

## ***Psychoanalyst Overview***

The central issue in this game—whether it be voiced in the selection of experiments to be run via the grants committee or in the classification of mental illness in the nomenclature committee—is the the nature of the scientific investigation of the human mind. For the psychoanalysts, as opposed to the behaviorists, the science of the mind is not about predicting and controlling behavior. It is about discovering the true things about our minds. Thus, a treatment or theory is judged as 'good' or 'working' not if it changes the behavior of a person, but whether or not that person gains insight into their own mind.

When practicing a technique like free association or transference, a psychoanalyst does not seek to discover what a given symbol means *to everyone*, as a matter of a law-like generalization. Rather, a psychoanalyst seeks to discover what a given symbol means to *the person being analyzed*. It follows that a given discovery may not generalize over individuals. But that does not mean that that discovery is wrong or false. It stands to reason, then, that the truths of psychoanalysis are fundamentally individualistic, and as a result, one does not have the ground to criticize psychoanalysis until one has experienced psychoanalysis first hand.

The central task for this game will be to create a coherent notion of 'mental illness' or 'mental disorder' — homosexuality is only the tip of the iceberg. When the game reaches that point, all psychoanalysts must work together to preserve a psychoanalytic understanding of mental order and mental disorder in terms of the dynamic hypothesis (see the game book for a definition). The proposed definition should be something like:

A person is mentally ill when he or she suffers from internal conflicts that may be subconscious or unconscious, manifesting behavior that is unwanted or disturbing to the individual or the society.

## ***Harlod Leif, MD***

### **Your Biography**

You were born in Brooklyn and attended the University of Michigan, while earning your medical degree from New York University in 1942. You trained in psychoanalysis at Columbia before going to Tulane University in 1951 to be Professor of psychiatry and neurology. In 1967, you were named president of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis. You are a former president of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States.

You were also director of the Marriage Council of Philadelphia and counseled couples. You

focused on studying conflicts between spouses and looked at the connection between testosterone levels and sexual desire in both genders.

In the early 1960s, you turned your attention to getting schools to adopt a more serious and scientific approach to teaching medical students about adult sexuality and development.

## **Game Objectives**

You have a long-standing friendship with both Richard Green and Diane Fordney-Settlage.

Argue against the Nomenclature's proposal to write the new DSM according to statistics and observations rather than theory and causation. In this case, you are voicing the defense of classical and Jungian psychoanalysis against the growing dominance of psychopharmacology. Review the history of the definition of mental illness in the game book carefully, as well as the DSM-II. You are not necessarily defending the taxonomy presented in the DSM-II, but you are defending the idea that the taxonomy of psychiatric disorders should be made with an understanding of the mental mechanisms of psychoanalysis—specifically the genetic hypothesis.

If that fails, get on the task force or committee that is in charge of writing the DSM-III. Your primary interlocutor in the previous section was probably Spitzer, so you may have some work to get appointed by him. Therefore you have two options to consider: first, you can oppose the creation of the task force entirely, and then get elected to the nomenclature committee, or you can convince Spitzer to add you to his taskforce once it is created.

**When, and if, the game reaches a point of trying to define mental illness**, you must pass a psychoanalytic interpretation of mental disorder / illness.

## ***Specific Assignments***

Present a paper defending the genetic hypothesis as core to taxonomy in 1974, against Spitzer and the 'Feighner criteria.'

**Fission:** Split to the ApsaA

## **Must Read**

Leif, H. (1964) "The Psychological Basis of Medical Practice" *Postgrad Med J* 40:355 doi: 10.1136/pgmj.40.464.355-a

## ***Secondary Sources***

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/23/obituaries/23leif.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/23/obituaries/23leif.html?_r=1)