



Clinical Issues in the Psychoanalytic Treatment of Transgender & Nonbinary Patients

Jack Drescher, MD

Willa N. France, JD

Jack Pula, 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. **Willa France, JD**, transitioned at age 55 after a distinguished legal career and is now a psychoanalytic candidate at the William Alanson White Institute, grounding her clinical thinking in lived experience and relational/interpersonal theory. **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.

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*.

Transwoman **Willa N. France, JD**, (she/her/hers) began her physical transition in 2004 at age 55. Her early careers were in naval architecture and marine engineering and then law. She is completing her candidacy at the William Alanson White Institute's psychoanalytic training program. Willa was born in Wisconsin to parents who raised mink. At an early age, her family moved several times throughout the west before settling on the Oregon coast, their livelihood always based on mink ranching. She lives with her wife of almost 52 years, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, in East Harlem, New York.

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.

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)TM. 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.



Continuing Education for Psychologists (CE):

The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Every session of this program offers CE credit for psychologists.

Continuing Education for Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors (CE): In accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth of PA dated 12/23/06 [PA Code: Title 49, Ch. 47-49], The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors recognizes the American Psychological Association (APA) as a preapproved provider of continuing education programs for social workers and clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors in the State of Pennsylvania. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education programs.

For more information, please contact the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia:

Rockland – East Fairmount Park
3810 Mt. Pleasant Drive Philadelphia, PA 19121
215-235-2345
pcop@philanalysis.org

The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is committed to reasonable accommodations for any member or program attendee with a disability unless doing so would cause significant hardship to the organization. Advance written notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs. To request accommodations for this program, please [click here](#) to complete an Accommodation Request Form.