A group of American psychoanalysts, many of them psychologists in New York City, began to develop a powerful and groundbreaking critique of classical psychoanalysis in the 1980s. Emerging from Interpersonalism, Object Relations, second-wave feminism, and post-modernism, these thinkers affirmed the centrality of relationships in the formation of mind and therapeutic change, challenged the possibility of analytic neutrality and objectivity, and emphasized dialogue and dialectical thinking over claims to truth.

While Relational thinking is more of a sensibility than a unified theory that has many strains and emphases emanating from a number of contributors, there is little question that Relationality was named and systematically examined for the first time by Stephen Mitchell (1946-2000). His seminal contribution, *Relational Concepts in Psychoanalysis* (1988), arguably is the most important, single contribution to what is often called the “relational turn” in our field. We will begin our class with reading this book in its entirety and then move on to examine some of the primary texts that form the foundation of Relational thinking.

Requirements for the class are 1) active participation in class discussions, and 2) submission in writing of a discussion question for each of the assigned readings. In the case of the Mitchell book, a question for each of the chapters is required. The questions will be collected at the beginning of each Saturday class.

Readings:

9/27/14: Stephen Mitchell:  
9/28/14: The Foundations of Relational Theory  

11/1/14: Jessica Benjamin: Recognition, Intersubjectivity, and the Third  
Jessica Benjamin, “Beyond Doer and Done To: An Intersubjective View of Thirdness,” *Psychoanalytic Quarterly* (2004); pp. 5-46.


**11/2/14: Lewis Aron: The Third, Mutuality**


**12/6/14: Irwin Hoffman: Social-constructivism, Uncertainty, Hermeneutics**


12/7/14: Donnel Stern: Hermeneutics, Unformulated Experience, Dissociation

Donnel Stern, “Empathy is Interpretation (And Who Ever Said It Wasn’t?),” Psychoanalytic Dialogues (1994); pp. 441-471.


1/24/15: Philip Bromberg: Multiple Self States, Trauma, Dissociation, Enactment

Philip Bromberg, “Interpersonal Psychoanalysis and Self Psychology: A Clinical Comparison,” in Bromberg’s Standing in the Spaces (1998); pp. 147-162.


Philip Bromberg, “The Gorilla Did it’: Thoughts on the Real and Really Real,” in Bromberg’s Awakening the Dreamer” (2006); pp. 65-82.

1/25/15: Philip Bromberg: Multiple Self States, Trauma, Dissociation, Enactment


3/28/15: Darlene Ehrenberg: The Intimate Edge

All readings will be from Darlene Ehrenberg, *The Intimate Edge: Extending the Reach of Psychoanalytic Interaction* (1992).

Chpt. 1
Chpt. 3
Chpt. 5
Chpt. 8
Chpt. 10


5/2/15: Relational Theory in Context

  Chpt. 1
  Chpt. 2
  Chpt. 3


5/3/15: Conclusion

This class will be devoted to each of you making a 10-15 minute presentation on how this class has and has not affected your thinking about contemporary psychoanalytic theory and clinical practice. Your presentation will be an opportunity for you to compare and contrast your thinking about Relationality with what you have learned in your other courses this year: Object Relations, Self Psychology and Intersubjective Systems Theory.