



ADDRESSING BASIC FAULTS: RE-EVALUATING THE ROLE OF PSYCHOANALYSIS IN THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

JOHN THOR CORNELIUS, MD, DISCUSSANT BART MAGEE, PHD

In this presentation, Dr. Cornelius will discuss clinical material to reflect on what he has come to see as a substantial imbalance between two perspectives of mental distress. His notion of the Broken Brain perspective understands mental distress from a localized, mechanistic perspective and views mental distress as largely caused by discrete mechanical failures of organic brain function. The Broken Brain perspective is in tension with what he calls the Symphonic perspective of mind which views mental distress as a non-local, wholistic and distributed process spread across the entirety of the mental capacity which results from the impacts of tragic life experience on the normally functioning mind. While these two perspectives overlap in some areas, they most often lead to dramatically different ways of understanding and treating mental distress. And, while the Broken Brain perspective has had preeminence in the last several decades, the increasingly obvious problems regarding its fundamental scientific validity, massive profit driven biases and problematic long-term, real-world clinical outcomes are of significant concern. And while the Symphonic perspective has gone through a period of disrepute, emerging scientific evidence is increasingly supporting it both theoretically and clinically as an efficacious, reasonable, and cost-effective body of treatments in mental health.

JOHN THOR CORNELIUS, MD, is a medical doctor and psychoanalyst who works in Sacramento California. He worked psychiatrically in hospitals, outpatient clinics and as the medical director of an intensive county program before going on to complete psychoanalytic training. He taught psychoanalysis at the University of California at Davis, Department of Psychiatry for many years and is the current president of the Sacramento Psychoanalytic Society. He writes and speaks on the intersection of science, psychiatry and psychoanalysis.

BART MAGEE, PHD, is a licensed psychologist practicing in San Francisco for over 20 years. He is the principal founder of Access Institute for Psychological Services and has been Executive Director since its inception in 2002. He is an active member of Division 39 (psychoanalysis) of the American Psychological Association where he advocates for community-based mental health care and psychology training. He also provides leadership development and team-building consultation to organizations through the DILAN Consulting Group. When not at work he enjoys cooking and dining with friends and running/biking in Sonoma County.

**Tuesday, May 4
7:30 – 9:00 pm**

**Admission:
\$20 General
\$10 PINC Members
Free for Candidates and Students
CE Credits available**

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