

PSYA-240

SYLLABUS: INTERSUBJECTIVITY 3RD YEAR, SPRING, 2019
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The term “intersubjectivity” is used with a wide range of meanings by psychoanalysts practicing and theorizing about adult treatment and infant theorists alike. The concept of intersubjectivity lends itself to confusion as a consequence of different usages and definitions. In fact, Beebe, an infant researcher and adult psychoanalyst, and her colleagues suggest “forms of subjectivity” instead of presuming that our field has any consensus as to how intersubjectivity should be defined. Furthermore, some refer to intersubjectivity as a relational theory; while others insist that intersubjectivity is better understood as a perspective shared by a number of relational theorists, and that it refers to a different level of discourse than theories such as contemporary self psychology, object relations, interpersonal theory or any of the other relational theories associated with intersubjectivity.

We will begin this seven-week survey of intersubjectivity where we left off in the Spring 2018 Self Psychology course: with a version of the intersubjective perspective associated with and evolving alongside relational Self Psychology as presented in the work of Stolorow and colleagues. After Week 1, for which we will read a wide-angle, though not exhaustive view, of how different theorists use the term intersubjectivity for an appreciation of its varied meanings, in Week 2, we will explore in more depth Stolorow and colleague’s broad definition of intersubjectivity. Of note, will be their emphasis on context in the development and transformation of experience and on the over-riding principles of self-organization and of unconscious organizing principles and how these ideas look in clinical application.

In Weeks 3 and 4, we will delve into infant “forms of intersubjectivity,” which again are conceptualized variously by different developmental theorists who discuss the relevancy and application of these presymbolic forms of intersubjectivity to and in adult psychoanalysis.

In Week 5, we will focus on Beatrice Beebe’s paper describing her use of ideas and learnings from her own infant research with an adult psychoanalytic patient. In particular, we will zone in on her creative use of nonverbal communication, reliance of dyadic systems theory and interactive regulation and mutual influence. Optional reading is Lyons-Ruth’s (Boston Change Process Study Group) thinking about interaction, procedural enactment, implicit relational knowing and underplayed non-verbal aspects of therapeutic action in psychoanalysis.

In Week 6, we will look at the intersubjective and relational focus on the analyst’s subjectivity, often written about in terms of the analyst’s use of self and also in terms of analysis of a particular aspect of transference (the patient’s ideas about and interpretation of the analyst’s subjectivity). In this last class, we will look at what several authors with relational sensibilities emphasize in working intersubjectively in landmark papers by Irving Hoffman (social constructivist), Slavin and Kriegman (evolutionary psychology) and Owen Renik.

The concept of intersubjectively created space called “The Analytic Third” will be discussed in Ogden’s paper assigned for Week 7.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- 1) Participants will be able to identify the variety of understandings and vocabularies of intersubjectivity as used by different self and relational theorists
- 2) Participants will be able to describe some of the dialectics and controversies (i.e. regulation versus recognition) in contemporary psychoanalysis as illuminated by the study of intersubjectivity in infant and adult forms, in presymbolic and symbolic forms.
- 3) Participants will be able to define and give examples of unconscious organizing principles.
- 4) Participants will be able to use the vocabularies of intersubjectivity and demonstrate familiarity with terms such as: self and mutual regulation, dyadic models of interaction, nonlinear dynamic systems theory, co-construction.
- 5) Participants will be able to identify the concept of “The Analytic Third”
- 6) Participants will be able to describe the impact of the intersubjective perspective on psychoanalytic ideas about psychopathology (co-constructed, co-created), development (dyadic systems theory), and therapeutic action (non-linear dynamic systems theory)

WEEK 1: Thursday, March 7, 8 pm: Overview of different usages of the term intersubjectivity:

Aron, L. (1996). *A Meeting of Minds (2nd ed.)*. Hillsdale, NJ: Analytic Press. Chapter 3, pp. 65-91.

Teicholz, J. (1999). *Kohut, Loewald, and the postmoderns: A comparative study of self and relationship*. Hillsdale, NJ: Analytic Press. Chapter 8 and 9, pp. 165-205.

Optional background reading:

Regarding self psychology and intersubjectivity read: Teicholz (1999), Chapters 6 -7.

Regarding history of diverse theoretical developments culminating in relational theory and intersubjective perspectives read: Aron (1996), Chapters 1-2.

WEEK 2: Thursday, March 21, 8 pm: The intersubjective perspective of Stolorow and colleagues; intersubjectivity as intersection of two distinctly organized subjectivities, intersubjectivity and self psychology theory, technique or no technique?

Trop, J. (1995) Self psychology and intersubjectivity theory. (Originally published in *The Intersubjective Perspective*, edited by R. Stolorow, G. Atwood, and B. Brandchaft. Northvale, NJ; Aronson, 1994.)

Orange, D; Atwood, G. & Stolorow, R.D. (1997) *Working intersubjectively: contextualism in psychoanalytic practice*. Hillsdale, NJ: Analytic Press. Chapters 1-3.

Stolorow, R.D., Brandchaft, B & Atwood, G. (1995). *Psychoanalytic treatment: an intersubjective approach*. Hillsdale, NJ: Analytic Press. Chapter 8.

Optional background reading:

Stolorow, R. (1995). An intersubjective view of self psychology. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 5, 393-399.

Stolorow R. D. & Atwood, G. (1992). *Contexts of being: The intersubjective foundations of psychological life*. Hillsdale, NJ: The Analytic Press. Chapter 1.

WEEK 3 Thursday, March 28, 8 pm: A systems model of interaction in psychoanalysis, presymbolic origins of intersubjectivity, “forms of intersubjectivity” in infancy and the nonverbal and implicit dimension in psychoanalysis, dyadic systems model of regulation, intersubjectivity present from birth on.

Beebe, B. Knoblauch, S. Rustin, J. Sorter, D. (2003). Introduction: A Systems View. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 13, 743-775.

Beebe, B., Sorter, D., Rustin, J., Knoblauch, S.H. (2003). Comparison of Meltzoff, Trevarthen, and Stern. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 13, 777-804.

Optional background reading:

Lachmann, F. & Beebe, B. (2001) Infant research and adult treatment: What we've learned and how can we apply it? *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 11(2):167-185,2001.

WEEK 4, Thursday, April 4, 8 pm: FORMS OF INTERSUBJECTIVITY IN INFANT RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS TO ADULT PSYCHOANALYSIS (continued), presymbolic forms and symbolic forms of intersubjectivity, implicit/nonverbal and explicit/verbal modes, interactive regulation. Tronick Still Face experiment and Beebe YouTube video

Beebe, B, Knoblauch, S., Rustin, J, and Sorter, D. (2005) *Forms of intersubjectivity in infant research and adult treatment*. New York: Other Press. pp 89-143. (CHAPTER 4: FACES-IN-RELATION: FORMS OF INTERSUBJECTIVITY IN AN ADULT TREATMENT OF EARLY TRAUMA.)

Optional Background Reading:

Beebe, B., Rustin, J., Sorter, D., Knoblauch, S. (2003). An expanded view of intersubjectivity in infancy and its application to psychoanalysis. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 13, 805-841.

Class experiential exercise to illustrate co-construction and intersubjectivity on a preverbal level: Tronick's Still Face experiment.

WEEK 5, Thursday, April 11, 8 pm: Nonverbal implicit process, co-construction of the intersubjective field in adult psychoanalysis, models of intersubjectivity in clinical use.

Benjamin, J. (2004). Beyond Doer and Done to: An Intersubjective View of Thirdness. *Psychoanal Q.*, 73(1):5-46.

Optional Reading:

Benjamin, J. (1990). An outline of intersubjectivity: The development of recognition. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 7S (Supplement): 33-46.

Benjamin, J. (2010) Where's the gap and what's the difference? The relational view of intersubjectivity, multiple selves, and enactments. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 46(1): 112-119.

McKay, R. (2019) Where objects were, subjects now may be: The work of Jessica Benjamin and reimagining maternal subjectivity in transitional space. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, Vol. 39, No. 2, 163-173.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NOT MEET ON APRIL 18. There will be one paper to read for Week 6 and 3 papers for Week 7.

WEEK 6: Thursday, April 25, 8 pm: Ogden, Intersubjectivity and the Analytic Third

Some classic papers on the analyst's use of self, subjectivity and intersubjectivity, and interpretation that inform the intersubjective perspective.

Ogden, T (1994) The analytic third: working with intersubjective clinical facts. *International J. of Psychoanalysis*, 75: 3-19.

Optional Background Reading:

Ogden, T. (2004)The analytic third: implications for psychoanalytic theory and technique. *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 73, 167-195.

WEEK 7: Thursday, May 2, 8 pm: The Patient's Experience of the Analyst's Subjectivity and Some Classic Papers on the Analyst's Use of Self, the Analyst's Subjectivity and Interpretation from an Intersubjective Perspective.

Hoffman, I. Z. (1983) The patient as interpreter of the analyst's experience. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 19, 389-422.

Renik, O. (1993). Analytic interaction: conceptualizing technique in the light of the analyst's irreducible subjectivity. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 63, 553-571.

Slavin, M. and Kriegman, D. (1998). Why the analyst needs to change: Toward a conflict negotiation and mutual influence in the therapeutic process. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 8, 247-284.

To Be Covered, if this course was 8 weeks or more:

LaPlanche

Stern, D: please read on your own (used by Beebe and Lachmann, Lyons-Ruth, and others).

Lyons-Ruth, K. (1998). The two-person unconscious: intersubjective dialogue, enactive relational representation, and the emergence of new forms of relational organization. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 19, 576- 617.