

09-221b From Security to Disorganization: Attachment in Child Therapy Across the Clinical Spectrum – 6 Hour Seminar

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Friday, June 19, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Course Description

Research on attachment has proliferated in the past few years, making it one of the leading theories for understanding developmental psychopathology and its treatment. While individuals with secure attachments tend to have the best developmental outcomes, including the best responses to treatment, those with the poorest attachments show the greatest rates of psychopathology and can be extremely difficult to treat. This seminar provides an overview of attachment theory and research, including an in-depth look at attachment relationships and how they influence both brain and general development. It explores how attachments form, the different types of attachments and their presentations at different ages, the clinical assessment of attachment and the interaction of attachment with various other problems--such as trauma and learning disabilities. Using this knowledge of attachment as a foundation, the course will explore the implications of attachment theory for a range of child therapeutic decisions such as clinical modalities and therapeutic interventions.

Faculty: Karen Zilberstein, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W. – Adjunct Instructor, Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA; Private Practice, Northampton, MA; Presenter, Camp To Belong, NASW Biennial Symposium, Child and Family Services and Northampton Public Schools. Author of numerous journal publications.

Learning Objectives

1. To understand what is attachment and how it develops.
2. To recognize the impact of various types of attachment on child neurobiology and development.
3. To understand the clinical presentations of a spectrum of attachment issues and how they interrelate with other difficulties.
4. To be able to use knowledge of attachment in forming effective interventions for a range of difficulties in children.

References

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