapy profession (Freudian, Kleinian, Independent, Jungian and Lacanian) and includes both contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives as well traditional papers on homosexuality. The bibliography includes papers on transgender issues. Since psychoanalysis cannot operate in isolation, key readings from other disciplines such gender studies and queer theory have been included, which might inform or complement psychoanalytic thinking.

For ease of use, the bibliography is in 13 sections, each section representing a major trend or perspective. The 13 sections are simply an organising structure and it is acknowledged that there will be inevitable overlap between readings within the different sections. As the psychoanalytic literature on psychoanalysis and sexuality/gender is substantial, the bibliography is not intended to be exhaustive but rather to introduce teachers and supervisors to key ideas and themes, especially in relation to homosexuality. The Task Group recognises that some key papers will have been omitted in the endeavour to produce a concise bibliography of this nature.

For those users interested in exploring this subject in more depth, Jack Drescher, on behalf of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists (AGLP), has compiled an extensive bibliography on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Mental Health Issues, which has been arranged thematically and can be located [here](#).

It is the Task Group’s hope that this bibliography will be a useful resource for trainers, supervisors, psychotherapists, and students alike.

The Task Group would like to give thanks to Wayne Full for his commitment and support in helping to compile this bibliography.

Juliet Newbigin
Chair, BPC Task Group on LGBT Accessibility,
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This bibliography is intended as a resource for teachers and supervisors within BPC Member Institutions (MIs) to update them on contemporary theoretical and clinical perspectives in the field of sexuality and gender (with a focus on homosexuality).

All readings compiled for this bibliography are accompanied by a short overview, which briefly outlines what the reading is about. These overviews have been collated from a number of different sources:

1. Existing abstracts (if a journal article);
2. Existing publisher descriptions (if a book);
3. The Compiler’s own descriptions, usually paraphrases from the original text;
4. Other authors’ summaries of a particular reading, usually from an essay, book chapter or website.

At the end of each overview, the source is acknowledged in one of four ways:

1. Source: Abstract;
2. Source: Publisher’s Description;
3. Source: Compiler’s Description;
4. Source: Other Description (e.g. usually other authors’ summaries of the given text).

While every effort has been made to acknowledge the sources from which these overviews have been collated, some errors or omissions may have occurred. The Compiler and the BPC Task Group, which oversaw the development of this bibliography, takes full responsibility and will be more than happy to make appropriate revisions or add relevant acknowledgments.

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1. GENERAL

Since its inception, psychoanalysis has had a markedly ambivalent relationship with homosexuality. Despite more than a century of observing gay and lesbian patients and theorising about them, homosexuality remains a consistently controversial subject for psychoanalytic practitioners. The following readings are general introductions, providing historical and theoretical overviews of some of the major trends and developments within psychoanalytic thought on homosexuality. The section offers perspectives addressing both male homosexuality and lesbianism.


This book exposes the biases against gay men and lesbians in psychoanalytic theory and practice. The book includes the following: a brief history of anti-homosexual sentiment in psychoanalysis; essays written by lesbian and gay psychoanalysts seeking to have a voice in the reshaping of psychoanalytic theories of sexuality; different theoretical perspectives for understanding both homosexuality and heterosexuality; and personal narratives of gay and lesbian psychoanalysts.

*Source: Publisher’s Description*


An earlier version of this paper was presented at the BPC Psychoanalysis and Homosexuality Conference in London on 24th January 2012. The paper opens with a brief history of writings on homosexuality, trying to provide an epistemological understanding. The paper then examines homosexuality from the perspective of postmodernism, and in so doing returns to a classical psychoanalytic perspective that focuses on the body.

*Source: Abstract*


In this paper, Friedman offers an historical and theoretical critique of psychoanalytic approaches to male homosexuality over the last century, focusing particularly on the underlying assumption in psychoanalytic thinking that homosexuality is a pathological condition caused by developmental arrest.

*Source: Abstract*


In this book, the authors bring together twenty-six pioneers in the field of lesbian psychoanalytic theory. Issues addressed include: multicultural diversity; self-disclosure; homophobia; transference/countertransference issues; bisexuality; and the changing nature of lesbian sexuality.

*Source: Publisher’s Description*


This is considered a landmark book and offers an historical, cultural, and theoretical account of how male homosexuality has been viewed - and sometimes misconstrued - by the psychoanalytic tradition, from Freud through to the 1980s. This twentieth anniversary edition includes a new introduction by the author reflecting on the changes that have taken place within the psychoanalytic establishment in relation to homosexuality since the book’s initial publication.

*Source: Publisher’s Description*
This book examines historical and contemporary attitudes toward homosexuality in the theory and practice of mental health professionals working in Europe and Asia.
*Source: Publisher’s Description*

The developmental and clinical issues taken up in specific chapters of *Lesbian Lives* include: the challenges facing lesbian adolescents; the psychological and social significance of ‘coming out’; the various meanings and contexts of coming out as a gay or lesbian analyst; the interaction of individual psyche and social context in clinical work with lesbian patients; and the history of homosexual therapists and psychoanalytic training.
*Source: Publisher’s Description*

In this paper, Newbigin attempts to show how psychoanalysis has in the past developed a theoretical bias that has distorted its view of the experience of lesbians and gay men and, in detecting and questioning this bias, the profession has an opportunity to make the discipline more open and responsive to the complex society we live in.
*Source: Abstract*

This groundbreaking book provides a challenging exploration of psychoanalytic ideas about lesbians and lesbianism. Based on the authors’ clinical experience as psychoanalytic psychotherapists, it offers a new and thoughtful framework that does not pathologise or universalise all lesbianism. A number of psychoanalytic ideas are surveyed.
*Source: Publisher’s Description*

It is recommended that readers gain access to the December 2011 edition of the *Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Journal (Vol 25, No 4)*, which is dedicated to exploring the relationship between psychoanalysis and homosexuality. This edition provides a good overview of current issues in relation to psychoanalytic thinking on homosexuality.

### 2. FREUD

Freud’s views on homosexuality are inconsistent and shifting. On one hand, he views homosexuality as a sexual deviation in respect to the sexual object and as an arrest of psychosexual development. On the other hand, he claims that homosexuality is not an illness and that everyone is capable of making a homosexual object choice. In his earlier work, Freud links the development of a homosexual orientation with difficulties in the Oedipal phase of psychosexual development (i.e. between the ages of 4 - 7). In his later work, Freud identifies a link between repressed homosexuality and paranoia. References to homosexuality are peppered throughout Freud’s writings; however, this section focuses on some of his main accounts and illustrates the scope of his theorising on this issue.

Freud identifies homosexuality as a deviation in respect of the sexual object, placing it alongside bestiality and paedophilia. He refers to homosexuality as an inversion and introduces the concept of constitutional bisexuality. He suggests that masculine and feminine dispositions exist in everyone from childhood.
*Source: Compiler’s Description*
Freud illustrates how an intense castration anxiety, initiated at the height of the positive Oedipus complex, might play a role in the formation of a homosexual outcome. Little Hans, who develops a fixation on his mother, discovers that she is penis-less. This discovery is traumatic for him, causing him to regress to primitive, narcissistic object relations. In addition, Freud intuits the existence of an inverted Oedipus complex, describing how Little Hans develops a passive identification to the father.
*Source: Compiler's Description*

Freud describes how Leonardo Da Vinci develops a powerful erotic attachment to the mother and wants to retain her as a libidinal object. Leonardo introjects the mother and becomes identified with her. This ultimately leads Leonardo to seek out love objects of his own gender so that he can love them as his mother loves him. This is the process of narcissistic identification.
*Source: Compiler's Description*

Freud theorises that paranoia is the result of the transformation of latent homosexual love into hate. The paranoiac transforms the statement ‘I (a man) love him (a man)’ into its opposite ‘I do not love him, I hate him’. As these hateful feelings are intolerable to the paranoiac, he first represses them and then projects them onto someone in the external world. These projective processes lead to another psychological equation in the paranoiac’s thinking: ‘I (a man) love him - he does not love me - I hate him - he hates (persecutes) me’.
*Source: Compiler's Description*

In this case history, Freud illustrates how the Wolf Man’s negative or inverted Oedipal development results in a passive, feminine identification to the paternal object. The father becomes the Wolf Man’s libidinal object and there is a marked regression to anal eroticism.
*Source: Compiler's Description*

In this case history, Freud describes how the development of an 18-year-old woman’s positive Oedipus complex is disrupted by the news of her mother’s pregnancy. She turns away from her father and her femininity, identifies herself with the male figure and switches her affections to her mother. This is the only major case history that Freud wrote without giving the subject a name. Perhaps this indicates something of how lesbianism has been/is viewed as less significant than male homosexuality.
*Source: Compiler's Description*

Freud explores the relationship between jealousy, paranoia and homosexuality, and gives an account of the typical processes found in cases of homosexuality. Freud acknowledges that his formulations are far from complete and that homosexuality involves complex psychic processes.
*Source: Compiler's Description*

In this letter to a mother of a homosexual son, Freud makes it clear that he does not classify homosexuality as an illness or an identity that could and should be changed.

_Source: Compiler’s Description_

### 3. KLEINIAN/POST-KLEINIAN

The Kleinian/Post-Kleinian perspective tends to view homosexuality as a psychopathological condition characterised by aggressive and narcissistic object relations. The underlying Kleinian assumption is that homosexuality acts as a defence against early paranoid anxieties.


Klein views homosexuality as a manifestation of an aggressive object relationship and as a result of anxiety situations in early infancy or in the pre-oedipal stage of development. As such, Klein’s propositions date the origins of homosexual development earlier than Freud’s. Klein theorises that fear of the paternal object can be a key factor in the development of homosexuality.

_Source: Compiler’s Description_


This book provides a meta-psychological study of sexuality. In differentiating adult sexuality from infantile sexuality and polymorphism and perversion, taking unconscious phantasy and the notion of the primal scene as the pivotal point, Meltzer proposes a unified theoretical and clinical model, which has proved of particular help in the field of the psychopathology of addictions and perversions.

_Source: Publisher’s Description_


Rosenfeld emphasizes the defensive function of homosexuality against paranoid anxieties and views homosexuality as an attempt to cover up more serious mental conditions.

_Source: Compiler’s Description_


Thorner links homosexuality with Klein’s paranoid schizoid position, and proposes that homosexuality is less about choosing a same-sex love object and more about the unconscious, paranoid fantasies that underpin homosexual activity (e.g. women as poisonous and dangerous).

_Source: Compiler’s Description_
4. INDEPENDENT
Psychoanalysts from the independent tradition offer rich and diverse contributions on homosexuality, although it should be noted that there is no single, overarching trend that characterises the independent tradition’s thoughts on this matter. While some independent conclude that anti-homosexual psychoanalytic narratives have resulted in development theories at odds with data from other disciplines, others promote the idea of homosexuality as a perversion.

Balint considers homosexuality to be a perversion, and places it alongside bestiality, paedophilia, sadomasochism, fetishism and necrophilia. Balint considers homosexuality a perversion because of the high level of pregenitality he observes in homosexual patients. However, Balint does acknowledge that homosexuals are as capable as heterosexuals of making diverse object choices.
Source: Compiler’s Description

Bollas describes the experiences of a cruising homosexual and theorises that homosexual cruising acts are defensive actions against an experience of primary maternal neglect.
Source: Compiler’s Description

Gillespie attempts to integrate Oedipal and oral theories on the development of homosexuality. He suggests that homosexuality is the consequence of a fear of castration at the Oedipal level. This fear of castration is exacerbated by sadistic elements, which are oral in nature and origin.
Source: Compiler’s Description

Glover conducts a detailed review of male homosexuality covering issues of diagnosis, classification, aetiology, prognosis and treatment. He concludes that anti-homosexual psychoanalytic narratives have resulted in developmental theories, which are not consistent with data from other sources. He recommends that analytic practice should not be about determining why someone is a homosexual but helping the homosexual patient better understand himself.
Source: Compiler’s Description

McDougall outlines her work with patients covering a wide range of disorders including perverse sexuality, male and female homosexuality, psychosomatic disorders, narcissistic states and finally, the least analyzable of all, normality. All her patients deal with castration anxieties as almost the least of their suffering, with the greater degree of problems arising from early primitive levels of development in which all the vicissitudes of the differentiation and fusion of the self and the other are manifest.
Source: Publisher’s Description
5. JUNGIAN/POST-JUNGIAN

Jung views male homosexuality as a result of identification with the anima, the feminine part of man’s psyche. Like Freud, he views the homosexual as psychologically immature. In Post-Jungian literature, homosexual orientation can be viewed as successful individuation, symbolic or archetypally based.

An essay is presented on the different sexual styles and behaviour (e.g. barebacking, bugchasing, giftgiving) of American gay communities. The author discusses his personal perception on the different styles of sex and means of communications and locations wherein sex is practiced.
Source: Abstract

This chapter discusses aspects of the attitude of analytic psychology to homosexuality from a largely critical standpoint. It is divided into three parts. In the first part, some key statements about homosexuality are discussed, next a clinical case is discussed, and finally a number of clinical and political questions are addressed.

Downing, C., 2006. Myths and Mysteries of Same-Sex Love. US: Authors Choice Press. (Book)
This book is written from the perspectives of depth psychology and mythology. In it, Downing explores the realities of the gay and lesbian psyche. Her purpose is to enrich our understanding of homosexual love by discussing its conceptualizations by Freud and Jung, and its meanings as communicated in ancient myths, and by poets and philosophers.
Source: Publisher’s Description

In an effort to provide the first coherent theory of sexual orientation in the tradition of analytical psychology, Hopcke proposes a view of homosexuality that is archetypally based, empirically supportable, psychologically profound, and spiritually evocative.
Source: Publisher’s Description

Lingiardi traces the journey of gay people and the search for spirituality from early Greek times to contemporary culture via the myths, poems and symbols of male homosexualities throughout the centuries. As part of this journey, he considers the correspondence between Freud and Jung.
Source: Publisher’s Description

Sexuality and relationships between same gendered people tend to be viewed through the lens of civil rights and the undeniable need for social equality. In this far-reaching and expanding collective phenomenon, psychology, in its support of human rights and accommodation to emerging trends, may be diminished in its capacity to pursue the meaning inherent in these human experiences.
Source: Abstract
According to Springer, feminine homosexual development is not necessarily a pathological development but could be regarded as successful individuation.

Source: Compiler’s Description

6. LACANIAN

While Lacan does not offer his own comprehensive theory of homosexuality, Lacanian concepts are useful for articulating an alternative, non-normative view of sexuality. Lacan’s ideas on Lack, the Phallus, Alienation and the Other have been utilized by theorists from disciplines within and outside psychoanalysis to radically re-interpret the notion of sexuality. In Lacanian discourse, heterosexuality is not a pre-given. Human sexuality is an effect of language and representation, not of nature and biology.


This is a comprehensive and accessible introduction to Jacques Lacan, with useful summary chapters outlining Lacan’s thinking about the Oedipus complex and female sexuality.

Source: Compiler’s description


Author considers male homosexuality in relation to psychoanalytic and philosophical theories of otherness (principally those of Lacan, Laplanche and Levinas) with the aim of formulating a new ethics of narcissism.

Source: Author’s own introduction


Psychoanalysis is certainly one of the most contested areas of debate within feminism. This book presents articles on feminine sexuality by Lacan and members of the école freudienne, the school of psychoanalysis that Lacan directed in Paris from 1964 to 1980.

Source: Publisher’s Description.


Author argues that a person’s sexual identity – or sexuation – resides in unconscious subjective identifications assumed in the Oedipal interpretation of the real, symbolic and imaginary orders.

Source: Author’s own introduction
7. GROUP ANALYSIS

Group analysis recognises that the internal world of individuals are affected by relationships with others. The following readings address how issues of sexuality (and homosexuality) might affect group dynamics and relationships, and how these issues may be resolved or understood. As the psychoanalytic group literature on homosexuality is limited, some readings from wider psychotherapy work in groups have been included for a broader perspective.

This article examines the creation of a gay affirmative group model that focuses on the unique social, developmental, and psycho-educational needs of lesbian and gay clients who attend psychiatric day treatment. The author discusses how these clients' psychosocial potential can be maximized in a group that addresses issues related to their sexual orientation, including their double stigmatization as both mental patients and homosexuals.
*Source:* Abstract

The author analyses ways of thinking about authority relations in groups. As a specific example of more general processes, the author discusses the gendering of power and authority within group processes. It is argued that attending to sexed/gendered relations within groups offers vital resources towards theorizing and exploring the group body, whereby the group is conceived of as composed of embodied minds structured not only around gender but also by relations of class, ‘race’ and sexuality. This approach therefore envisages group psychotherapies as providing psychic surfaces between familial and broader cultural relations in which transformative group relations can be prefigured.
*Source:* Abstract

The author draws on issues posed by an experiential women's group, first, to explore relations between women in groups and, second, to highlight how gendered institutional dynamics enter into relations of desire and authority between women. Reviewing current literature on women, gender and groups, I discuss the absence of discussion of the erotic (including the homoerotic) within groups - including women's groups and how this connects with questions of agency, power and knowledge.
*Source:* Abstract

This paper reviews current feminist debates around gender and sexuality in relation to their relevance for group analytic theory and practice.
*Source:* Abstract

A group psychotherapy approach to the treatment of neurotic outpatients who show a homosexual preference in their sexual life is described. Male and female patients are treated in the same group. The characteristics of the patients, the differences between male and female members and some of the group dynamics, techniques and results obtained are presented.
*Source:* Abstract
This study investigates the effects of a 10-week, educational-experiential group intervention - the Coming Out Issues Group - designed to address issues pertinent to adult lesbians, including lesbian identity development, homophobia and heterosexism, religious concerns, career concerns, family issues, sexism and racism, and assertiveness skills development.
*Source: Abstract*

Nitsun argues that desire and sexuality are key components of human experience that have been marginalised in the group therapy literature. The chapter, *Homosexuality in the Group*, is of particular interest.
*Source: Publisher's Description*

In this article, the subject of sexuality in group analysis is addressed and located in a group analytic context. The main idea being explored is that psychosexuality cannot be localized in the body but in the group.
*Source: Abstract*

This paper comprehensively reviews the clinical literature dealing with group treatment of homosexuals. A favorable outcome of group therapy was reported in almost all cases whether the goal was one of achieving a change in sexual orientation or a reduction in the associated problems. It was found that homosexuals who are treated in mostly heterosexual groups are no more likely to terminate treatment prematurely than their heterosexual counterparts or homosexuals treated in homosexual therapy groups.
*Source: Abstract*

Queer theory has been a key player on the academic scene for over ten years and looks set to continue for many years to come. The aim of this paper is to present an overview of the key elements that shape this body of work and to point to its potential usefulness for group analysis.
*Source: Abstract*

In this article, Weegman explores psychoanalytic attitudes to homosexuality and uses the concept of social unconscious as an aid. Group analytic silences around homosexuality are explored and clinical material presented to show a more affirmative stance.
*Source: Abstract*
8. NARRATIVES OF PATHOLOGY

There has been a strong tradition within psychoanalytic psychotherapy of condemning homosexuality as a pathological condition in need of cure. Proponents of this viewpoint repudiate Freud’s notion of a constitutional bisexuality and link homosexuality with pathological identifications. Several of these authors suggest that homosexuality is caused by a disturbance in the early attachment relationship with the mother. According to these theorists, homosexuality can (and should) be converted to heterosexuality.


Bergler offers a distinction between two types of homosexuality. While ‘perverse homosexuality’ dates back to oral conflicts in the pre-oedipal phase, ‘spurious homosexuality’ can be traced to unresolved Oedipal conflicts. For Bergler, analytic success with homosexual patients leads to complete reversal of sexual orientation.

Source: Compiler’s Description


The findings of Bieber et al’s study of 106 homosexual men indicate that homosexuality is a pathological defence against anxieties deriving from specific family dynamics. Bieber et al support Rado’s rejection of the notion of constitutional bisexuality, and view heterosexuality as the preferable sexual outcome. These authors repudiate the idea that there is a homosexual phase in psychosexual development, and suggest that there is no such thing as latent homosexuality, only latent heterosexuality.

Source: Compiler’s Description


Limentani provides a number of classifications for understanding different types of homosexual patients in the clinical situation. Limentani considers the homosexual as being truly perverse if the following clinical manifestations are identified: deep mental disturbance; depression; separation anxiety; fear of disintegration; bizarre acting out; marked identification with the opposite sex; and promiscuity.

Source: Compiler’s Description


Ovesey views homosexuality as a phobic avoidance of heterosexuality. Ovesey proposes that homosexuality is caused by environmental factors rather than as a consequence of a constitutional bisexuality. A distinction is made between actual homosexuality (which is acted out/manifest) and pseudo-homosexuality (which is latent/unconscious). Pseudo-homosexuality refers to heterosexual men who do not self-identify as homosexual but who unconsciously equate masculine failure with femininity and homosexuality.

Source: Compiler’s Description


Rado dismisses Freud’s idea of a constitutional bisexuality and argues that there is only a primary heterosexuality. Rado proposes that homosexual men retain heterosexual desires and that homosexuality represents a fearful aversion to heterosexuality. In Rado’s view, homosexuality is a pathological defence, and homosexuality can be converted to heterosexuality. Source: Compiler’s Description
Socarides proposes that homosexuality is a perversion in need of cure. Socarides posits that homosexuality results from the patient’s failure to separate from the mother of the symbiotic phase. As the homosexual patient does not become differentiated from the mother, Socarides suggests that this culminates in the formation of a borderline personality.
*Source: Compiler’s Description*

**9. NARRATIVES OF NATURAL VARIANCE**

From the 1980s onwards, psychoanalytic literature demonstrates a marked increase in revisionist narratives, challenging psychoanalytic accounts that have pathologised homosexuality. These revisionist narratives attempt to articulate an account of homosexuality as a natural outcome of human sexual development. These revisionist accounts do not suggest that there is no pathology in homosexual patients but rather that any pathology is linked to factors independent of sexual orientation.

This paper aims to trace the legacy of the Oedipal foundations on analytic theories of gender and sexuality. Hetero-normativity places restrictions not only on homosexuality but also on gender and heterosexuality and these drawbacks have failed to be adequately recognized. Re-theorizing homosexuality is necessary to free gender from its sexual constrictions; re-theorizing gender is necessary to free homosexuality from its gendered constrictions; both require re-theorizing Oedipus.
*Source: Abstract*

Corbett posits that male homosexuality is a ‘differently structured masculinity, not a simulated femininity’. His insights challenge traditional psychoanalytic thought about development, about types and meanings of masculinity, and about growing up in a non-traditional family.
*Source: Ralph Roughton*

Drescher explores the subjectivities of gay men in psychoanalytic psychotherapy and offers a corrective to the inadequate and often pathologising tomes of traditional psychoanalytic writers. Drescher does not assume that sexual orientation is the entire or even major focus of intensive psychotherapy, but argues that issues of sexual identity - which encompass a spectrum of possibilities for any gay man - must be addressed in an atmosphere of honest encounter.
*Source: Publisher’s Description*

Frommer argues that same sex desire is not necessarily desire for sameness. This false link led many analysts to conclude that sexual desire for someone with similar genitals can only be narcissism rather than true love. Frommer challenges this view by describing a heterosexual man’s identification with his girlfriend and a homosexual man’s valuing of the differentness between himself and his boyfriend. He concludes: ‘Loving that is termed narcissistic is not about whom one loves, but how one loves’.
*Source: Ralph Roughton*
Goldsmith rejects the notion of a negative Oedipal explanation for the homosexual boy, suggesting instead that the configuration of father as love object and mother as rival is the normative experience for the homosexual boy and should be considered his positive triangulation experience. Goldsmith re-conceptualizes the inverted Oedipus complex as the Orestes complex.
Source: Ralph Roughton

Isay is one of first psychoanalysts to challenge the homophobia of the psychoanalytic community and demonstrates, through his own story and those of his patients, that homosexuality is an innate characteristic rather than a learned pathology. This book takes the reader through the main developmental stages in the gay male's life cycle from the initial awareness of same-sex impulses to coming out, forming friendships with other gay men, and a mature integration of one's sexual identity.
Source: Publisher's Description

Lynch illustrates with clinical material the complicating factor in the love life of some homosexual men that results in the same splitting of tender and sexual feelings that Freud described for heterosexual men. Lynch offers a different understanding of certain behavior that analysts have assumed to be characteristic of homosexual dynamics.
Source: Ralph Roughton

Phillips describes what it is like to grow up gay in a world that was designed for someone else. He explores the over-stimulating effect on the gay teenage boy of constantly being in situations, like locker rooms, where he can neither avoid his sexual feelings nor acknowledge them. Phillips discusses the adaptation the gay boy must make to this kind of over-stimulation, which may lead to the massive suppression of feelings and to isolation and shame.
Source: Ralph Roughton

Roughton explores the wave of change that was particular to the rethinking of homosexuality within psychoanalytic circles. He also investigates why the psychoanalytic profession went so wrong for so long and why psychoanalysts were not able to theorize homosexuality in a way that was not based in psychopathology.
Source: Abstract

Shelby shines a different light on cruising, a phenomenon denigrated by psychoanalysts as compulsive searching for multiple sex partners, said to be characteristic of homosexuality. Shelby shows this to be an example of our confusing sexualization (the compulsive behavior) with sexual orientation (the homosexual orientation) and ignoring the needy self, which is trying to make contact.
Source: Ralph Roughton
Currently, attempts at cure or conversion are rarely overtly proposed. However, psychoanalysts continually struggle to articulate a contemporary clinical approach for treating gay and lesbian patients. Although there is a substantial body of literature exploring contemporary clinical approaches, the readings suggested here offer only a brief introduction to some the clinical difficulties encountered in analytic treatment of gay and lesbian patients.


No need exists, it is argued, for a new psychoanalytic theory of homosexuality. Certainly psychoanalysis should not be expected to generate such a theory using its own methodology alone. The preoccupation with producing such a theory avoids more important questions about psychoanalytic theory building raised by an examination of the long relationship between psychoanalysis and homosexuality. The question is addressed of what might be needed that is new in the psychoanalytic approach to homosexuality, such as ‘a renewed capacity for analytic listening’.

Source: Abstract


This book provides an overview of lesbian and gay affirmative psychotherapy in the UK and offers a thoughtful approach for clinicians.

Source: Abstract


In this article, the authors draw on their experience as researchers and clinicians to discuss common clinical problems in psychotherapeutic work with non-heterosexual patients including: assessment; homophobia; internalised homophobia; gender difference between patient and analyst; the ageing patient; orientation of the therapist; and transference/countertransference.

Source: Abstract


It has often been recognized that analysts have appeared reluctant to comment on their own countertransference responses to gay patients. Yet these responses must inevitably have a significant bearing on the way the work is conceptualized and undertaken. This paper highlights ways in which homophobia and related countertransference difficulties influenced the author’s ability to engage with one male patient.

Source: Abstract


Psychoanalytic treatment approaches that advocate a neutral stance in working with male homosexual patients are critically reviewed. Analysts who adopt surface neutrality toward their patients’ homosexuality are often guided by a hidden countertransference, which prevents them from adopting an affirmative stance toward the patients’ homosexuality and negotiating transference material in a helpful manner.

Source: Abstract
This paper provides an overview of analytic treatment approaches with homosexual patients. While some analysts advocate neutrality, others propose directive-suggestive approaches. Some analysts promote an affirmative stance that validates homosexual experience. Developmental theory can also shape the way an analyst understands and interprets material in sessions. The supervisory relationship can also facilitate or hinder the therapist’s ability to address anxieties in dealing with patients with dissimilar gender preferences.
Source: Abstract

Beginning with Freud, this paper reviews some contemporary approaches to the treatment of gay men. The author advocates a non-judgemental, sustained empathic approach to the understanding and treatment of gay men.
Source: Abstract

Kernberg argues that in their clinical work, analysts need to be honestly technically neutral, in the sense of helping the patient to consolidate his or her own sexual identity. This is a task for both heterosexual and homosexual analysts who analyse homosexual patients, analysts whose particular biases might reduce their technical neutrality by either subtly demeaning or subtly idealizing homosexual solutions.
Source: Abstract

This article explores some of the experiences and dynamics of being a gay supervisor. It challenges assumptions made from inside and outside the gay community and looks at some experiences of working with gay therapists. It also tries to grapple with the legacy and effects, as therapist or client, of growing up in a predominately straight world.
Source: Abstract

This article briefly reviews literature on responses towards same-sex (lesbian and gay) sexualities from psychoanalytic and ‘lesbian and gay affirmative’ psychotherapeutic perspectives. An analysis is presented of reports of countertransferential reactions to lesbian and gay clients, obtained from interviews with fourteen psychotherapists who work in a lesbian and gay affirmative manner and eighteen clients who had received affirmative psychotherapy.
Source: Abstract

Richards explores the challenges for gay, lesbian and heterosexual practitioners working therapeutically with older LGBT men and women.
Source: Abstract
In this paper, Russell and Greenhouse explore the manifestations and impacts of homophobia and heterosexism on the practice of supervision, particularly on dyads in which the supervisor is heterosexual and the therapist is lesbian.
*Source: Abstract*

**11. INTERNALISED HOMOPHOBIA**

Internalised homophobia occurs when homosexuals are unable to accept their sexuality as part of their natural identity and unconsciously incorporate hostile and negative attitudes towards themselves. This often leads to self-contempt and self-hatred, which in turn permeates all aspects of an individual’s sexual and interpersonal functioning. Psychoanalysts increasingly recognise the role internalised homophobia can play in the treatment of gay and lesbian patients.

The findings from Herek et al indicate that internalised homophobia results in gay men and lesbians being less likely to self-disclose to heterosexual friends/acquaintances, and feeling less connected to the LGBT community. Lesbians and gay men with high-internalised homophobia scores manifest significantly more depressive symptoms than others.
*Source: Abstract*

In this paper, Hertzmann uses the concept of the Creative Couple, an idea that has evolved from the Oedipus complex, to underpin her thinking in an exploration of some of the issues facing lesbian and gay couples. Using case examples, she reflects on the challenges that internalized homophobia can present for the therapist when manifested in the transference and countertransference, and the need to be aware of the hidden, pernicious ways in which it can interfere with a couple’s creativity. *Source: Abstract*

This article describes a psychodynamic model of affirmative psychotherapy for gay men. Special note is made of the clinical issues, which arise from anti-homosexual attitudes that bias the psychological development of the homosexual male. In particular, the way in which identity formation is affected by heterosexual socialization is discussed. The psychotherapeutic implications associated with these developmental complications are indicated.
*Source: Abstract*

Premised on the observation that the HIV epidemic has occasioned an increase in both the prevalence and the virulence of homophobic ideation, feeling, and action, this paper surveys some of the ways in which psychoanalytic theory has been widely used in the emerging extra clinical literature on this problem. The paper then proceeds, by way of a clinical vignette and a critical examination of some central texts of Freud, to present a clinical/theoretical perspective on homophobia.
*Source: Abstract*

This paper focuses on the expression of internalized homophobia in men, arguing that the most powerful clinical use of this term depends upon its applicability to any man, without limitation to those whose primary object choice is homosexual. A number of dynamic situations are described to which the term might apply, elaborated by examples from contemporary culture and clinical practice.

*Source: Abstract*


Smith argues that the study of homosexuals only is insufficient to understanding homosexual problems. His research investigates individuals whose negative attitude toward homosexuals may contribute to the problem. A tentative profile suggests these individuals may be status conscious, authoritarian and sexually rigid. Other aspects of their personalities are discussed and subsequent research is outlined.

*Source: Abstract*

12. TRANSGENDER ISSUES

Very little psychoanalytic literature exists concerning analyses of transsexuals and of clinical experience with such patients in general. The readings compiled below provide an overview of some of the key literature from the last 15 years or so.


This essay reviews current theories of gender identity disorders, with particular reference to the etiology of the problem in girls. The analysis of a latency-age girl with a serious cross-gender identity disorder is presented in detail. The case material illustrates the complex relationships among this girl's fantasies about her adoption, her ambivalent attachments to her adoptive parents and brother, her pet rats, and about herself as a boy. In the analytic work, the real and transferential connections to the analyst were explored, which enabled the patient to reenact the traumatic derailments in her early attachments, to begin to mourn her losses, and to move to a more feminine identification.

*Source: Abstract*


Drawing on her personal work with transsexual patients at a specialised centre, as well as with children suffering from gender identity disorders and their parents, the author is able to specify the factors, which make the psychoanalysis and psychotherapy of these subjects so difficult. In particular, they are totally focused on the body and on their intention of securing sex reassignment by hormonal and surgical treatments, so that they rule out the involvement of any psychic element. Some clinical vignettes illustrate the psychic functioning of these patients, and the transference and countertransference problems are discussed.

*Source: Abstract*


This article describes the misery and frustration of young people for whom the external reality of the body is at odds with their gender identity. As hormonal and surgical treatments to alter the sexual body increase in sophistication, clinicians may be under pressure to provide this treatment to the under-18s. This pressure is especially powerful in the absence of evidence for the effectiveness of psychological treatment in reconciling cross-gendered youngsters to their bodies. Current practice is outlined and the legal context is described.
briefly. The clinician’s dilemmas are explored with particular reference to conflicting views of adolescent development, our limited understanding of the aetiology of gender dysphoria, the lack of empirical data on the impact of early physical intervention and changing cultural attitudes to transsexuality.

Source: Abstract

Di Ceglie D., 2009 A Stranger in My Own Body. London: Karnac. (Book)
This book brings together the contemporary thinking of a number of international clinicians, researchers and professionals from different disciplines. It shows the various perspectives that can be adopted on atypical gender identity development, and its relevance to mental health in children and adolescents. It is aimed at a multidisciplinary professional readership, as well as the interested lay reader.

Source: Publisher’s Description

This paper first defines the terms related to modern conceptions of sexuality and sexual identities; then reviews the historical assumptions underlying the theory of bisexuality; the clinical meaning of sexual hierarchies in particular. After a discussion of the meanings and uses of the ‘natural’, the paper concludes with a commentary on intersexuality as an example of both the social and the surgical constructions of gender.

Source: Abstract

This article describes a special adaptation of group psychotherapy as a psychological treatment for people with a variety of gender identity disorders. It can be used as an alternative to or concurrently with hormonal and/or surgical interventions for transgender people. It is also suitable for individuals whose gender identity disorder remains after physical interventions. The article draws from a UK specialist pilot for such a treatment service and describes the explicit aims of the psychotherapy, the specialist adaptation of therapeutic technique required and observed thematic features relevant to working in this specific field.

Source: Abstract

The few published psychoanalytic writings that exist regarding transsexual men and women tend to focus on the etiology of their gender identities and almost invariably define these patients as inherently pathological. Such myopic viewpoints leave no room for analysis and discussion of the transsexual patient's normal developmental process. In this paper, the author uses a Kleinian framework to depathologize the coping strategies employed by transsexual patients and to illustrate the importance of mourning in the development of a positive transsexual identity. A clinician who is able to sit comfortably with contradiction may facilitate the transsexual patient's mourning process - saying goodbye to the persecutory object of the past and letting go of the idealized image of the future.

Source: Abstract
Little attention has been paid to the transmasculine (female-to-male [FTM] transsexual and transgender) community. When we hear the word transsexual, most of us immediately think of male-to-females. However, the FTM community is thriving and rich with variety. This essay provides an inside look at the little-examined identities within the almost invisible world of FTMs. Positing that the transmasculine community does not subscribe to just one mode of identification, the author illuminates the varied experiences of transmasculine individuals by organizing the plethora of defining FTM labels into three broad categories: Woodworkers, Transmen, and Gender Queers. Within the admittedly limiting confines of this taxonomy, it becomes possible to gain a better understanding of the people behind the labels and achieve insight into their individual therapeutic needs. *Source: Abstract*

In this essay, the author examines links among gender, sexual attraction, and sexual orientation rooted in the role of loss and mourning in the process of gender identity development. Building on the work of Fast (1984) and Butler (1995), the author describes some of the psychological losses inherent in gender identity development and trace their effects on the structure of adult gender identity and sexual relationships. The author proposes that many important phenomena in the arena of gender and sexuality can be illuminated from this perspective, including a hidden perverse element in the structure of many adult heterosexual relationships. *Source: Abstract*

Lemma, A., 2013. The body one has and the body one is: understanding the transsexual's need to be seen. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 94*: 277-292.
The transsexual individual confronts the analyst with a disturbing otherness. How this otherness is understood, that is, how the analyst 'looks' at the patient through her distinctive theoretical lens impacts, in turn, on the patient's experience and what transpires between them. In this paper, the author outlines a developmental model rooted in attachment and object relations theory to provide one alternative way of 'looking' at some of these patients' experiences in the clinical setting. It is suggested that in some cases of transsexuality the primary object(s) did not mirror and contain an early experience of incongruity between the given body and the subjective experience of gender. *Source: Abstract*

The author describes the analysis of a transsexual who had undergone a vaginoplasty as a young man and had since been living as a woman. The complexity of the psychic reality is epitomised by the analyst's difficulty in deciding whether to use masculine or feminine grammatical forms to refer to this patient. The author tells how she assumed the fantasy role of parents expecting a baby whose sex they did not yet know. She discusses at length her hesitation about accepting a transsexual patient into analysis and reports how she overcame her misgivings after analysing her own countertransference and consulting the literature. *Source: Abstract*
13. GENDER STUDIES, QUEER THEORY

Increasingly, psychoanalysis seeks dialogue with other disciplines and theoretical frameworks. In terms of issues of sexuality, attempts continue to integrate post-modern literature on homosexuality (e.g. gender studies, queer theory) into more conventional psychoanalytic approaches. While some writers disorientate our common understanding of notions such as ‘masculinity’ and ‘femininity’, other explore how social and economic determinants have influenced our understanding of sexuality.


Breen brings together for the first time key psychoanalytic papers on the subject of femininity and masculinity from the very different British, French, and American perspectives. The papers are gathered around the central issue of the interplay of body and psyche in psychoanalysis. The editor sees the positive use of this given tension and duality as the key to real understanding of the questions currently surrounding gender identity. As well as addressing the outspoken controversy over the understanding of femininity, she shows that there has been a more silent revolution in the understanding of masculinity.

*Source: Publisher’s Description*


Butler examines the ‘trouble’ with unproblematized appeals to sex/gender identities. She argues that the foundational categories of feminist and gender discourse are actually effects of unexamined relations of power. In their place she calls for a politics in which identity concepts are destabilized, proliferated, and radically reformulated.

*Source: Publisher’s Description*


Chodorow takes her fellow psychoanalysts to task for their monolithic and pathologising accounts of deviant gender and sexuality. Drawing from her own clinical experience, the work of Freud, and a close reading of psychoanalytic texts, Chodorow argues that psychoanalysis has yet to disentangle male dominance from heterosexuality. She refers to homosexualities and heterosexualities; and discusses heterosexuality as a compromise formation.

*Source: Publisher’s Description*


*Beyond Sexuality* points contemporary sexual politics in a radically new direction. Combining a psychoanalytic emphasis on the unconscious with a deep respect for the historical variability of sexual identities, this original work of queer theory makes the case for viewing erotic desire as fundamentally impersonal.

*Source: Publisher’s Description*


Foucault explores the evolving social, economic and political forces that have shaped our attitudes to sex, and describes how we are in the process of making a science of sex, which is devoted to the analysis of desire rather than the increase of pleasure.

*Source: Publisher’s Description*
Jagose provides a clear and concise explanation of queer theory, tracing it as part of an intriguing history of same-sex love over the last century, from mid-century homophile movements to gay liberation, the women's movement and lesbian feminism, to the re-appropriation of the term 'queer'. Blending insights from prominent queer theorists, Jagose argues that queer theory's challenge is to create new ways of thinking, not only about fixed sexual identities such as heterosexual and homosexual, but even 'man' and 'woman'.
*Source: Publisher's Description*

In this book, Stoller describes patients with marked aberrations in their masculinity and femininity - primarily transsexuals, transvestites and patients with marked biological abnormalities of their sex - in order to find clues to gender development in more normal people.
*Source: Publisher's Description*

This new take on queer theory explores the ways in which sexuality, subjectivity and sociality have been discursively produced in various historical and cultural contexts. The book begins by putting gay and lesbian sexuality and politics in historical context and demonstrates how, and why, Queer Theory emerged in the West in the late twentieth century.
*Source: Publisher's Description*