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## An Introduction To Intersubjectivity Theory

Heinz Kohut strongly advised that we need to acknowledge the analyst's influence as a human presence on the analytic situation. (*How Does Analysis Cure*, 1984). Robert Stolorow and his colleagues expanded on this idea with the development of Intersubjectivity Theory. They laid out the importance of recognizing that people develop in the context of emotional and relational experience and that they organize that experience into principles that have affect at their core. Each participant in the analytic pair contributes to what is created together—the intersubjective field. According to Intersubjective Theory the primary activity in a psychoanalytic treatment is the development of a relationship in which there is a dialogical inquiry into the patient's subjective world, an attunement to affect, and an exploration of the interfacing subjectivities of therapist and patient.

We will study Intersubjectivity Theory by reading the text *Making Sense Together: An Intersubjective Approach To Psychotherapy* by Peter Buirski and Pamela Haglund (2001). Class members will be invited to regularly raise questions and ideas from the readings and should come prepared with their own short case vignettes as they apply.

### Option 1:

*7 weeks on Wednesday mornings*

**Date:** January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23

**Time:** 9:00am – 10:30am

**Instructor:** Midge Breslin

**Location:** North York

**Fee:** \$ 420.00

### Option 2:

*7 weeks on Tuesday evenings*

The evening seminar on Intersubjectivity Theory will be divided into two portions. The first hour will be devoted to a seminar format covering the assigned reading material. The second hour will provide the participants with an opportunity to bring and discuss clinical/case material employing a Self Psychological/Intersubjective approach.

**Date:** April 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24

**Time:** 7:00pm - 9:00pm

**Instructor:** Sonia Singer

**Location:** mid-Toronto

**Fee:** \$ 450.00

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## Case Consultation Group

The instructor will encourage the development of a safe environment in which participants will present material from their clinical practices for discussion by the group. Discussions will focus on facilitating a deeper understanding of Self Psychological values and principles and Intersubjectivity Theory.

**Date:** March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11

**Time:** 9:00am - 10:30am

**Instructor:** Midge Breslin

**Location:** North York

**Fee:** \$ 480.00

### Registration

Mail in the completed registration form and a cheque (made payable to IASP) to:

Institute for the Advancement of Self Psychology  
76-2192 Queen Street East  
Toronto, ON M4E 1E6

To register and pay with a credit card, please call 416-690-3722 or email [info@iasptoronto.com](mailto:info@iasptoronto.com).

### Registration Information

MOCOMP application pending approval.

**Seminar A B C D E-1 E-2 F**

(please circle your choices)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email\*** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Confirmation of registration is available if you provide an email or phone number.

REFUND POLICY: 75% of the registration fee will be refunded if notice of withdrawal is received in writing from registrant on or before 14 days of the seminar start date. 50% of the registration fee will be refunded if notice of withdrawal is received in writing from registrant on or before 3 days before the seminar start date. No refunds thereafter.

Psychoanalytic Practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
Seminars in Contemporary Self Psychology

Presented by the Institute for the Advancement of Self Psychology



# Psychoanalytic Practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Seminars in Contemporary Self Psychology

If you are a mental health professional working in private practice or a hospital, agency or educational setting and are interested in learning more about Contemporary Self Psychology and its application to your work, The Institute for the Advancement of Self Psychology has a seminar program that will interest you.

A knowledge of Self Psychology and its contemporary developments allows one to achieve a particular sensibility to empathic understanding, the elaboration of subjective worlds, and the impact of relationship on development and therapeutic process.

## A The Fundamentals of Empathic Understanding

One of Kohut's most important contributions was his insistence on the centrality of empathy as a mode of knowing what is clinically relevant about the patient for psychoanalysis. In fact, for Kohut, it defined the field of psychoanalytic inquiry.

The concept of empathy has different meanings for each of us and remains controversial as a concept even amongst experienced Self Psychologists.

In this seminar we will review the basic principles underlying empathic understanding. These principles will be illustrated in video moments in which patients describe experiences of increasing complexity and challenge. Participants will learn how to grasp the subjective content of these moments and then practice how to communicate their understanding to the patient. In the afternoon session we will put these ideas into clinical practice utilizing clinical material provided by those participants who wish to do so.

**Date:** Saturday, September 25

**Time:** 10:00am – 4:00pm

**Instructor:** Alan Kindler

**Location:** mid-Toronto

**Fee:** \$155.00

## B New Perspectives On Development: What We Are Learning From Infant Research

### *Part I: Development in Self Psychology and Intersubjectivity*

In this introductory seminar we shall survey and review several major theories that form the foundation of psychoanalytic understanding of development. Beginning with Freud, and moving through Klein, Erikson and Mahler, we'll spend time on Bowlby's thinking regarding attachment theory, the observations of Rene Spitz, Daniel Stern, and the ideas of Heinz Kohut and Robert Stolorow. These will be discussed with regard to their relevance to theoretical formulations and clinical approaches in Self-Psychology and Intersubjectivity.

### *Part II: Infant Research in Self Psychology and Intersubjectivity*

In this subsequent seminar, we'll initially survey highlights from the early and recent work in infant and early childhood, and parent-child interaction research, including that of Target, Fonagy, Schore, Beebe, Lachmann, Knoblauch and others. Their relevance to understanding development and relatedness from Self-Psychology and Intersubjectivity will be examined and their importance to clinical work within these frameworks will be illustrated and discussed.

**Date:** Monday evenings, October 18 and 25

**Time:** 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Instructor:** Taras Babiak

**Location:** mid-Toronto

**Fee:** \$150.00

## C Basic Concepts In Self Psychology: Kohut And Beyond

The development and maintenance of a cohesive sense of self which was central to Heinz Kohut's thinking about problems in living and clinical treatment will be the cornerstone of this course. There will be special emphasis on the values inherent in Self Psychology and a therapeutic process which focuses on empathy, the elaboration of subjective experience, selfobject transferences and disruption and repair. Attention will also be paid to advances in contemporary Self Psychology. We will study the text *Treating The Self* by Ernest Wolf (1988).

Class members will be invited to raise questions and ideas from the readings and should come prepared with their own short case vignettes.

**Date:** November 3, 10, 17, 24, December 1, 8

**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:30 am

**Instructor:** Midge Breslin

**Location:** North York

**Fee:** \$ 360.00

## D Working Psychoanalytically: What We Do And Why We Do It

Self psychology emphasizes the importance of promoting development in the therapeutic process. In this seminar, we will explore how psychotherapists and psychoanalysts decide on what to do in order to facilitate a developmental process by discussing together material presented by the instructor, including a paper that will be circulated prior to the seminar as well as case material.

**Date:** Saturday, January 15, 2011

**Time:** 10:00am to 12:00 pm

**Instructor:** Sam Izenberg

**Location:** North York

**Fee:** \$75