

EDITORS
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PSYCHOANALYTIC
PERSPECTIVES

LOVE

LOVE

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Praise for
LOVE: PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVES

"This lively book tackles with verve all the issues that confront psychoanalysts interested in the subject of love. What is the nature of this wayward emotion? Does it depend on culture or is it basic to being human? Why are some of us incapable of loving or finding a partner? Are the childhood relationships to parents the key to adult love?
Personally, I enjoyed particularly the frankness with which the role of love in the therapeutic situation was addressed. Love seems to offer an excellent opportunity for the competing schools of thought within psychoanalysis to meet. All schools of thought are represented, making the book alive as well as informative."

—Martin S. Bergmann
Clinical Professor of Psychology
New York University Postdoctoral Program
Author of *The Anatomy of Loving*

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The relationship between the patient and the therapist is fundamentally concerned with issues of love. Love is at the heart of psychoanalysis. The investigation of how and why we connect with others, the evolution of loving relationships through the developmental cycle, and how this capacity can be distorted are central concerns of psychoanalysis. In this unique work an engaging group of clinicians offers its observations and reflections on love.

These essays explore love and work in adulthood and narcissistic forms of love in healthy and pathological relationships. They investigate the "terror of tenderness" and perversions in love, while looking at specific kinds of love relationships such as between siblings and in marriage. There are sections on falling in love, trust and testing in relationships, and the self and loving. The book also attempts to answer the question: Should analysts love their patients?

The authors, all members of the Psychoanalytic Society of New York City, uncover intriguing new insights and offer important and useful observations on the implications for clinical work. This wide array of perspectives makes a great contribution toward understanding the human capacity for love.

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JUDITH F. LASKY is a Supervisor at City, Yeshiva, and Pace Universities Doctoral programs and at the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy. HELEN W. SILVERMAN is a Supervisor at Long Island University. She is President of the Psychoanalytic Society of the Postdoctoral Program for Study and Research in Psychology, of which Lasky is Vice-President.

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Mathematical Perspectives

Volume

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Preface

Love is the province of many human disciplines, including the sciences, the arts, and the humanities. No one discipline claims a monopoly on understanding the human capacity for love, and why we connect with others, or the distortions that can occur in these processes. In this light, the current interest in love seen as a reflection of concerns about the future of psychoanalysis.

This book grew out of a conference on "Love: Psychoanalytic Perspectives." The idea behind the conference was to explore the tenets and assumptions about love that underlie psychoanalytic theory. "Love: Psychoanalytic Perspectives" was published the day after Valentine's Day, a fitting tribute to the theme.

The conference was sponsored by the Society of the Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, a professional, scientific, and educational organization that provides training, faculty, and supervisors of the program in psychotherapy and psychoanalysis. The program offers advanced training to doctoral students and practitioners in psychoanalytic institutes to provide training and supervision. All of the authors are members of the society.

The papers presented at the conference represent a range of theoretical positions. The enthusiasm suggested a high degree of interest in the topic and led us to think about publishing a book based in large part on the papers presented. This book is not a proceedings of the conference but a more comprehensive, and perhaps more useful, publication.

We would like to thank the Co-

Harold B. Davis, Leanne Domash, Andrew Druck, and Susan Mulliken—for their creative ideas and hard work in producing this conference. Without the group effort the conference would have remained only a good idea.

We extend our thanks to the paper and panel presenters and workshop leaders for their lively contributions, which enabled us to draw a large crowd and to offer the audience of the conference itself what was an interesting and thought-provoking day.

We would also like to express our appreciation to our editor, Kitty Moore, for her unflagging interest in and enthusiasm for this project, and for her helpful guidance in transforming the papers from the spoken word into a book.

About the Contributors

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LOVE

Psychoanalytic Perspectives

JUDITH F. LASKY and
HELEN W. SILVERMAN

Editors



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS
NEW YORK AND LONDON

To Richard

[J.L.]

To Johanna

[H.S.]

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Preface

Love is the province of many human studies, such as literature, history, and the arts. No one discipline claims exclusivity; each offers its particular perspective. Psychoanalysis has a unique contribution to make toward understanding the human capacity to love. The investigation of how and why we connect with others, why we want and need to, and the distortions that can occur in these processes are central concerns of psychoanalysis. In this light, the current emphasis on narcissism can be seen as a reflection of concerns about the inability to love.

This book grew out of a conference on "Love: Psychoanalytic Perspectives." The idea behind the conference was to make explicit the tenets and assumptions about love that are implicit in psychoanalysis. "Love: Psychoanalytic Perspectives" was held on February 15, 1986, the day after Valentine's Day, a fitting occasion to speak of love.

The conference was sponsored and organized by the Psychoanalytic Society of the Postdoctoral Program. The Psychoanalytic Society is a professional, scientific, and educational organization composed of graduates, faculty, and supervisors of the New York University Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. The Postdoctoral Program offers advanced training to doctoral-level psychologists in the theory and practice of psychoanalysis, and it is one of the few psychoanalytic institutes to provide training in several different theoretical orientations. All of the authors are members of the Psychoanalytic Society.

The papers presented at the conference reflected the diversity and range of these theoretical positions. The capacity crowd and the audience enthusiasm suggested a high degree of professional interest in the topic and led us to think about publishing the papers as a book. While this book is based in large part on papers presented at the conference, it is not a proceedings of the conference. Chapters were added to make the book more comprehensive, and papers were expanded and revised for publication.

We would like to thank the Conference Committee—Bernice Barber,

Harold B. Davis, Leanne Domash, Andrew Druck, and Susan Mulliken—for their creative ideas and hard work in producing this conference. Without the group effort the conference would have remained only a good idea.

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