The establishment of a cohesive and secure sense of self is a critical developmental task. Through the lens of Self Psychology, the selfobject needs of mirroring, idealizing, and twinship facilitate the development of this cohesive self and allow an individual to successfully interact with the world while also feeling a sense of belongingness and connection with others. For lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer (LGBQ) people, however, the development of a cohesive self presents unique challenges not faced by heterosexual people as the selfobject needs of mirroring, idealizing, and twinship may be thwarted by experiences of discrimination, rejecting coming-out experiences or concealment, and one’s own internalized homophobia/heterosexism. Such ongoing failures of responsive selfobject experiences can result in significant emotional distress and provide a framework for understanding disproportionate rates of mental health illness and substance abuse within this community.

This presentation will draw from Self Psychology principles to provide a conceptualization of LGBQ sexual orientation/identity as the emergence of self which requires the responsive selfobject needs of mirroring, idealizing, and twinship. LGBQ-specific issues of discrimination, disclosure/concealment, and internalized homophobia/heterosexism will also be included as they relate to the development of self for LGBQ people. Clinical considerations of transference/countertransference, resistance, and rupture—repair when working therapeutically with LGBQ patients will also be discussed with opportunities for sharing of clinical material.

**THE PRESENTER**

Dr. Daniel Sheridan is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Miami, Florida and Clinical Director for the Children’s Bereavement Center. As a clinician, Dr. Sheridan has trained in community mental health clinics and university counseling centers treating a wide range of presenting concerns including depression, anxiety, relationship concerns, LGBTQ+ issues, trauma, and substance use. Dr. Sheridan works with adolescents, adults, individuals, and couples. As a researcher, Dr. Sheridan has examined the impact of discrimination, internalized heterosexism, and the coming-out process on the health and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals and he has presented at several national conferences. Dr. Sheridan also sits on the board of directors as treasurer for the Southeast Florida Association for Psychoanalytic Psychology.

**OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this presentation:

1. I can describe significant events in the history of LGBQ mental health treatment
2. I can identify the impact of discrimination, disclosure/concealment, and internalized homophobia/heterosexism on the health and well-being of LGBQ people
3. I can explain LGBQ presenting concerns utilizing the selfobject experiences of mirroring, idealizing, and twinship

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS APPRECIATED**

**REGISTER AT WWW.SEFAPP.ORG**

Brunch provided following presentation