

Paper Session B-1:

Cultural Discontinuity - Two Cases of Childhood

Adoption Into Australian Culture

Presenter: Carol Clark, PhD

Moderator: Denise Zalman, CSW

Discussant: Peter Kaufmann, PhD

Abstract:

The paper describes two cases of long term child and adolescent play therapy in the model of Self Psychology psychotherapy with overseas adoptive children and their Australian adoptive parent(s). The clinical issues found important are the cultural continuities and discontinuities of therapist-child relationship; the early self-self object relationships of the child in the family of origin; the early attachment patterns developed by the child-caregiver in family of origin and what might have been available for the child in their foster care or orphanage experience; the loss and grief of change - family, parents, siblings and culture; the therapeutic setting and work: the 'repetition in the service of growth' to master the experience of major discontinuity in the self/self-object relationships at such early ages; and the creation of continuity in the service of self cohesion,

At the conclusion of my presentation, the participant will be able to describe the impact of cultural change on the growing child and adolescent from adoption from overseas into Australian families and culture.

The participant will be able to understand some the impacts of adoption on the development, cohesion and growth in subjectivity of children and adolescents and their adoptive family systems from the Self Psychology psychotherapy perspective.

Paper Session B-2:

You're Giving Me What I Need, But I Have No Place To Put It: Challenging Pathological Relational Templates Through Analytic Provision

Presenter: Bruce Herzog, MD

Moderator: Craig Solomon, MSW

Discussant: Robert Butter, LCSW

Abstract:

Often a patient request for gratification, explicit or unconscious, carries with it the expectation of refusal. If so, then a therapist's lack of spontaneous response might not necessarily be experienced as neutral, but may be "retraumatizing" - functioning to activate an old traumatic pattern rather than a route to insight. The therapist that responds positively and consistently to a patient's selfobject needs provokes a serious challenge to a patient's dysfunctional relational premises. The actual receipt of what is being requested is often a totally foreign event, and the patient may find that they have "no place to put it". This unbalances the relational template, creating a possibility for change. A clinical case will be used to demonstrate how a provision led to experiences of anxiety, rage, grief and the acquisition of insight. Contrary to the teaching of some traditionalists, gratification did not shut down enquiry, but functioned to facilitate it. This use of therapist responsiveness can help us become more effective in creating new relational capacities in our patients with which they can access healthy adult selfobject experience.

At the conclusion of my presentation, the participant will be able to understand that provisions can act in contradistinction to a patient's relational expectancies, and may function to unbalance them. A therapist's responsiveness can challenge a developmentally traumatized patient, and has the capacity to create intense anxiety, sometimes rage reactions, the activation of grief work, and the beginning of deep analytic exploration leading to profound insights.

Paper Session B-3:

Empathizing with Oedipus: The Self Psychological Treatment of Neuroses

Presenter: Richard Geist, EdD

Moderator: Jane Jordan, PsyD

Discussant: Marc Sholes, LCSW

Abstract:

While self psychologists have pondered the theoretical relevance of the oedipus complex for many years, there has been a dearth of attempts to examine how we respond clinically to "oedipal" sounding material in the consulting room. In supervising and teaching analytic candidates and therapists, I have found them highly receptive to experience near explanations when dealing with their patients' archaic selfobject needs, but resistant to relinquishing experience distant oedipal formulations when treating high level, more neurotic patients, particularly when confronted with sexual or aggressive feelings that are directed toward the therapist or material relating to gendered selves. In this paper I will attempt to delineate, using verbatim clinical material, aspects of the self psychological treatment of the neuroses from a connectedness sensibility, illustrating how it differs from traditional and relational models, and how (gendered) individuality is strengthened through deeply experienced selfobject connectedness.

At the conclusion of my presentation, the participant will be able to re-conceptualize the oedipal phase and respond clinically to oedipal themes from a more experience near listening perspective.

Paper Session B-4:

Co-Creativity and Authorship: The View from Inside the System

Presenter: Steven Stern, PsyD

Moderator: Peter Maduro, JD, PsyD

Discussant: Sara Genstil, PhD

Abstract:

I propose the term co-creativity to describe the "innermost" dimension of the analytic process understood as a complex dynamic system. Whereas complexity theory focuses on the distributed nature of causality within the analytic system, co-creativity refers to the amalgamated, co-potential quality of the psychoanalytic dialogue. It is within the co-creativity of the analytic dyad that the necessary paradoxes of individuality and intersubjectivity (authorship and co-authorship) are engaged. I describe how the co-creativity in two cases took the form of generative words or phrases that emerged for me from the transference-countertransference dynamic, and catalyzed a rapidly-deepening dialogue that was fully intersubjective but facilitated the patient's emerging sense of authentic individuality or authorship.

The objectives of this session are (1) to illuminate the paradoxical relationship between co-creativity and authorship within the analytic setting, and (2) to encourage greater openness to and use of co-creative processes.

Paper Session B-5:

REVISITING THE HOUSE OF MIRRORS; IN SEARCH OF THE SELF

Presenter: Ellen Shumsky, LCSW

Moderator: Tessa Philips, PhD

Discussant: Ruth Burtman, PsyD

Abstract:

In this paper I explore theoretical and technical difficulties encountered in the intersubjective field constituted by an analyst who is distressed by states of confusion working with a hypervigilant accommodating patient- the situation of the analyst attuning to the patient who is attuning to the analyst. The patient is tuning into the analyst=s non-verbal micro-cues and reflexively adjusting her participation in an attempt to regulate the dyadic equilibrium. From the analyst=s perspective she is spinning clouds of more confusion. The discussion is organized around Brandchaft=s ideas about structures of pathological accommodation and the intersubjective vs. the intrapsychic dimensions of experience. An unorthodox procedural enactment - a patient/analyst walk through a NYC Halloween Parade - provides the analyst with a needed impasse busting confident subjectivity that stabilizes the idealizing self object transference in which the patient can safely begin to self delineate.

At the conclusion of my presentation the participant should be able to explain the concept of Asystems of pathological accommodation= and understand it=s clinical manifestations in a psychoanalytic therapy.

Paper Session B-6:

The Experience of Pain:

**The Face Of The Other: Beyond Individuality
In Psychoanalysis And Psychotherapy**

Presenter: Donna Orange, PsyD, PhD

Moderator: Annette Richard, MPs

Discussant: Carolyn Clement, PhD

Abstract:

The question of the status and importance of personal individuality is clearly an important one for self psychology, especially in this time of emphasis on the full participation of the analyst in every clinical process. This contribution raises the question of what happens to the concept of individuality itself in the work of three twentieth century philosophers of dialogue and of the face-to-face, Martin Buber, Hans-Georg Gadamer, and Emmanuel Levinas. Their accumulated work tends to shift our interest to a focus on our engagement with the other that leaves the individuality of any single protagonist far in the background.

Objective: Participants will be able to explain why individuality becomes less visible in recent philosophies of dialogue.

Paper Session B-7:

Self Psychology and Relational Analysis - An Integration

Presenter: Sanford Shapiro, MD
Moderator: Jane Wilkins, PhD
Discussant: Sandra Hershberg, PhD

Abstract:

Forty years ago I trained as a classical analyst immersed in ego psychology. In 1977 self psychology, with its introspective empathic mode of investigation revolutionized the way I worked. But it wasn't until 1990 that I heard Steven Mitchell speak at a self psychology conference and I began to study relational analysis.

Self psychology and intersubjectivity theory helped me be more aware of the impact I was having on my patients, but the relational literature helped me be more sensitive to the impact my patients were having on me.

In this paper I will illustrate with clinical examples how paying attention to the patients' impact on me, and making that a legitimate focus of the analytic investigation, helps me be with patients who suffer from trauma and early abuse. I will show that when I can attune to the bidirectional quality of the relationship, it helps me to stay connected in ways that are therapeutic.

At the conclusion of my presentation the participant will be able to understand the use of the analytic relationship in the treatment of trauma.

Paper Session B-8:

**No Man Is An Island (Though Sometimes It Feels That
Way): The Example of Shame**

Presenter: Andrew Morrison, MD

Moderator: Martin Gossmann, MD

Discussant: Ruth Gruenthal, MSS

Abstract:

Paper Session B-9:

Between Aesthetics, the Co-Construction of Empathy, and the Clinical

Presenter: Carol Press, PsyD

Moderator: Karen Schwartz, PhD

Discussant: George Hagman, MSW

Abstract:

Our aesthetic sense of self and our capacity for empathy are intimately intertwined, informing self-experience from infancy onward. Significantly, empathic bonds embrace distinctive aesthetic qualities as the infant learns through discerning patterns of shape, time, intensity, and affect arousal (Beebe & Lachmann, 2002; Stern, 1985), while influencing and engaging relationships. Frank Lachmann (2004) in his talk *On the Co-Construction of Empathy* highlights that procedural memory and knowledge are precursors for our co-constructed empathic relationships; however, for empathy to come to fruition, conscious cognitive understanding is necessary. Our aesthetic sense of self is an important building block of procedural knowledge and memory. Procedural memory, imbued with aesthetic quality, conjoins with content to permit the deepest empathic relations. I highlight potential connections to Kohut's view of a developmental line of empathy and suggest a developmental line of our aesthetic sense of self. Analysts such as Lachmann (2001, 2004), Knoblauch (2000), and Rose (2004) include nonverbal aesthetic qualities of interaction as fundamental to the co-construction of empathy and the clinical situation. As an artist, I share a dream from my own therapy that illustrates my desire to develop aesthetically and consequently, to participate in a co-constructed world of empathy.

Participants will understand connections between procedural memory, the co-construction of empathy, and one's aesthetic sense of self.

Paper Session B-10:

The Improvisations of Everyday Life: Transforming Painful Patterns Through Dyadic Play In Psychoanalysis

Presenter: Judith Guss Teicholz, EdD

Moderator: Amy Joelson, LCSE

Discussant: Arthur Gray, PhD

Abstract:

Psychoanalytic improvisation is the spontaneous play between patient and analyst and as such it draws on both rational and irrational, linear and nonlinear elements of the psyche. Improvisation is a shared activity but its very essence involves individual expression. This melding of collaboration and unique expressiveness renders improvisation an ideal mode of engagement for an intersubjective systems self psychology. Ringstrom (2001, 2007) and Kindler (2006) have explored and expanded the use of dramatic improvisation in psychoanalysis. In this paper I suggest that even without theatricality, an "everyday" *improvisational attitude* can facilitate openness and spontaneity in the analytic dyad, enhancing self-delineation in both partners, as well as strengthening the bond between them. I include several clinical vignettes in an attempt to illustrate such an approach.

At the conclusion of my presentation the participant will understand some of the recent infant research findings and theoretical trends that bring an improvisational attitude to the fore in the analytic interaction. The participant will also be familiar with some examples of how such an attitude can be used to enhance clinical process and promote psychic growth in the patient.

Paper Session B-11:

The 4-Month Origins of 12-Month Disorganized

Attachment

Presenter: Beatrice Beebe, PhD

Discussant: Estelle Shane, PhD

Abstract: