Overview
We will explore a view of face-to-face interactive process that informs both mother-infant communication and adult treatment. Three bodies of information will be brought together: (1) a dyadic systems view of face-to-face communication will set the stage for an understanding of nonverbal communication across the lifespan; (2) research on mother-infant communication and its disturbances will be presented, along with implications for mother-infant treatment; and (3) the dyadic systems view will be used to explore processes of nonverbal communication in adult treatment.

The dyadic systems view of face-to-face communication construes the dyadic system to be the basic unit of interest. In this view communication operates through simultaneous processes of self-and-interactive regulation, generating “organizing principles of interaction.” This theory integrates interactions which operate implicitly, out of conscious awareness, as well as those which operate explicitly through verbal narrative. We focus on the former, articulating the nonverbal dimensions of the co-construction of dialogue. Organizing principles of interaction in the implicit mode generate patterns of expectation, procedurally-organized action sequences. In infancy these procedural expectancies define infant presymbolic representations. In adult treatment these procedural expectancies are a potent mode of therapeutic action, out of awareness.

The dyadic systems view will be illustrated through research on mother-infant communication. This research examines organizing principles of interaction which include attention, facial mirroring, vocal rhythm coordination, touch, and spatial orientation, as well as modes of entering the state of the other, and modes of distress regulation. Films and frame-by-frame analyses will illustrate remarkable patterns of self-and-interactive regulation disturbances at four months. The Mother-Infant Interaction Picture Book (Beebe, Cohen & Lachmann, 2016) will serve as the text. Implications of this research for mother-infant treatment will be discussed.

The nonverbal dimension of adult face-to-face treatment will be explored through a 10-year ongoing treatment in which I have videotaped my own face interacting with a traumatized adult patient who has not looked at anyone since she was a child. The patient is willing to view my face on the video, following the session, during the “video feedback” portion of the consultation. By turning the lens on the therapist, we can learn more about how and what the therapist communicates to her patient. The therapist’s face, as well as bodily gestures of head and hands, and the background vocal rhythm of the narrative, are relatively unexplored avenues of therapeutic action in adult treatment.
A great deal of what the patient experiences well as what the therapist experiences can be seen in the face, head and hand gestures of the therapist. During the feedback portion of the session, the therapist and patient together try to understand both what the therapist feels and what the patient might feel, and what the therapist might be reacting to in the patient. Watching the video gives the patient who cannot look a chance to see the therapist's face without having to be directly in the conversation. We will discuss how this process helped this patient.

**Member presentations:**
3-minute clinical vignettes of one nonverbal moment in adult treatment, verbalized or not

**Please buy:**

**Recommended books:**


(1) September 11:
**Mother-Infant Interaction Patterns and the Origins of Attachment**

**Required Readings**

*The Mother-Infant Interaction Picture Book* (Beebe, Cohen & Lachmann, 2016)
  - Introduction to Drawings Illustrating the Origins of Secure Attachment, pp. 55-58
  - Introduction to Drawings Illustrating the Origins of Insecure Avoidant & Resistant Attachment, pp. 109-111
  - Introduction to Drawings Illustrating the Origins of Insecure Disorganized, pp. 163-168

*Chapter 4. Facial Mirroring in the Origins of Secure Attachment*

*Chapter 5. Disruption and Repair in the Origins of Secure Attachment*

Chapter 8. Chase and dodge in the origins of insecure-resistant attachment

Chapters 10-13. Origins of disorganized attachment

Recommended Background Readings for session (1)
chapter 1, Microanalysis description of facial mirroring, p. 3 – 14:

(2) September 25
Dyadic Systems View of Communication

Required Readings
Presymbolic Representational Capacities
Beebe & Lachmann 2014: The origins of attachment, chapter 2. The organization of relational experience in early infancy

Dyadic Systems View


**Recommended Background Readings for session (2)**


--Beebe, Knoblauch, Rustin, & Sorter, 2005: *Forms of Intersubjectivity in Infant Research and Adult Treatment*; Ch. 1

--Beebe & Lachmann, 2002: *Infant Research and Adult Treatment*; Ch. 2. A dyadic systems view.


-pp. 11-12. Work with adults influenced our methods and questions
-pp. 26-28. The Jaffe Feldstein model of vocal rhythm as a dyadic system
-pp. 29-30. Procedural representation of dialogic timing pragmatics
-pp. 31-32. Attachment definitions
-pp. 35-36. “It is our contention…”


(3) October 23

**Mother-Infant Treatment**

BB: Distress Facilitation films (join cry rhythm, join increments of facial distress, join the dampened state)


**Required Reading**


**Recommended Readings for Session 3**
--Murphy, Steele, Bate, Nikitiades, Allman, Bonuck, Meissner, Steele (2015). Group Attachment-Based Intervention Trauma-Informed Care for Families With Adverse Childhood Experiences. Family and Community Health Vol. 38, 268–279.

(5) November 19: Nonverbal Communication in Adult Treatment: Dr. S’s case: Videotaping the analyst’s face and videofeedback with a patient who does not look.

**Required Reading**
**Case 1.** Beebe & Lachmann (2002): Infant Research and Adult Treatment; Ch. 1. Burton, Then and Now.


**Case 3.** Sandberg & Beebe (2019). A patient who does not look: A collaborative treatment with video feedback (Under review).
Videotaping the therapist’s face with a traumatized adult patient who does not look. I will show selected sessions of a dozen years of videofeedback treatment with this case.

Recommended Reading for Session 4


--Beebe & Lachmann (2014). *Origins of Attachment: Infant Research and Adult Treatment*
  - Ch 8. Discussion: Mother-infant Communication, the Origins of Attachment and Adult Treatment


--Beebe & Lachmann, 2002: *Infant Research and Adult Treatment*; Ch. 9 An interactive model of the mind for adult treatment.