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WORKING WITH TRAUMA

Lessons from Bion and Lacan

By Marilyn Charles

Psychoanalysis continues to open and explore realities important for living. Marilyn Charles mediates vital concepts of psychoanalysis today and demonstrates its relevance for our current predicaments and needs—Michael Eigen, PhD, author of *Contact with the Depths*

The very people who most need our engaged connection, those who have lived with trauma and psychosis, tend to make us uncomfortable and frighten us away. *Working with Trauma: Lessons from Bion and Lacan* by Marilyn Charles is more than just an introduction to the clinical and theoretical contributions of these two major psychoanalytic theorists. Charles is an expert teacher who stays close to clinical experience and explains how she uses the sophisticated conceptualizations of Bion and Lacan to connect with these very hard to reach patients. A welcome text for students and advanced therapists.—Lewis Aron, PhD, Director, New York University Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis

Reading Marilyn Charles is like entering a beguiling non-fiction novel, so articulate and elegant is her style of writing. She has a remarkable way of introducing us to her personal and intimate contacts with deeply and chronically anguished patients who have been severely traumatized. One of the many strengths of her book is her detailed clinical encounters with her patients. She beautifully demonstrates how she gets under their radar with her openly accepting style and her unique integration of psychoanalytic techniques. She has been deeply influenced by three of the foremost psychoanalysts of recent years, Wilfred R. Bion, Jaques Lacan, and Donald Winnicott, from whom she has woven a fascinating and effective fabric of analytic technique that is applicable to trauma. In short, Marilyn's work is beautiful, eminently readable, and wonderfully applicable clinically.—James Grotstein, David Geffen School of Medicine, Psychoanalytic Center of California, and the New Center for Psychoanalysis (NCP); author of *Wilfred Bion's Legacy to Psychoanalysis*

ABOUT THE BOOK

Working with Trauma: Lessons from Bion and Lacan by Marilyn Charles takes concepts from the psychoanalytic literature and translates them into user-friendly language. In this book, Charles focuses on clinical work with more severely disturbed patients, for whom trauma has impeded their psychosocial development. Introducing ideas from Bion and Lacan, such as “empty speech” and “attacks on linking,” she shows the reader their clinical utility. Her use of clinical moments, rather than more lengthy vignettes, invites readers to recognize that type of dilemma and imagine how they might use the concept in their own work.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marilyn Charles, PhD is a staff psychologist at the Austen Riggs Center and a psychoanalyst in private practice in Stockbridge and Richmond, Massachusetts. She is also an adjunct professor of clinical psychology at Michigan State University.

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