BEYOND THE WALL OF REASON

A Journey Through Attachment, Emotion, and Healing with the Early Memories Procedure

Friday | November 13, 2026 | 10:00A - 2:00P (CT USA)

PLEASE NOTE: This webinar is only available for live participation. A recording will not be available for asynchronous participation.

PRESENTERS:

Filippo Aschieri, PhD

Serena Messina, PhD

Diane Santas, PhD

This advanced workshop explores using the Early Memories Procedure (EMP) to identify attachment defenses, deepen client understanding, and enhance therapeutic change.

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OVERVIEW

The Early Memories Procedure (EMP) offers clinicians a powerful, narrative-based approach to understanding clients' attachment defenses, unspoken conflicts, and adaptations in psychotherapy and psychological assessment. This advanced workshop will demonstrate how the EMP can illuminate deactivating defenses that protect clients from emotional pain while limiting emotional access, self-understanding, and growth. Grounded in attachment theory and the Adult Attachment Projective Picture System, participants will explore common defenses including intellectualization, rationalization, minimization, compartmentalization, emotional numbing, and overemphasis on independence. Through clinical cases, videos, role-play, and discussion, participants will learn to use the EMP to identify defenses, formulate attachment-informed hypotheses, and enhance therapeutic change.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

1. Identify key deactivating defenses from an attachment perspective.
2. Explain how the Early Memories Procedure (EMP) illuminates clients' emotional worlds and attachment defenses.
3. Apply the EMP to explore deactivating defenses and their developmental origins.
4. Describe strategies for softening defenses and fostering emotional insight within the EMP.
5. Practice identifying deactivating defenses through EMP-based role-play, video review, and small-group discussion to strengthen clinical skills and self-awareness.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

10:00-10:20 Introductions, Acknowledgments, Brief Review of the EMP
10: 20-10:40 Deactivation Defenses in Attachment Theory; examples from the EMP
10:40-10:50 Writing exercise
10:50-11:10 Dilemmas of change andTechniques to work with Defenses
11:10-11:40 Video clip of a client using a deactivation defense & Discussion
11:40-11:50 Break
11:50-`12:15 Case Example: a client who couldn't do the EMP; respecting defenses and reducing shame while being therapeutic
12:15-12:50 Video Clip " Using the Techniques in a successful intervention"; Discussion
12:50-1:30 Role Plays in small groups; Discussion
1:30-2:00 Final thoughts

PRICING

- $50 TAI Member | $75 Non-Member
- $25 TAI Student Member | $40 Non-Member Student
- $25 Latin American | $15 Argentenian

PRESENTERS

Dr. Filippo Aschieri, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Psychology at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, Italy, and Fellow of the Society for Personality Assessment. Certified in Therapeutic Assessment with adults, families, children, adolescents, and couples, he serves as Vice-President of the Therapeutic Assessment Institute and directs the European Center for Therapeutic Assessment. His research focuses on Therapeutic Assessment, multicultural assessment, and self-curiosity, with more than 50 peer-reviewed publications. He is Editor-in-Chief of Rorschachiana, the official journal of the International Society for Rorschach and Projective Methods. He has received several awards for his contributions to personality assessment research.

PRESENTERS cont.

Dr. Serena Messina, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist in Austin, Texas, specializing in Therapeutic Assessment and therapy with children, adolescents, families, and adults. She is certified in the Therapeutic Assessment model with children, adolescents, and adults and provides services in English, Spanish, and Italian. She earned doctoral degrees in Clinical Psychology from Sapienza University of Rome and School Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin. Her expertise includes attachment theory and assessment, with training in the Adult Attachment Interview, Reflective Function System, and Manchester Child Attachment Story Task. She has taught, conducted research, published scholarly work, and presented nationally and internationally.

Dr. Diane Santas, Ph.D., has maintained a full-time independent practice in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1987, specializing in collaborative assessment with children, adolescents, and adults. For nearly fifteen years, she supervised graduate students conducting assessments at UC Berkeley, where she served as an Assistant Clinical Professor. She has also supervised assessment students and provided training in collaborative therapeutic assessment at The Wright Institute in Berkeley as Adjunct Clinical Faculty. Her practice includes psychoeducational evaluations, neuropsychological testing, and social-emotional assessment using a collaborative therapeutic approach. Dr. Santas began her career providing intensive psychodynamic, attachment-focused therapy and continues to maintain a small therapy practice.

Continuing Education
This program includes (2) CE. The University of Denver, Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. GSPP maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Non-Discrimination Statement
The TAI does not discriminate on the bases of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age. The TAI is committed to accessibility and non-discrimination in all aspects of its continuing education activities. Participants who have special needs are encouraged to contact program organizers so that all reasonable efforts to accommodate these needs can be made.

Conflict of Interest
In compliance with continuing education requirements, the presenter must disclose any financial or other associations with companies to which they have a direct and/or financial relationship related to the topic/content of this presentation. There is no commercial support for the program, instructor, content of instruction, or endorsement of products.

Special Accommodations
GSPP is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For any special accommodation needs, please contact: drpamelaschaber@gmail.com.

Cancellation Policy
Cancellations before November 11, 2026 will receive a full refund. Cancellations after that date will receive a 50% refund. If the event is cancelled for any reason, your fee will be refunded in full. TAI reserves the right to deny participation to an applicant or to cancel the workshop for any reason.

Grievance Procedures
Your satisfaction is our goal. Please address any concerns to: drpamelaschaber@gmail.com.