



CMPS

Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies

Distance Learning Program: Online Course via Zoom

THIS COURSE IS OPEN TO STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE GREATER NEW YORK CITY AREA AS WELL AS THOSE IN MORE DISTANT LOCATIONS

Single-Semester Course: Sadomasochism

This course examines sadomasochism through psychoanalytic theories of drive, aggression, power, and primitive mental states, with a strong emphasis on clinical application. We will explore how aggression functions as a form of connection; how sadomasochistic configurations emerge in the transference-countertransference matrix, enactment, and dissociation; and how domination, submission, humiliation, and negation become eroticized in psychic life. Attention will be given to how unmentalized aggression appears in clinical work and how sadomasochistic dynamics extend beyond the consulting room into group processes, culture, and political life. The course is designed for practicing clinicians seeking to deepen their psychoanalytic understanding of difficult clinical phenomena and destructive relational patterns.

15 CE Credits for Psychoanalysts,
Psychologists, and Social Workers

10 Fridays from 12:00 – 1:30 PM (Eastern)

SEPTEMBER 11 – NOVEMBER 13, 2026

To Register: cmeps.edu/events

For More Information: 212-260-7050 • cmeps@cmeps.edu

TUITION: \$550

Lani Pawar, LP, is on the faculty of the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies

CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Participants will be able to (1) define Freud's concepts of sadism and masochism, (2) define Freud's concepts of aggression and the death drive, (3) explain the relationship between aggression, eroticization, and power, (4) explain how moral narcissism operates defensively within sadomasochistic relational configurations, (5) describe and compare drive-theoretical, object-relational, relational, and trauma-based models of sadomasochism, (6) explain the role of trauma, humiliation, and revenge in the transformation of aggression into erotic excitement, (7) identify and describe sadomasochistic enactments in clinical material, (8) differentiate mentalized and unmentalized aggression, (9) apply relational theories of domination, submission, and recognition to clinical situations, and (10) analyze sadomasochistic dynamics in group, cultural, and political contexts.

Psychoanalysts: The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychoanalysts (#P-0032).

Psychologists: The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists (#PSY-0163).

Social Workers: The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers (#SW-0206).