

SFCP

Second year candidates Fall 2016

Infant observation

Instructor: Beth Barmack LCSW

This seminar will focus on the earliest moments of post-natal life, as viewed through the lens of infant observation. We will contemplate preverbal life, the development of symbolic thinking, and primitive states of mind. Through our close reading of detailed observational material we will simulate a Tavistock infant observation group, examining infancy from several perspectives, including the role of unconscious fantasy and the intersubjectivity matrix. The Tavistock model of infant observation offers an interactive exchange in which an expansive dialogue can emerge within the group discussion, generating a symbolic space for the observational material to be amplified and understood.

Reading:

**Sept. 9, 2016: The Emerging World of the Infant as Experienced through Infant Observation (to be read before the first class)**

Meltzer, D. & Williams, M.H. (1988) The apprehension of beauty: The role of aesthetic conflict in development, violence and art. (The story of Claudia) Strath Tay, Scotland: Clunie Press 43-44

Sowa, A. (1998). Observing the Unobservable: the Tavistock Infant Observation Model and Its Relevance to Clinical Training. *Fort da (two)*, 12-27

Waddell, M. (2006) Infant Observation in Britain, the Tavistock Approach. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, volume 87, 1103-1120.

**Sept.16, 2016: Very Early Experience**

Winnicott, D. Primary maternal preoccupation. In *Maturational processes and the facilitating environment*. New York: International Universities press, 29-36. (PEP)

Ogden, T. (1989). On the concept of an autistic-contiguous position. *IJP*, 70:127-140. (PEP)

**Sept. 23, 2016: The Skin**

Bick, E. (1964) Notes on Infant Observation in Psychoanalytic Training. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 45, 558-566

Bick, E. (1968). The Experience of the Skin in Early Object Relations, *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 49:484-486.

**Sept. 30, 2016: The Family's Unconscious and the Observational Group**

Winnicott, D. W. (1960). The Theory of the Parent -- Infant Relationship. *International Journal of psychoanalysis.*, 41:585 – 595

Humphrey, V. and Barmack, B. (2010) Transcendence, transmission and transformation: the transcendent function in infant observation. *Journal of Analytical Psychology*, 2010, 55, 321-338

**Oct. 7, 2016: Attachment**

**Beebe Beatrice (to be handed out by instructor)**

Seligman, S. and Harrison, A. M. (2012) Infant Research and Adult Psychotherapy, In *Textbook of Psychoanalysis* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.-G. Gabbard, et.al., (APA, 2012) PP. 239 -- 252

**Oct. 14 Creativity and Transitional Phenomena**

Silence in the Work: Beauty and Creativity in Infant Observation (to be handed out by the instructor)

Winnicott, D. (1953). Transitional objects and transitional phenomena. *IJP*, 34: 89-97. (PEP)