

# CYBERSPACE BETRAYAL: ATTACHMENT IN AN ERA OF VIRTUAL CONNECTION

Electronic technology has yielded new forms of relationship bonding as well as unique aspects of betrayal and ruptures in attachment. Four key characteristics of betrayal that differentiate online from offline experience will be identified. The inherent ambiguities in defining online sexual infidelity will point to a need to professionally define the parameters of internet betrayal in light of the ever expanding electronic revolution.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

After attending this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the parameters and definitions of infidelity in contemporary culture.
2. Explain how cyberspace activity impacts the revelation of marital infidelity.
3. Identify and explain how participation in online activity creates new patterns of infidelity.
4. List some aspects of a therapist's participation and therapeutic management.

Handout: Bibliography/References

## FORMAT:

10:00am – 10:45am Lecture

10:45 am – 11:15am Audience participation, Q and A.

## Presenter:

Mary-Joan Gerson, Ph.D., ABPP, is an Adjunct Clinical Professor, Supervisor and has served as the Director of the Advanced Specialization in Couple and Family Therapy at the New York University Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. She is a supervisor at the National Institute for the Psychotherapies and a faculty member at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Active in Division 39 of the APA, Dr. Gerson is the Founding President of Section VIII, Couples and Family Therapy, as well as Founding Co-Chair of the Committee on Psychoanalysis and Health, and the Committee on Psychoanalysis and Community. She is the author of many journal articles and book chapters focused on the integration of psychoanalytic, family systemic and attachment theory, including a full length book, *The Embedded Self: An Integrative Psychodynamic and Systemic Perspective on Couples and Family Therapy* (second edition); Routledge.

# CONSTRUCTION AND DESTRUCTION: THE OPPOSITES CONVERGE IN SECRETS AND LIES

This lecture explores various purposes and outcomes when secrets and lies are employed in an individual's life. The theory underlying this lecture is based on the work of C. G. Jung where the main goal of analysis and a person's life is individuation. Individuation is a process of the gradual integration of the self through the resolution of psychological conflicts and the development of successive aspects of one's self. These aspects will be personal as well as collective and archetypal.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

After attending this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify three ways secrets and lies are employed in a person's life.
2. Explain how secrets may be destructive in a person's life.
3. Explain the role of secrets in individuation.
4. Describe how understanding secrets one keeps from oneself can lead to a restriction of life.
5. Describe how unearthing unconscious material can enrich life.

Handout: Bibliography/References

## FORMAT:

11:15am – 12:00am Lecture

12:00pm - 12:30 Audience participation, Q and A.

## Presenter:

Julie Bondanza, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist and a diplomate Jungian psychoanalyst. She is program chair and on the board of the C.G. Jung Foundation of New York. She is currently the president of the Jungian Analysts of Washington D.C.

She is the past director of training for the Philadelphia Association of Jungian Analysts and past education director in New York and in DC. She has taught extensively throughout the US.