



Clinical Issues in the Psychoanalytic Treatment of Transgender & Nonbinary Patients

Jack Drescher, MD

Jack Pula, MD

Sien Rivera, MD

Saturday, March 14, 2026
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (EST)
2.75 CE/CME Available
Via Zoom

RSVP - CLICK HERE!

This program addresses the lived reality of contemporary analytic work, particularly when ideological preoccupation constrains clinical observation. Neutrality, ethical responsibility, and institutional allegiance acquire new meaning when working with transgender and nonbinary patients, trainees, and colleagues. Analysts increasingly confront a clinical dilemma: *Is it psychoanalysis if I say something? Is it psychoanalysis if I don't?* Legal, ideological, and institutional pressures increasingly enter the transference and countertransference and shape clinical decision-making. This panel looks directly at how contemporary politics affect technique, shape countertransference, and recruit psychoanalytic tradition as either refuge or burden.

The presenters bring complementary and intricate vantage points. **Jack Drescher, MD**, is a senior psychoanalyst whose influence spans clinical practice, psychoanalytic education, and the formal conceptualization of gender within psychiatry and psychoanalysis, including leadership roles in DSM-5-TR, ICD-11, and national and international organizations. **Jack Pula, MD**, a New York-based psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, speaks from his position as a transgender man, clinician, and educator, integrating analytic work with the concrete effects of law and policy on clinical life. **Sien Rivera, MD**, Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of South Carolina is an international presenter on gender, sexuality, and new technologies. They explore how anti-trans legislation and rhetoric shape the psychic lives of transgender patients and providers, weaving psychoanalytic theory, clinical experience, and lived identity.

The program presents multiple psychoanalytic perspectives and attends to clinical process as well as some policy positions. The goal is to allow participants to critically examine their own assumptions, beliefs and techniques. It is an experience-near, technically serious conversation about analytic work as it is being practiced now, and about what analysts risk losing if these aspects remain unspoken.

About the Speakers

Jack Drescher, MD, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in New York City, is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University. He serves on faculties of William Alanson White Institute (also a Trustee), NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis and Columbia's Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. He is Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, Past President of APA's New York County Psychiatric Society and Past President of the Group for Advancement of Psychiatry (GAP). He received the 2022 Mary S. Sigourney Award for international work on gender and sexuality. He was Section Editor of the Gender Dysphoria chapter in APA's DSM-5 Text Revision (DSM-5-TR). He served on the World Health Organization's Working Group that revised sex and gender diagnoses in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11). He is a member of APsA's Committee on Gender & Sexuality and Emeritus Editor of the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health*.

Jack Pula, MD is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in private practice in New York, a graduate of Columbia's Center for Psychoanalytic Research and Training and assistant professor of clinical psychiatry, Columbia. He works clinically with transgender people and those on the LGBTQ spectrum. He has published papers and spoken at national and international conferences. He serves on the American Psychoanalytic Association's Committee of Gender and Sexuality and was the first openly trans candidate at an APsaA-affiliated institute. He belongs to the Group for Advancement of Psychiatry's LGBTQ+ Committee and was part of the American Psychiatric Association's Working Group for Gender Dysphoria.

Sien (pronounced, "Sheen") Rivera, MD, is Assistant Program Director of the Prisma Health Midlands/University of South Carolina General Psychiatry residency program, and Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, SC. They received their medical degree from SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine and completed their general psychiatry residency and child adolescent psychiatry fellowship at Prisma Health Midlands/University of South Carolina. They are a former fellow of the American Psychoanalytic Association and a winner of the Ralph Roughton Paper Award. They are former chair of APsA's Committee on Gender and Sexuality, current co-chair of our subcommittee on Education, and they write and present nationally and internationally on topics related to gender, sexuality, and new technologies.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Examine how legal, external factors, and institutional pressures influence transference and countertransference in psychoanalytic treatment.
2. Apply psychoanalytic concepts to recognize and address clinical ruptures, misattunement, and defensive neutrality in work with transgender and nonbinary patients.
3. Analyze how clinicians' personal experience and institutional context inform analytic listening, ethical judgment, and intervention.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION/CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Medical Education (CME):

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American Psychoanalytic Association and the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates these Live Activities for a maximum of 2.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR ALL LEARNERS: None of the planners and presenters of this CME program have any relevant financial relationships to disclose.



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