

**Ways of Being: Schizoid Detachment and Narcissistic Binds**  
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A relational perspective on two forms of personality disturbance – schizoid detachment and narcissistic binds. Each offers a particular solution to the challenge of needing and not needing the other. Each pre-empts or derails the potential for mutual relatedness. A range of theoretical readings and case material will elucidate the vagaries of self-experience, split-polarities, and interactive patterns that give each personality mode its distinct character, while illuminating some developmental and clinical issues in treating disordered attachment.

1. **Schizoid Solutions, Detached Selves**

12/3/19

Guntrip builds on Fairbairn's model of divided mind to describe the inner life and estrangements of schizoid withdrawal. McWilliam offers a personal perspective on schizoid idiosyncrasy and creativity.

Guntrip, H. (1969). "The Schizoid Personality and the External World," In: *Schizoid Phenomena, Object Relations, and the Self*. pp 17-48.

McWilliams, N. (2008). Some Thoughts About Schizoid Dynamics. *Psychoanalytic Review*: Vol. 93, No. 1, pp. 1-24.

Recommended:

Fairbairn, R.D. (1940). Schizoid Factors in the Personality. pp 4-26.

Guntrip, H.

2. **Schizoid Abstinence, Schizoid Love**

12/10/19

Schizoid relating can substitute for actual interpersonal relatedness in intense and remarkable ways. Eigen's ascetic self-sufficiency bordering on the mystical and Bollas' depiction of highly charged erotic preoccupations are two examples. The authors explore porous boundaries between fantasy and reality, loving and hating, in the urges and longings of schizoid patients. Eigen, M. (1973). Abstinence and the Schizoid Ego, *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.* 54, 493-498.

Bollas, C. (1994). Aspects of the Erotic Transference, *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 14 (4), pp. 572-590.

### **3. Negotiating with Hard to Reach Patients**

12/17/19

How do we reach patients too sealed off to be therapeutic partners? The task is compounded by the schizoid nature of the psychoanalytic endeavor, the analyst's avoidant tendencies, and pulls for mutual detachment. We focus on clinical papers by Buechler and Pizer but also address the role of schizoid states and therapeutic regression in Bromberg's dissociative model of mind (see recommendations below).

Buechler, S. (2002). More Simply Human than Otherwise. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 38 (3): 485-497.

Pizer, S.A. (1992). The Negotiation of Paradox in the Analytic Process. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 2(2): 215-240.

#### **Recommended:**

Bromberg, P.M. (2004). More than Meets the Eye: A Professional Autobiography. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 24(4): 558-575.

Bromberg, P.M. (1991). On Knowing One's Patient Inside Out: The Aesthetics of Unconscious Communication. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 1(4), 399-422.

Stern, D. (2011). The Hard to Engage Patient: A Treatment Failure. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 21 (5): 596-606

### **1. Narcissistic Binds, Vulnerable Selves**

1/9/19

If narcissism is core to human experience, what triggers its perverse forms (grandiosity, defensive idealization)? For the late Interpersonalist, John Fiscalini, narcissism implicates a dual disruption in security needs and growth strivings. He elaborates his vision with a narcissistic typology of special, spurned, shamed, and spoiled selves.

Hamilton, E. The Myth of Narcissus and Echo (in class)

Fiscalini, J. (1994). Narcissism and Coparticipant Inquiry: Contemporary Psychoanalysis, 30:747-776

### **2. Narcissistic Dyads**

1/16/19

The narcissist patient's struggle with intimacy and power is revealed in merger fantasies and polarized enactments. Mitchell examines grandiose,

idealizing, and twinship transferences. Bach, a contemporary Freudian, explores links between impaired self and object constancy and split (inflated/deflated) polarities.

Mitchell, S. (1988). Narcissism--A Delicate Balance: The Clinical Play of Illusion. In: *Relational Concepts in Psychoanalysis*, pp. 204-234.

Bach, S. (1994). Problems of Narcissistic Love. In: *The Language of Perversion and the Language of Love*, NY: Jason Aronson, pp. 29-49.

### 3. Clinical envy

1/23/19

Envy has been conceptualized as destructive spoiling, malignant greed, and corrupted desire. It can induce feelings of inadequacy and hunger for what the analyst possesses that the patient does not. How might Fiscalini's co-participant inquiry address narcissistic envy in spurned or spoiled patients?

Bonovitz, C. (2010). Comparative Perspectives on Envy: A reconsideration of its developmental origins. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 46(3): 423-438.

Kernberg, O. (2008). The Destruction of Time in Pathological Narcissism. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 89(2):299-312.

#### Recommended:

Joseph, B. (1986). Envy in Everyday Life. *Psychoanal. Psychother.*, 2(1):13-22.