

Ethical Decision Making as a Psychodynamic Process

Virtual Mini Course
Friday, June 21, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CDT

Course Summary:

Ethical dilemmas in clinical practice rarely have one “right” way through them. There are often several possible courses of action available that could be conceived of as ethical. Further, psychodynamically-oriented clinicians need also consider unconscious meanings and motivations that may be involved. In this mini-course, we approach ethical decision making as a psychodynamic process that can be effectively navigated through deepening specific capacities that are central to our clinical approach. These include reflexivity, consultation, empathy (Kohut, 1981), and “radical openness” (Hart, 2014). Through discussion of ethical dilemmas that arose in real life cases, we will collaboratively exercise those capacities, allowing us to gain insight into how our personal ethical commitments influence our clinical decision making, as well as to consider other perspectives on the same material. This is a discussion-focused course; some advance reading will be required to facilitate full participation.

Bio:

Cate Desjardins, PhD, LMSW is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan, where they are also the BSW Field Director. Additionally, Dr. Desjardins is an instructor in the ICSW master’s in clinical counseling and psychotherapy program. Dr. Desjardins maintains a small clinical practice doing adult psychotherapy, supervision, and consultation. Dr. Desjardins lives in Huntington Woods, MI with their spouse, their tween kiddo, and their three cats.



Instructor: Cate Desjardins, PhD

