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Freudian Intersubjectivity

The rise of intersubjective conceptions within psychoanalysis has brought to the fore issues of interaction between analyst and analysand. The form this interaction takes in the Freudian paradigm is an involvement of two unconscious *minds* contacting, impacting, interacting and influencing each other. In this course we will survey some classical and contemporary Freudian conceptions of what it means to deeply interact in these ways and take measure of the variety of conceptions of unconscious interplay that today we might call “intersubjective.” What becomes evident is how the notion of the unconscious is currently used in increasingly creative ways as a mysterious, communicative, receptive, process-oriented, decentered, and enactive idea.

WEEK 1: Introduction

In this week we will begin our introduction with two chapters from a recent book by German author Bohleber who is highly critical of the intersubjective turn.

Bohleber, W. (2010). Intersubjectivity without a Subject? Chapter 1 In: Destructiveness, Intersubjectivity, and Trauma. Pp. 3-22. Karnac: London

Bohleber, W. (2010). From Surgeon to Team-Player: The Transformation of Guiding Metaphors for the Analytic Relationship Within Clinical Theory. Chapter 2 In: Destructiveness, Intersubjectivity, and Trauma. Pp. 23-47. Karnac: London

WEEK 2: UNCONSCIOUS COMMUNICATION

Like Freud's statement that the ego is first and foremost a bodily ego, his conception of unconscious communication is another radical statement that went undeveloped by Freud. Brown extends the idea.

Freud, S. (1912). Recommendations to Physicians Practicing Psychoanalysis. SE 12: 109-120.

Brown, L. (2011). The Analyzing Instrument: Unconscious Communication and Classical Psychoanalysis: In: Intersubjective Processes and the Unconscious. Pp.

20-46. New York: Rotledge.

WEEK 3: THE ANALYST'S MIND

Freudian approaches emphasize the functions performed consciously and unconsciously within the mind of the analyst and the effects those processes have regarding the patient.

Jacobs, T. (1997). In Search of the Mind of the Analyst: A Progress Report. *JAPA*, 45:1035-1059.

Diamond, M. (2011). The Impact of the Mind of the Analyst: From Unconscious Process to Intrapsychic Change. In: *The Second Century of Psychoanalysis: Evolving Perspectives on Therapeutic Action*. Diamond, M., & Christian, C. (eds.) Pp. 205-235.

WEEK 4: INTERSUBJECTIVITY IN THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT TRADITION

The mind of the analyst is also a focus of those American Freudians who identify themselves as an independent school and use the concept of the analyst's mind in some different ways.

Spezzano, C. (2007). A Home for the Mind. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. 76S: 1563-1583.

Chodorow, N. (2004). The American Independent Tradition: Loewald, Erickson, and the (Possible) Rise of Intersubjective Ego Psychology. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*. 14: 207-232.

WEEK 5: BOLLAS

The analytic voice of Christopher Bollas represents the creative edge of Freudian thinking. These two articles take up some of his thinking with regard to the receptivity of the unconscious and the idea of a Freudian intersubjectivity.

Bollas, C. (1992). Being a Character. In: *Being a Character*. Hill & Wang: New York. 47-65.

Bollas, C. (2011). Character and Interformality. In: *The Christopher Bollas Reader*. Pp. 238-248.

WEEK 6: STATES

Bach writes of "sharing" states of consciousness and Libbey illustrates an intersubjective clinical process from the Freudian perspective.

Bach, S. (2011). States of Consciousness. In: *A New Freudian Synthesis: Clinical*

Process in the Next Generation. Druck, A., Ellman, C., Freedman, N., & Thaler, A. (eds.) Pp. 51-64.

Libbey, M. (2011). On Shame in Narcissistic States of Consciousness: Clinical Illustration. In: *A new Freudian Synthesis: Clinical Process in the Next Generation*. Druck, A., Ellman, C., Freedman, N., & Thaler, A., (Eds.) pp. 131-156.

WEEK 7: INFLUENCE AND INTERACTION

Once repudiated topics, contemporary Freudians reexamine the roles of bi-directional influence and interaction.

McLaughlin, J.T. (2005). Through the Glass Darkly: On Influencing and Being Influenced. Chapter 12 in: *The Healer's Bent: Solitude and Dialogue in the Clinical Encounter*. Pp. 201-222.

Schwaber, E.A. (1995). Towards a Definition of the Term and Concept of Interaction. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*. 76:557-564.

Katz, G. (in press). Interaction in Psychoanalysis: Across and Through the Interpsychic "Cat-Flap." In *The Play within the Play: The Enacted Dimension of Analytic Process*. London: Routledge Press, Chapter 7.

WEEK 8: THE INTRAPSYCHIC AND THE INTERSUBJECTIVE

Must it be one or the other?

Green, A. (2000). The Intrapsychic and Intersubjective in Psychoanalysis. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. Jan 69 (1). Pp. 1-39.

Figueiredo, L.C. (unpublished manuscript) Intersubjectivity and the inner world: the place of the superegoic field in theory and clinical practice.

WEEK 9: DRIVES

From French psychoanalysis, a conception of the intersubjective that refers to the analytic idea of the Subject, one that indicates "the existence of an unconscious dimension of intersubjectivity that takes into account the drive-related and sexual dimensions".

Roussillon, R. (2011). Drive and Intersubjectivity. Chapter 1 in *Primitive Agony and Symbolization*. Pp. 29-48. London: Karnac.

WEEK 10 THE "INTERPSYCHIC"

Decentering the Subject of the unconscious into realms of interaction both in development and the clinical situation.

Bolognini, S. (2004). Intrapsychic - Interpsychic. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 85:337-358.

Loewald, H. (1970). Psychoanalytic Theory and the Psychoanalytic Process. In: *The Essential Loewald*. J. Lear (Ed.) pp. 277-301. University Publishing Group: Hagerstown, Maryland.

WEEK 11: INTERSUBJECTIVE FIELD THEORY

Conceiving of mind as located in the field created by patient and analyst

Ogden, T. (1994). The Analytic Third: Working with Intersubjective Clinical Facts. In: *Subjects of Analysis*. Chapter 5 pp. 61-95.

Baranger, W. & Baranger, M. (1961-1962/2008). The Analytic Situation as a Dynamic Field. *IJP*

WEEK 12: Unconscious Communication and its Link with Freudian Intersubjectivity

Ithier, B. (in press). In the Arms of the Chimeras. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*.

Reis, B. (in press). Monsters, Dreams & Madness. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*.

WEEK 13: ENACTION

Another oft repudiated area, that of action, is taken up as representative of the intersubjective engagement between patient and analyst.

Katz, G. (2011). John Lennon, Microwave Ovens and the Enacted Dimension of Analytic Process. Presented at a Scientific Meeting of the Metropolitan Institute for Training in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, April 8, 2011.

Reis, B. (2009). Performative and Enactive Features of Psychoanalytic Witnessing: The Transference as the Scene of Address. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 90: 1359-1372.

WEEK 14: IDENTIFICATION AND DISIDENTIFICATION

“The shadow of the object fell upon the ego, and the latter could henceforth be judged by a special agency, as if it were an object, the forsaken object”.

Freud, S. (1917). Mourning and Melancholia. S.E., 14: 239-258. London: Hogarth.

Helscher, T. (2011). From under long shadows: identification and disidentification in analysis. In: M. Diamond & C. Christian (Eds.) *The Second Century of Psychoanalysis*. Pp. 237-255. London: Karnac.

WEEK 15: INTERSUBJECTIVITY AND THINGS

Bollas extends the intersubjective conception to the world of actual objects and how they process us: “one way we think ourselves is through our engagement with, and use of, evocative objects”.

Bollas, C. (2009). The Evocative Object World. In: *The Evocative Object World*. Pp. 79-94. New York: Routledge.