The Analyst’s Desire:  
*The Ethical Foundation of Clinical Practice*

This presentation will address the psychoanalyst’s basic desiring position, a topic that within the history of analytic theory (with the exception of Lacan) has been left at the doorstep of the analyst’s office. Without desire as the key feature of the analyst’s activity, important questions regarding the countertransference, the structure of clinical impasses, and the analyst’s ethical responsibility for the other cannot be adequately formulated, let alone convincingly answered.

**Mitchell Wilson, MD,** is the *Editor-in-Chief of the* Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. *He has published widely on a variety of topics that cohere around a theory of ethics, desire, and the psychoanalytic process. His book The Analyst’s Desire: The Ethical Foundation of Clinical Practice was published in 2020 by Bloomsbury Press. He is a Training and Supervising Analyst at the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis and a Personal and Supervising Analyst at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California. He is in private practice and leads study groups in Berkeley.*

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Participants will be able to (1) describe the variable manifestations of the analyst’s desire in the clinical setting, (2) identify features of the analyst’s desire that inform countertransference experience, (3) name the key elements in the clinical impasse, and (4) explain how the analyst’s ethical responsibility must take account of their desire in the clinical moment.

**Psychoanalysts:** The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychoanalysts (#P-0032).

**Psychologists:** The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists (#PSY-0163).

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**PRACTITIONERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC: $40 | STUDENTS: FREE**

2 CE Credits for Psychoanalysts, Psychologists, and Social Workers