

**Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Human Development:
Infancy and Early Childhood Dev. with Culture in Mind
Syllabus ,Fall 2018
Mary Margaret McClure , Michael Wagner**

1. October 12: Introduction to this seminar

Assignment --

1. Read:

Excerpt from the “Introduction: Why Developmental Psychoanalysis?”
Seligman, S. (2017). Relationships in development: Infancy, intersubjectivity, attachment. New York and London: Routledge.

2. Watch the documentary film, “Babies”. Be attentive in an observant psychoanalytic way as you watch. What do you notice about the development of these four babies, from their births and through their first year? What factors do you imagine will be significant in their developing personalities, their capacities, their social/cultural selves? What are the roots of mental life, play, aesthetics and fantasy that you can see? How do you imagine the contributing role of the cultural context for each baby’s development in all this?

The film is one hour and 10 minutes long and is available on Netflix or YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qq7MGfVAeV8>

<https://vimeo.com/30328533>

3. Focus on a single observation from “Babies” and write a brief piece (1 paragraph to 1 page max.) to tell us what you observed, your impressions or questions. We will ask you to share your writing with the class (formally or informally) and to turn it in to us as well. Everyone’s writing will be treated as confidential within the class. We are really not looking for anything fancy here at all, so feel free to write in an informal way.

**2. October 19:
Psychoanalytic theories of human development**

Read:

Seligman, S. (2017). "Chapter 3: The Baby at the Crossroads: The Structural Model, Ego psychology, and Object Relations Theories" in Relationships in development: Infancy, intersubjectivity, attachment. New York and London: Routledge. Pp. 65-91.

Read:

Waddell, M. Inside Lives (1998). "Chapter four: Infancy: defences against pain" in Inside Lives: Psychoanalysis and the Growth of the Personality. London and New York, Karnac, pp.45-59.

Child observation in varied settings:

Spend some time (30 minutes or so) quietly watching infants/children/families in two different settings. The settings should include any ordinary public space with contrasting socio-economic and/or ethnic qualities. Take some notes on your observations. Write a brief description (paragraph to a page, max.) of the two settings and one likeness or difference you observe that strikes you as central to the infant's developing self/mind/personality.

An example of two settings: I recently sat at a table at a public playground in Pacific Heights. I could observe parents and nannies with babies and older children without intruding on them in any way. Completely fascinating. A contrasting set of observations came from sitting with a cup of coffee at a café in a Latino supermarket in the Canal Area of San Rafael. This is a supermarket that serves a Spanish speaking immigrant population, and the café serves inexpensive food with dishes and flavors from Mexico and Central American countries. Again, I was a fly on the wall with a rich opportunity to observe many families and many babies.

3. October 26:**Our Theoretical Foundations and Considering the Social and Cultural Realms**

Litowitz, B. (2003). "The View from Inside, The View from Outside." JAPA, 51(4):1369-1381.
Available on PEP WEB.

Write:

Please write a brief element of your own birth story, setting your birth or early childhood in the cultural, familial context of your arrival in whatever way you feel comfortable.

4. November 2: PsycheSoma

Read:

Winnicott, D.W. (1949). Mind and its Relation to the Psyche-Soma. In *Through Paediatrics to Psycho-Analysis*, Basic Books, Inc., New York.

Bick, E. (1968). The Experience of the Skin in Early Object-Relations. *IJP*, 49: 484-486. (available on pepweb)

Watch:

YouTube, “Emotional Deprivation in Infancy : Study by Rene A. Spitz”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvdOe10vrs4>

5. November 9, 2018:

Winnicott -- No baby without a mother

The complexities of the “maternal” environment and the social surround: Attachment and trauma

Read:

Winnicott, D.W. (1956), “Primary Maternal Preoccupation”, Through Paediatrics to Psycho-analysis.
Pep-web, p. 300.

Watch :

Strange Situation videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTsewNrHUU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnFKaaOSPmk>

Tronick, still face:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apzXGEbZht0>

6. November 30, 2018:

Language, play the emerging realm of fantasy

Read:

Winnicott, D.W. (1967). The Location of Cultural Experience. *IJP*, 48:368-372. [pep web]

Watch:

Trevarthen, C. Video on mother-infant musicality of communication, brief youtube: "Pre-birth to Three: Professor Colwyn Trevarthen - Musicality of Language"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLL_tB60hqM

Videos of twins talking, Ren and Sam at 10 months –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWsrsKnGulA>

Videos of twins talking, Ren and Sam at 18 months –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JmA2ClUvUY

No Class: November 16, 2018 (Visiting Professor)

No Class: November 23, 2018 (Thanksgiving)

7. November 30, 2018:

8. December 7, 2018:

9. December 14, 2018:

10. December 21, 2018