

Contemporary Object Relations Theory in Three Sections

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In this course on “Contemporary Object Relations Theory” we will begin with selected roots of all contemporary object relations theory by studying some current thinking on Ferenczi’s role in the development of technique and the treatment of trauma. We will go on to think about Ferenczi’s influence on Klein and use Stephen Mitchell’s article to study the role of the object in Klein and Fairbairn. Our third stop will be to study Fairbairn’s contribution to the theory of object relations trauma as read by Ogden.

Next, we will briefly consider field theory, a major influence on psychoanalytic thought and practice internationally.

In the third section we will consider three major contemporary theorists, Green, Brenman and Ogden. We will use selected works of each to consider the place of the object in contemporary theory and the implications for technique.

As we study each of these theoretical groups, we will read one contemporary clinical article to focus our questions: on what ground does this clinician stand? What are the implications of the clinical material presented? How do we understand the nature of the author’s clinical theory? And, how do we link the clinical theory to the theoretical ground?

I. History of the Object:

A. Ferenczi and Trauma: November 4

Haynal, A (1993) **Ferenczi and the Origins of Object Relations Theory**. Chapter 3 in: Aron and Harris, eds. **The Legacy of Sandor Ferenczi**. The instructor will provide a pdf.

Birksted-Breen, D (2016) **Bi-Ocularity, the functioning mind of the psychoanalyst**, IJP 97:25-40

Recommended: Haynal, A. (2014) **Trauma-Revisited: Ferenczi and Modern Psychoanalysis**. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 34:98-111.

Ferenczi, (1931) **Child-analysis in the Analysis of Adults**. *IJP*, 12:468-482

B. Klein and the Object: November 11

Stephen A. Mitchell, Ph.D. (1981) **The Origin and Nature of the "Object" in the Theories of Klein and Fairbairn** *Contemp. Psychoanal.*, 17:374-398

Morra, P (2015) **Bereavement and triangular relationships in a case of a child suffering from anorexia**. *J Child Psychotherapy*, v. 41, #3, 242-254.

Recommended:

Likierman, M. (1993) **He drew my attention to my great gift for understanding children...** *British J. Of Psychotherapy*, 9:444-455

C. Fairbairn' Contribution to trauma theory. December 2

Ogden, T (2010) **"Why Read Fairbairn?"** *IJP*, 91, 101-118.

Gurevich: **Language of Absence** (2008). *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 89: 561-578

II. Field Theory

A. **December 9, 16:** Baranger, M., Baranger, W. (2008). **The Analytic Situation as a Dynamic Field**. *IJP*, 89:795-826.

Cooper, S (2012) **Exploring a patient's shift from relative silence to verbal expressiveness: observations on an element of the analyst's participation**. *IJP*, 93:897-916.

Recommended:

Stern, Donnel.(2013) **Field Theory in Psychoanalysis, Part I:**

Harry Stack Sullivan and Madeleine and Willy Baranger
Psychoanalytic Dialogues, 23:487–501

Stern, D. **Field Theory in Psychoanalysis, Part 2: Bionian Field Theory and Contemporary Interpersonal/Relational Psychoanalysis.** Psychoanalytic Dialogues, 23:630–645, 2013

III. Selected Thinkers in Object Relations Theory Today:

A. **January 6, 13:**

Green, A (2000) **The Intrapsychic and Intersubjective in Psychoanalysis.** PQ. 69:1-39. We will spend two weeks with this article in close reading and discussion.

B. January 27, 2017

Brenman, E (1982). **Separation: A Clinical Problem.** Int. J. Psycho-Anal., 63:303-310.

Lemma, A. **The Body of the Analyst and the analytic setting: reflections on the embodied setting and the symbiotic transference.** IJP 2014. 95:225-244.

Recommended:

Ghent, E. (1989). **Credo—The Dialectics of One-Person and Two-Person Psychologies.** Contemp. Psychoanal., 25:169-211.

C. February 3:

Ogden, T. (2005) **What I would not part with.** Ch2 in This art of psychoanalysis: dreaming undreamt dreams and interrupted cries. Routledge, NY 19-26

Ogden, T (2005) **This art of psychoanalysis: dreaming undreamt dreams and interrupted cries.** Ch1 in This art of psychoanalysis: dreaming undreamt dreams and interrupted cries. Routledge, NY [from (2004) IJP, 85: 857-877] 1-18

Link to e-book access via SFCP Library Catalog:
<http://library.sf-cp.org/>

Recommended:

Eizirik C. **Analytic Practice: Convergences and divergences.**
IJP . 2010. 91: 371-375