

**RIAPP**  
**Rhode Island Association for Psychoanalytic Psychologies**  
An official chapter of the Division of Psychoanalysis (39) of the American Psychological Association  
**Wednesday Evening Lecture Series 2013-2014**  
Central Congregational Church  
296 Angell Street (Diman Street entrance)  
Providence, RI 02906

**October 2, 2013 7:30-9:00 PM**

**PRESENTS**  
Peter Lawner, Ph.D.

### **SOME CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF WINNICOTT'S SELF-ACTUALIZATION THEORY**

**Abstract:** There are therapeutic principles in Winnicott's self-actualization theory that parallel his understanding of conditions that promote development of a person's vitality, authenticity, and creativity or, contrastingly, self-disablement. We relate these principles to clients'/patients' difficulties in "being alone" in the presence of another; being spontaneous, authentic, and creative; and to therapists' transparency via verbalizing deliberations in their clinical decision-making.

**Learning Objectives:** After this **intermediate/advanced** presentation, participants will be able to:

- 1) Describe the relationship of one's capacity to be alone in another's presence to her/his spontaneity and authenticity.
- 2) Outline several implications of Winnicott's being a self-actualization theory.
- 3) Explain the relationship of one's mother's unattunement and impingement to his/her false self development.

**Biography:** Peter Lawner, Ph.D. serves as Clinical Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School. Faculty at MIP, Supervisor at Cambridge Hospital, and Coordinator, *the Paul Roazen Group* on the History of Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis. Formerly in Boston, faculty at PINE and faculty and supervisor for 25 years at MGH's *Center for Psychoanalytic Studies*; in New York City, Director, NYU's Doctoral Psychology Clinic.

**References:**

- Winnicott, D W (1945) Primitive Emotional Development. *Int. J. Psychoanal.* **26**:137-143.  
Winnicott, D W (1941) The observation of infants in a set situation. In *Through Paediatrics to Psychoanalysis: Selected Papers...* pps. 52-69.  
Winnicott, D W (1954) Withdrawal and regression. In *Through Paediatrics...* pps.255-261.  
Winnicott, D W (1958) The capacity to be alone *Int. J. Psychoanal.* **41**:585-95.  
Winnicott, D W (1962) Ego integration in child development. In *Maturational Processes and the Facilitating Environment* (1965) pps. 56-63.

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