

# The Intersubjective Systems Theory

a radical paradigmatic shift  
in psychoanalytic  
theory and practice \*

A conference by  
**Robert D.  
Stolorow**  
**Ph.D., Ph.D.  
psychoanalyst**

**Saturday September 22th 2012,**  
**11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
(Registration starts at 10:30 a.m.)

Le Nouvel Hôtel  
room Dorchester/Maisonneuve  
1740 West René-Lévesque Blvd., Montréal  
514-931-8841

Metro Guy-Concordia  
Indoor parking:  
entrance on Saint-Mathieu St.

\*The presentation will be given in English.  
Simultaneous translation will be  
available to francophones and anglophones.

## ■ The Conference

The intersubjective-systems theory has evolved over the last four decades from the work of Robert Stolorow, George Atwood, Bernard Brandchaft and Donna Orange. They have attempted to reformulate psychoanalysis as a pure psychology of personal experience, freed from the mechanistic and reified freudian metapsychology. As such, their theoretical framework is in continuity with the same phenomenological turn taken by the existential-humanistic theories which appeared some 20 years earlier. Their sustained inquiry in illuminating personal phenomenology have moved further their theoretical perspective towards a radical contextualization of personal worlds of experience, from the intrapsychic to the intersubjective.

This presentation will give an overview of the evolution of the basic ideas in Stolorow's intersubjective-systems theory which he describes as a phenomenological contextualism. This framework is phenomenological in that it investigates and illuminates worlds of emotional experience; it is contextualist in that it holds that such organizations of emotional experience always and continually take form within relational or intersubjective contexts, both developmentally and in the therapeutic situation. Intersubjective-systems theory entails a move from mind to world and from drive to affectivity. Emotional trauma and its disruptive impact on our experience of time will be illuminated and illustrated from this perspective.

## ■ The Speaker

Robert D. Stolorow, Ph.D., Ph.D. is a Founding Faculty Member and Training and Supervising Analyst at the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis, Los Angeles; a Founding Faculty Member at the Institute for the Psychoanalytic Study of Subjectivity, New York City; and a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the UCLA School of Medicine. He is the author of *World, Affectivity, Trauma: Heidegger and Post-Cartesian Psychoanalysis* (2011) and *Trauma and Human Existence: Autobiographical, Psychoanalytic, and Philosophical Reflections* (2007), and coauthor of *Worlds of Experience: Interweaving Philosophical and Clinical Dimensions in Psychoanalysis* (2002), *Working Intersubjectively: Contextualism in Psychoanalytic Practice* (1997), *Contexts of Being: The Intersubjective Foundations of Psychological Life* (1992), *Psychoanalytic Treatment: An Intersubjective Approach* (1987), *Structures of Subjectivity: Explorations in Psychoanalytic Phenomenology* (1984), *Psychoanalysis of Developmental Arrests: Theory and Treatment* (1980), and *Faces in a Cloud: Intersubjectivity in Personality Theory* (1993 [1979], 2nd. ed.). He is also coeditor of *The Intersubjective Perspective* (1994) and has authored or coauthored more than two hundred articles. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Harvard University in 1970 and his Certificate in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy from the Psychoanalytic Institute of the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health, New York City, in 1974. He also received a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of California at Riverside in 2007. He holds diplomas both in Clinical Psychology and in Psychoanalysis from the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), and he is a Fellow in the Division of Psychoanalysis of the American Psychological Association. He received the Distinguished Scientific Award from the Division of Psychoanalysis in 1995 and the Haskell Norman Prize for Excellence in Psychoanalysis from the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis in 2011, and he will receive the Hans W. Loewald Memorial Award from the International Forum for Psychoanalytic Education in 2012.

<http://robertdstolorow.googlepages.com>

# Learning

## ■ Learning Objectives

■ Participants will learn how to engage in psychoanalytic investigation conceived as a form of phenomenological inquiry.

■ Participants will learn how to investigate the contexts in which emotional conflict and the various forms of unconsciousness take form.

■ Participants will acquire skill in investigating the context-embeddedness and existential significance of emotional trauma.

# GEI

## ■ To become a member of the GEI

Any psychotherapist who belongs to a professional Order, or is holding an attestation (psychologist or medical doctor) or a permit of practice (other professional Order and acquired rights) as psychotherapist can become a member of the GEI. If this is what you want, you can include a check to the amount of \$30 payable to the GEI. The fee will be applicable to membership for the year 2011-2012. Activities are held in French, except the yearly Conference with an outside guest.

# Organizing

## ■ Organizing Committee

- Sylvie Chênevert, psychologist
- Marie Noël, psychologist
- Annette Richard, psychologist, president of the GEI

### For more information :

Phone: 514-277-6408 (Annette Richard)

E-mail : [info@intersubjectivite.com](mailto:info@intersubjectivite.com)

Web site : [www.intersubjectivite.com](http://www.intersubjectivite.com)

Address : GEI, a/s de Marie Noël  
832 Bloomfield Ave., Outremont (Québec) H2V 3S6

### Le Groupe d'étude sur l'intersubjectivité (GEI)

The GEI is a professional association of psychotherapists who are practicing from an intersubjective perspective inspired by Self Psychology. It offers an affiliative opportunity to therapists who would like to learn this particular approach. Our objectives include the advancement of continuing education for our members, and the sharing of clinical experiences and reflections.

This presentation by Dr Robert Stolorow, our guest speaker of the year, is a peak moment in our activities. We are very happy to offer simultaneous translation from English to French and from French to English again this year.

# Registration

## ■ Conference Registration Form

Register online at: [www.intersubjectivite.com](http://www.intersubjectivite.com)

Or send this form along with your check payable to the

GEI to: **GEI, a/s de Marie Noël**  
**832 Bloomfield Ave.**  
**Outremont, (Québec)**  
**H2V 3S6**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

● Member of the GEI  ● Non-member of the GEI

● Student\*  ● Membership fee to the GEI enclosed

**Do you intend to use the French to English translation service (Question period) ?**

Yes  No

### Fees (meal included)

	Until September 14th 2012	After September 14th 2012
Members	170\$	185\$
Non-members	185\$	200\$
Students*	110\$	125\$

### Refund Policy

If you must cancel your registration, please do it in writing and a refund less an administrative fee of \$25 will be allowed up to September 14th 2012. We regret that refunds cannot be allowed after September 14th. Upon reception of your check and your form, your registration will be completed. A receipt will be given to you at the Conference site.

\* Full time university student only. Please include ID card copy.

