

## **CATHY SIEBOLD**

### **The Analyst's Desire: Beyond Dyadic Constructions**

Desire and the way that it is symbolized and represented is a theme in psychoanalytic thought and practice. From Freud's early discussions of libido pressing for expression, meeting with reality and a mind that works to reconcile these two processes, to Lacan's focus on the void and symbolization of desire, to Winnicott's exploration of potential space, the need, aesthetic or desire of the patient has been part of analytic study and discourse. How the analyst understands the patient's desire is inextricably connected to the analyst's awareness, acknowledgement and allowance for the workings of his or her mind in the countertransference.

The fulfillment of the analyst's desire is problematical. In its conscious form it may be disguised as a method of healing. In its unconscious form it is not fully represented. Such unacknowledged experience may be notable in the way that we find ourselves thinking or feeling about a patient. The desire of desire, or the desire of the other's desire, as in psychoanalysis' classic triangular construction, is present even if unrecognized in the analytic dyad. Loving the patient, hating the patient, and the other that the patient may represent are part of the analyst's desire present in the analytic process. This presentation will explore the complexity of desire. Case examples are used to explore the inevitable frustration of the analyst's desire as part of the therapeutic action.

*Cathy Siebold, DSW. Faculty, Supervisor Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis, PPSC, NJTIP, Adjunct faculty Smith College SSW, President-Elect AAPCW. Author, book chapters and articles about psychoanalytic theory and practice. Private Practice, Arlington MA. & NYC, NY.*