ICP WEEKDAY PROGRAM CORE COURSE
Syllabus for Winter 2014

INTERSUBJECTIVE-SYSTEMS THEORY:
A PHENOMENOLOGICAL-CONTEXTUALIST CONTEMPORARY RELATIONAL PSYCHOANALYSIS.

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SESSION 1. BASIC CONCEPTS: Introduction to course, the theory and practice of Intersubjective Systems Theory, foundations, and historical context:

This session offers an overview of the central tenets of Intersubjective Systems Theory, along with an explanation of the arc of the course. The goal of this class is to provide a map of the territory we will traverse and lay the foundations for gaining a deeper understanding of IST concepts and therapeutic interventions as the course proceeds. We will cover the history and development of intersubjective-systems.

The phenomenological-contextual systems perspective of IST grew from certain philosophical concepts which provide a foundation and guiding principles for theoretical and clinical understandings. We will cover those that are centrally important: metaphysics, phenomenology, phenomenological-contextualism, the hermeneutics of trust, perspectivalism, fallibility, etc.

READINGS:


Additional Related Resources:

Robert Stolorow’s address to the IAPSP on the occasion of the launching of the 2nd edition of “Structures of Subjectivity,” 6/1/14 at ICP. Also George Atwood’s additional comments.

Penelope Starr-Karlin, FaceBook page: “Intersubjective-systems theory discussion group.”

Stolorow, R. D. (2014) PT Blog “Philosophy as Therapy”
http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201403/philosophy-therapy


SESSION 2. SUBJECTIVITY.

The “Three Musketeers” of IST, their collaboration and an introduction to their major passions: Robert D. Stolorow (trauma and mortality, the work of Heidegger), George E. Atwood (trauma and extreme states, existentialism, the arts, and what it is to be human) and Bernard Brandchaft (pathological accommodation, the impact of the dictates of antiquity). Other contributors: Daphne S. Stolorow (affectivity), Donna Orange (clinical hosting), William J. Coburn (attitudes), and the next generation.

n.b. The assignment for the final class will be to discuss your subjectivity and how it impacts the intersubjective field and treatment of your training cases (or long-term) patients.

READINGS:


Additional Related Resources:

*Brandchaft pp xiii-xiv, 9-27. (autobiographical)

George Atwood’s website:  http://www.georgeatwood.com/index.html


http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201309/being-remainder
SESSION 3, BEING-IN-THE-WORLD. AFFECTIVITY AND THE ORGANIZATION OF WORLDLY EXPERIENCE.

Affects are considered to be the central motivating factor in experience, impacting development and pathogenesis. We will look at the impact of emotional pain, and explore what is meant by subjective contextualism, the significance of meaning-making, and at how an emotional world is emergent across the life-span.

READINGS:


Additional Related Resources:


[http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201402/the-war-grief](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201402/the-war-grief)*


Stolorow, R. D. (2013), PT Blog “Integrating Emotional Trauma:”

[http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201303/integrating-emotional-trauma](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201303/integrating-emotional-trauma)*

Stolorow, R. D. (2013), PT Blog, “Portkeys to Trauma:”

[http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201309/portkeys-trauma](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201309/portkeys-trauma)*


http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201311/when-grief-finds-home
SESSION 4, MAINTAINING A WORLD OF EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE.

This will lead us to a consideration of how experience is organized, maintained, and how change occurs. We will discuss a systems view of selfhood, character, defenses/protections (including a self-ideal and subsequent self-loathing), and processes of unconsciousness.

READINGS:


Additional Related Resources:


ATWOOD LECTURE 17, Parts 1 and 2: George distinguishes the appearance and function of dissociative states from states of personal annihilation.

R. D. Stolorow, PT Blog “Whatever you want!”


SESSION 5. CONCRETIZATIONS and DREAMS

We will consider the many forms of ‘Concretizations’ of subjective emotional situations take when symbolization in language is not available.

READINGS:


Starr-Karlin, P. S. (In Press). Postcards from the Couch: Dreams as communication during an impasse. Psychoanalytic Inquiry, est. summer 2015. [This paper refers to dissociation (sessions 3 and 9), dreams (session 5), autocatalyst (session 6), impasses (session 7).]

Atwood, G. E. (2012). The Abyss of Madness, Chapter 4, Dreams and Delusions.

Additional Related Resources:


SESSION 6. THE WORK OF THE ANALYST.

We will look at the way an intersubjective-systems analyst works with the transference, illuminating and investigating the patient’s phenomena, making interpretations, practicing sustained empathic inquiry (in contrast to Kohut’s empathy), dwelling with, and the ways of being a ‘relational home.’ We will also attend to the philosophical underpinnings that inform the analyst’s attitude.

READINGS:


Additional Related Resources:


Stolorow, R. D. (2013), PT Blog “I’ll be with you when the deal goes down:”


SESSION 7. THE ANALYTIC SITUATION

We will look at the alliance, the context of the intersubjective field as expressed in the dyad’s affectivity and how it differs during different transferences (repetitive, developmental, expansive, erotic etc.), stuck times or impasses, so called negative therapeutic reactions, conjunctions and disjunctions, antidote seeking, emergent experience and issues of the analytic “frame.” The notion of difficult patients will be discussed.

READINGS:


Additional Related Resources:


Stolorow, R. D. PT Blog “Varieties of Limitude Experience:”

http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201401/heidegger-and-contemporary-psychoanalysis
**SESSION 8.**

The impact of trauma, angst and traumatic temporality, the work of Robert D. Stolorow.

**READINGS:**


**Additional Related Resources:**


R. D. Stolorow (2014), PT Blog “Emily Running:”
http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201404/emily-running

R. D. Stolorow Blog “Traumatic Loss – Collapse of a World”

Russell Carr (2013), PT Blog, “Danger where there is none:”

Russell Carr (2013), PT Blog, “Desperateness: This is what it feels like to survive combat:”
SESSION 9.

Working with extreme states, the compassionate genius of George Atwood.

Reading:


Choose one of the following topics and be prepared to discuss in class:

1) Suicide:

ATWOOD LECTURE 15, Parts 1 and 2: DEPRESSION AND SUICIDALITY. Another look at Freud’s “Mourning and Melancholia,” and the contextuality of suicides – unbearable despair over an untenable situation. Suicides are “seizing power in the cavern of despair.”

ATWOOD LECTURE 16, Parts 1 and 2: SUICIDE, AND THE EMOTIONAL PHENOMENOLOGY OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

Optional: Additional details of case material can be found in George Atwood’s “The Abyss of Madness,” Chapter 6: The Tragedy of Self-Destruction, and Chapter 7: The Dark Sun of Melancholia.

2) ‘Psychosis:’

Dr. Atwood recounts his first case and treatment of Jean, showing the phenomenology of “multiple personality.”

ATWOOD LECTURE 18, Parts 1 and 2: Introducing Jean and the notion of ‘alters.’

ATWOOD LECTURE 19, Parts 1 and 2: Jean’s life story and traumas, and her alters.

ATWOOD LECTURE 20, Parts 1 and 2: Journey of recovery.

ATWOOD LECTURE 21, Parts 1 and 2: Integration.

SESSION 10. OUTCOMES.

How does the patient (and analyst) change? Relief due to changes in the organization of experience, the tolerance of a greater range of affectivity, and an expansion of a sense-of-future possibilities, along with a change of attitude and understanding toward self and other, increased skills for relating, a sense-of-kinship, and less automaticity in the interpretation of experience lead to more of a sense of wholeness.

We will reflect on the ideas of intersubjective-systems theory, and take an autobiographical journey toward an understanding of how our traumas and ‘thrownness’ intersect with those of our patients.

You are asked to reflect on your emotional world, and any impasses or curtailments in relationships with others that occur inside and outside the consulting room, and be prepared to discuss.

READINGS:


Additional Related Resources:

Stolorow, R. D. (2013), PT Blog “Death don’t have no Mercy:”

http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201309/death-don-t-have-no-mercy


Stolorow, R. D. (2012), PT Blog “Earthquakes, Trauma, and Existential Anxiety: Earthquakes shake our confidence in the ground we stand on.

http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201201/earthquakes-trauma-and-existential-anxiety
Videos: abnormal psychology by George Atwood.
Click: videos (or copy and paste into the address line up above)

Lecture 1, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YA5kiKDOLeo
Lecture 1, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QYMsdSepFA
Lecture 2, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3JBsMQa-PQ
Lecture 2, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Buoh6AOYocE
Lecture 3, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGOK95VWMqQ
Lecture 3, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqqKMDc4_Jo
Lecture 4, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P750es12ov0
Lecture 4, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=720lo_O643o
Lecture 5, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om-Aj906iHo
Lecture 5, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHzO9xZ4ZU
Lecture 6, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkEqz9pBlaq
Lecture 6, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Kf7TJrP8_0
Lecture 7, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKx9LM0_-_kk
Lecture 7, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8j2y9xn3jU
Lecture 8, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maHPuoBBEek
Lecture 8, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOKIPxaxDvc
Lecture 9, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpGZUrQrZs
Lecture 9, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcbmCS1YyDw
Lecture 10, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PIgr-Vs4tA
Lecture 10, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsNWTtc8zo
Lecture 11, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxyWytYqMAYK
Lecture 11, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3C5q_VLqCc
Lecture 12, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWZPfXquTq
Lecture 12, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqRbzeAvrNY
Lecture 13, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEUD5dacUTw
Lecture 13, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugsWaCXMxo
Lecture 14, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpDGi1ePo8
Lecture 14, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbgmIkD02g
Lecture 15, Part 1  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUEO9ZTbIEU
Lecture 15, Part 2  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r60xYdei994
Recommended Books:

Ideally, in order to deeply understand and integrate Intersubjective-Systems Theory into your clinical thinking you will extend the studies entailed in this course by reading, or at least having at hand for reference, the following books -- each of which constitutes a central contribution to the Intersubjective-Systems literature. Therefore, we recommend you purchase these books to compliment your psychoanalytic library. Nevertheless, all the required and recommended readings will be accessible in article or book-chapter form on the ICP website.


