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Smith College Studies in Social Work

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Gerald Schames, M.S.S.....

Articles

The Role of Father in Psychoanalytic Theory: Historical and Contemporary

Trends

Kim Jones, Ph.D.....

Abstract

This paper presents psychoanalytic ideas about the father’s role in child development, organized into six different categories: 1) the father as an attachment figure; 2) the internalized “good” and “bad” father; 3) the father of the first separation-individuation period; 4) the father as selfobject; 5) Freudian notions of the pre-Oedipal and Oedipal father; and 6) the father of the second separation-individuation period. Extensions of the father’s role are then explored, drawing from the work of D.W. Winnicott. An integrated framework is presented in an effort to synthesize the varied and complex functions attributed to the father, followed by reconsiderations of the father’s role within the context of: 1) recent father-child research; and 2) current economic and familial patterns.

Key words: Attachment, internalization, separation-individuation; Oedipal father, pre-Oedipal father

Talk to Me: Supervisee Disclosure in Supervision

Ajna Pisani, M.S.W.....

Abstract

Supervision is an essential piece of clinical training. Accordingly, it is imperative for training programs to gain a better understanding of what material supervisees bring into and leave out of supervisory discussions. This study examined what first year social work trainees disclose in supervision. It was conducted through mailed surveys to first year social work students at a psychodynamically oriented MSW program after their first five months in clinical placement. The findings indicate that in supervisory discussions students are less likely to disclose attitudes and feelings related to their relationship and experience with their supervisors, and more likely to disclose information related to clients.

Key words: Research on MSW student self-disclosure in clinical supervision, content of supervisory discussions, acknowledging clinical problems in supervision, when student supervisees and their supervisors disagree

Two Social Workers' Experience with Late Onset Blindness: An Intersubjective Perspective

Susan E. Donner, Ph.D.

Bapai Batliwalla, Ph.D.....

Abstract

This paper is a construction of two clinical Social workers and their usually out of awareness influences on each other as they together narrate the experiences of one who has late onset blindness. The paper considers the altered routines of everyday life, the experiences of imposed limitations by the sighted on those who are blind, the struggles of the sighted co-author in enacting those limitations with her narrative partner, and

suggests to professionals who work with those who lack sight. The paper is written from an intersubjective point of view.

Key words: Late onset blindness, disability intersubjectivity, challenges to developing empathy, power dynamics between helpers and their clients

Barrier or Bridge?: How Words Limit or Facilitate Effective Clinical Social Work

Noriko Ishibashi, M.S.W.....

Abstract

Diagnoses are labels that have a powerful effect. Linguistic anthropology provides the tools necessary to study how diagnosis projects meaning based on underlying linguistic assumptions and culture of usage. I will employ anthropologically-based linguistic theories to analyze the diagnostic system utilized in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition (DSM-IV), and to examine the impact of the diagnosis of schizophrenia on the minds of the diagnostician and the labeled client.

Key words: linguistic anthropology, social work, diagnosis, DSM-IV, severe mental illness

Not Confidential: Therapist Vulnerability in Self-Disclosure

Martha Sweezy, Ph.D.....

Abstract

Debate on the practice of therapist self-disclosure in psychotherapy has included some discussion of therapist vulnerability but very little on the actual rule of confidentiality. This rule extends confidentiality to the patient (unless the patient threatens to hurt self or other) but not to the therapist. This article explores when and why therapists might

choose to be explicit with patients about their own vulnerability due to the asymmetry of confidentiality.

Key words: Self-disclosure, therapist self-disclosure, confidentiality, lack of therapist confidentiality, shame.

Book Reviews

School Violence And Children In Crisis: Community And School Interventions For Social Workers And Counselors.

By Joshua Miller, Irene Rodriguez Martin, and Gerald Schames (Eds.).

Reviewed by Barbara Muskat.....

Relational Psychotherapy: A Primer.

By Patricia De Young

Reviewed by Brian Rasmussen, Ph.D.....