**The Wright Institute Presents:**

**Rethinking Our Categories:**
**The Clinical Value of Inferential, Dimensional, and Contextual Concepts**

*Course Level: Intermediate*

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**
**9:00am-4:00pm**

**Fees:** Free for Wright Institute Faculty/Staff/ Collaborative and Other Supervisors
Supervising WI Students/Training Directors/Students (space permitting)

**WI Alums:** $90
**Non WI Students:** $60
**General:** $150

**Instructor:** Nancy McWilliams, PhD, ABPP

**Location:** David Brower Center, Goldman Theater, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

**To Register:** [www.wi.edu/continuing-education](http://www.wi.edu/continuing-education)

**Contact:** Wright Institute Continuing Education
Email: Julie@wi.edu  Phone: 510.841.9230 x115

**Credits:** 6 CE hours. The Wright Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Wright Institute maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

**Workshop Description:**

In 1980, the American Psychiatric Association replaced dimensional and inferential diagnosis with a “neo-Kraepelinian” taxonomy. Framing diagnostic concepts as non-dimensional, non-inferential, and discrete has been useful to researchers, funders, and demographers, but it has involved a significant loss for clinicians, especially with respect to personality problems. Dr. McWilliams will describe a dimensional, inferential, contextual approach, exemplified by the second edition of the *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual* (Guilford Press, to be published in June, 2017).

She will also discuss the attempt of the DSM-5 Personality Disorders Task Force to construe personality dimensionally. She will put special focus on personality issues at the borderline and psychotic levels of severity, challenging categorical assumptions about both BPD and the psychotic disorders. To exemplify the value of a more holistic diagnosis, she will talk about schizoid and self-defeating psychologies, with clinical examples. Emphasis will be put throughout on the clinical value and specific therapeutic implications of this broader way of thinking.

*Please contact us in advance if you require special accommodations on the day of the event.*
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Instructor Bio:

Nancy McWilliams teaches at Rutgers University’s Graduate School of Applied & Professional Psychology and practices in Flemington, New Jersey. She is author of *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis* (1994, rev. ed. 2011), *Psychoanalytic Case Formulation* (1999), *Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy* (2004), and an upcoming book on overall wellness. Her books are available in 20 languages; she lectures widely both nationally and internationally.

She is associate editor of the *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual* (2006, 2nd edition in press), a former president of Division 39 (Psychoanalysis) of the APA, and an Honorary Member of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

She has been featured in three APA videos of master clinicians, the most recent being “Three Approaches to Psychotherapy.”

After attending this workshop participants will be able to:

1. Describe the major differences between categorical and inferential, dimensional, and contextual approaches to conceptualizing psychopathology
2. Differentiate between understanding personality in terms of traits, even conceived as dimensional, versus in terms of intersubjective themes, and to apply that understanding toward a more nuanced formulation of the psychologies of their individual clients
3. Discriminate between the criteria for judging improvement in short research projects from those applicable to most clinical situations
4. Describe the clinical concerns that led to the international project to develop the second edition of the *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual*
5. Improve their capacity to identify borderline personality organization in clients who fail to meet criteria for the categorical diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder;
6. Improve their capacity to diagnose paranoid themes and psychotic-level preoccupations in their patients who do not meet DSM criteria for psychotic disorders

Cancellation Policy:

If you have paid for a workshop and are unable to attend, please email us at julie@wi.edu with your mailing address and we will mail you a refund check for the full amount paid. Checks will be mailed within 30 days of notification.

Please contact us in advance if you require special accommodations on the day of the event.