

RIAPP

Rhode Island Association for Psychoanalytic Psychologies

An official chapter of the Division of Psychoanalysis (39) of the American Psychological Association

Wednesday Evening Lecture Series 2013-2014

Central Congregational Church • 296 Angell Street (Diman Street entrance) • Providence, RI 02906

November 6, 2013 ** 7:30-9:00 PM

Edward Tronick, Ph.D. ** Meaning Making

Abstract: Based on my research on infant development and how infants and young children make meaning of themselves in the world, and illustrated with video tapes of infants engaging with objects and people, I will argue that psychotherapy is about changing the meaning people make about themselves in the world. Discussing meaning making as a biopsychological process in which different systems create different kinds of meaning, I will argue that what I call a state of consciousness, for both children and adults, is made up of multiple forms of meaning that are at best messily put together. Moreover, a primary way that meanings get made or changed is when individuals – parents and children or analyst and analysand – bring together their individual states of consciousness to form dyadic states of consciousness.

Learning Objectives: After this **intermediate/advanced** presentation, participants will be able to:

- 1) Outline how infants are makers of meaning about themselves in relation to the world in typical and pathological settings.
- 2) Identify different levels of processes - emotions and physiology -that make meaning for the infant and child.
- 3) Explain how multiple meaning levels suggest changes in conceptualizations of transference and state of the patient and therapist.

Biography: Ed Tronick, a developmental neuroscientist and clinical psychologist, is a world class researcher and teacher recognized internationally for his work on the neurobehavioral and social emotional development of infants and young children, parenting in the U.S. and other cultures, and infant-parent mental health. Dr. Tronick is a University Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Director of the UMB Child Development Unit, Research Associate in Newborn Medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, and a Lecturer in Newborn Medicine, Harvard Medical School. He also is on the faculty of the Maternal and Child Health at the Harvard School of Public Health and Human Development at the Harvard School of Education. He is a member of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. Over the course of his career, Dr. Tronick has co-authored and authored more than 300 scientific papers and chapters and 3 books, as well as numerous videos on infant development.

References:

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- Tronick, E. Neurobehavioral and Social Emotional Development. Norton Press, 2007
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- Tronick, E. Meaning Making, Open Systems and Pleasure. P. Cooper Davis & E. Davis, (eds)., Essays for Pleasure: Artists and Scholars Respond to Carol Gilligan's Map of Love. Enactments Series of Seagull Books London Limited. 2009
- Tronick, E. Multilevel meaning making and dyadic expansion of consciousness theory: The emotional and the polymorphic polysemic flow of meaning. In, D. Fosha, Solomon, M., Siegel, D. (eds.). The Healing Power of Emotion: Affective neuroscience, development, clinical practice. New York, Norton, 2008

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