Using the social meme of “first world problems” as an opening, this presentation aims to articulate a continuous field of psychoanalysis that extends from the individual to the social. By encouraging us to expand our thinking of the psychoanalytic field as far more encompassing than merely the prototypical dyad of patient and analyst in the consulting room, psychoanalytic processes can begin to unfold in all sorts of configurations and in all sorts of places. Part of this task requires that we be attentive to the material conditions that underlie different forms of practice and to address the social, cultural, and class implications that lie beneath them.

This talk addresses the problems inherent in the closed-door mentality of institutional psychoanalysis, arguing for a different future for psychoanalysis in the 21st century. Thinking of psychoanalysis as an extended field, we open the door to conceiving of ways of practicing that are typically neglected in our theorizing, clinical work, and community outreach. But this broader way of conceptualizing psychoanalytic practice brings with it certain ethical considerations, since when we open one door, we invariably close the door on something or, more importantly, on someone else. What kinds of interventions can be most effectively used to address ideology, social positioning, and the social unconscious? Dr. Gonzalez addresses the ways of opening psychoanalysis to these more societally based ideas with specific clinical examples from his practice, and he also invites the participants to speak about their own community-based psychoanalytic efforts.

PRESENTER:

Francisco J. González, MD, is Personal & Supervising Analyst, Community Psychoanalysis Supervising Analyst, Faculty, and Co-Chair of the Community Psychoanalysis Track at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California (PINC). He has worked in community mental health since 1997, as psychiatrist and consultant at Instituto Familiar de la Raza, which serves low-income, Spanish-speaking Latinos in San Francisco. He serves on the editorial boards of Psychoanalytic Dialogues, Studies in Gender and Sexuality, and JAPA. His writing — which has been a recipient of the Symmonds Prize, Ralph Roughton Award, and co-recipient of the JAPA Award for Best Paper (2019) — focuses on the articulation of the social within individual and collective psychic life, including in the domains of gender, sexuality, racialized difference, immigration, film, and groups.

OBJECTIVES:

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

1. Describe two registers or domains of the unconscious and give examples of how they present in clinical work.
2. Critique the conventional notion of the psychoanalytic frame and contrast it to the idea of demarcation of the social field.
3. Describe a form of intervention, other than interpretation, that can be used to investigate ideology, social positioning, and the social unconscious.

Learning assessments will be emailed to participants for CE credits.

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