

DRAFT
Proposed Course for NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychoanalysis:
BABIES IN THE BATHWATER: IMAGES OF THE INFANT IN
PSYCHOANALYTIC THEORIES

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(THIS IS A DRAFT. I'D EXPECT THAT THE READINGS MIGHT VARY SOME IN LIGHT OF WHAT THE CANDIDATES HAVE READ, THEIR EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT THEY SHOULD READ IN AN EIGHT-HOUR COURSE, ALONG WITH YOUR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.)

Analysts since Freud have used images of infancy to buttress their metapsychological and clinical systems. This seminar will review some of these images in an effort to clarify different theories' core assumptions about motivation, development and the nature of subjectivity and "the self," along with shedding further light on early development itself.

The course will begin with an overview. We will then look at the contemporary "observed infant," including intersubjectively-oriented writers, such as Stern, and the attachment theorists. We will then consider how "the metaphor of the baby" is used in the theories of Melanie Klein and her followers, moving then to the breakthrough readings of Klein by Bion and Winnicott.

As the course evolves, we will trace a particular theme that is common to these various analytic depictions of infant development: How the senses of reality, subjectivity and intersubjectivity are constituted and develop, in both analysis and child development.

The course will operate at several levels. We can range from basic images of the infant, through the metapsychological assumptions that they embody, to the clinical implications of these various approaches.

1. Overview ...Informal review of various analytic orientations...Convergences and divergences with regard to core issues.

Mitchell, S. (1988). "The metaphor of the baby." In Relational Concepts in Psychoanalysis. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Stern, D.N. (1985). "Perspectives and approaches to infancy," (especially pp.13-24), and "Some implications of the theories behind therapeutic reconstruction," (especially pp. 231-253). In The Interpersonal World of the Infant. New York: Basic Books

2. Observational Research on Infancy: Attachment, Intersubjectivity and the Senses of Reality and Self/Other

Stern, D.N. (1985). "The sense of an emergent self"(skim), "The sense of a core self: I. Self versus other," and "Affect attunement." In The Interpersonal World of the Infant. New York: Basic Books.

Bowlby, J. (1988). The origins of attachment theory. In A Secure Base: Parent-child Attachment and Healthy Human Development. New York: Basic Books.

Seligman, S. (2000). Clinical applications of attachment theory. Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 48:4.

Optional:

Main, M. and Hesse, E. (2000). The organized categories of infant, child & adult attachment. Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 48:4. (optional: *This article is an excellent review of the current state of attachment theory by its leading exponents. The whole special section is excellent.*)

Optional:

Beebe, B. and Lachmann, F.M. (1988). Mother-infant mutual influence and precursors of psychic structure. In Goldberg, A. (Ed.). Frontiers in Self Psychology: Progress in Self Psychology, Volume 3. Hillsdale, NJ: The Analytic Press (pp.3-25).

3. The Kleinian-Bionian Baby:

a. Beginnings: Instinct and Phantasy

Isaacs, S. (1943). The nature and function of phantasy. International Journal of Psychoanalysis. 29:2, 73-97.

Ogden, T.H. (1986). "Instinct, phantasy and psychological deep structure in the work of Melanie Klein." In: The Matrix of the Mind: Object Relations and the Psychoanalytic Dialogue. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

b. Moving Forward from the Infant's Solipsism: Bion on Projective Identification, Containment, Reality and So On

Bion, W.R. (1962). A theory of thinking. International Journal of Psychoanalysis. 43:306-10.

Britton, R. (1992). Keeping things in mind. In: Anderson, R. (Ed.) Clinical Lectures on Klein and Bion. New York: Routledge.

4. Winnicott's Mixed Model: Instincts as Relations; The Intersubjective Subject;

Winnicott, D.W. (1969). The use of an object and relating through identifications. In: Playing and Reality

Ogden, T. (1994). Winnicott's intersubjective subject. In: Subjects of Analysis. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson

4, continued:

strongly recommended:

Benjamin, J. (1995). Recognition and destruction: An outline of intersubjectivity. In: Like Subjects, Love Objects. New haven and London: Yale University Press, pp.27-48.

Optional background and counterpoint:

Lacan, J. (1949). The mirror stage as formative of the I as revealed in psychoanalytic experience. In: Ecrits: A Selection. New York: Norton.

OPTIONAL, FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE

Synthesis: Points of Convergence and Divergence

Seligman, S. (1999). Integrating Kleinian theory and intersubjective infant research: Observing projective identification. Psychoanalytic Dialogues, 9(2):129-159.

Seligman, S. (2002). Attachment, intersubjectivity and self-reflectiveness: Theoretical and clinical implications of the convergence of emerging attachment research with psychoanalysis. Presentation at the James Grotstein Annual Conference. Los Angeles, June.