CACF 541
Problems of Childhood

Fall 2007

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TEXTS
(*=Required or extremely useful as reference)


*Zero to Three National Center for Clinical Infant
COURSE OUTLINE

September 7: #1 Introduction: Developmental Psychopathology of Childhood

Introductions

- Who are we?
- What do you want from the course? What can it deliver?
- Custom tailoring this course to you

Overview of concepts, features, issues

- Personality development in Childhood and Adolescence
- Multiple perspectives and layers of description
  - Developmental Processes and their Disorders
    - Developmental Psychopathology
    - Psychoanalytic perspective
      - Meaning and subjective experience
      - Self and Its Disorders
  - Neurodevelopmental processes and review of brain/mind systems
  - Complex states of mind
  - Affective and behavioral regulation
- Assessment and Diagnosis -I
  - Differences of Psychodynamic with Cognitive-Behavioral and Behavioral Descriptions
  - Assessment, Diagnosis, Symptomatology and the DSM
    - “0-3”: Early beginnings of later, more classifiable disorders – Roots of Mental Illness
    - PDM: Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual
- Developmental “hotspots:” Autism and Asperger’s, self-regulation, effects of stress and trauma, Bi-polar disorder; obesity

Readings:
*Kernberg et al. Part I: Developmental Perspective (pp. 3-30); Part II: Assessment of Personality Disorders in Children and Adolescents (pp. 33-80).
October 5: #2 Biological, Genetic and Environmental Processes

Biological and Genetic Processes

- Bio-behavioral perspectives
  - Evolutionary Perspective
  - Gene-Environment interactions
  - Neurobiological models of social-emotional development

Environmental Effects on Development

- Risk Factors
- Effects of stress and trauma: Childhood onset trauma distinguished from adult
- Vulnerability and Resistance
  - Endowment
  - Temperament
  - Context and Relationships
- Culture and socio-economic class

Readings:
* Bleiberg, E. Chapter 1: Introduction; Chapter 4: Trauma, Vulnerability, and the Development of Severe Personality Disorders 76-102.


October 19: #3 Psychoanalytic Theories of Development and Psychopathology: Infancy & Early Childhood – Disorders of Relationship

Anna Freud and the Hampstead Clinic:

- Symptomatology
- Uneven drive and ego development
- Fixation and regression
- Neurotic defenses against anxiety and conflict

Melanie Klein and the Tavistock Clinic

- Paranoid-Schizoid and the Depressive positions
- Container-contained
- Primary maternal preoccupation and “reverie”
- Defenses against anxiety: splitting, projection, projective identification

Oedipal Complex and its significance
Margaret Mahler: separation/Individuation
Disorders of the Self

- Grandiosity
- Exhibitionism
- Tabin-Roots of Eating Disorders

Stage development and oedipal relationships
Primacy of internal subjective experience and fantasy

Readings:
Edgcumbe and Burgner. The phallic narcissistic phase, 161-179


November 2 : #4 Disorders of Attachment, Development of the Mind; Disorders of Relationship
Attachment as an Organizer of Brain Development
Relationship of Attachment to the Development of Self-Regulation
e.g. Schore and Attachment theory
Concepts, disorders, predictors, cases
Disordered forms of Attachment

- Disorganized Attachment and Dissociation
- Reactive Attachment Disorder
- Failure to Thrive
- Borderline Personality Disorder

Effects of Day Care on Attachment and Early Development

- Childhood Stress and Trauma Revisited:
  Environmental Crises
- Child Neglect, Physical and Sexual Abuse
- Childhood onset Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder--Episodic; Chronic
- Dissociation and other pathological defenses

Readings:
Bleiberg, Chapter 2, Attachment and Reflective Function


November 16  #5 (To be Rescheduled) Regulatory Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood; Behavioral Disruptions and Reactivity to Stimulation

Regulatory Disorders of Affect

- Precursors to childhood Bi-Polar Disorder
- Difficulties in behavioral organization and adaptive functioning
- State control and arousal
- Hypersensitivity; Under-reactivity
- Affective lability
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Behavioral Issues -- Disruptive Behavior Disorders

- Sleep disturbances
- Elimination disorders,
- Elective mutism
- Failure-To-Thrive & Feeding and eating disorders
- Pica, Rumination, Colic
- Excessive crying
- Elimination disorders
- The “spoiled child” syndrome

Regulatory Disorders

- Multi-System Developmental Disorder (MSDD) and other behavioral difficulties
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
  - Co-morbidity with externalizing behaviors
  - Co-morbidity with internalizing behaviors

Oppositional Defiant Disorders
Conduct Disorders

Readings:
*DeGangi, G.  Chapter 1: Self-Regulation in Infants and Children. 2-33; Treatment of Irritability and Other Mood-Regulation Problems, 120-162; Sleep and Separation, 165-199; Feeding Disorders, 204-237.


Palombo, J. (2001) Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, 143-162

**November 30 #6 Developmental Disorders of Childhood and Disorders of Learning and Social Relationships**

Genetic and Medical Conditions

- Tri-X
- Prader-Willie
- Mental Retardation

Pervasive Developmental Disorders
• Autistic Spectrum
  o Autism, Asperger’s – Theory of Mind
  o Relation to Schizoid Mechanisms
• Childhood-onset Schizophrenia Childhood and Psychosis
• Schizophrenic Spectrum Disorders-Schizotypal

Speech and Communication Deficits
Motor Deficits and Sensory Integration—Motoric disorganization—importance of motor planning
Disorders of Learning

• NVLD
  • Dyslexia
  • The role of shame and humiliation
  • Resilience and Self-Esteem

Readings:

*Palombo, J. Learning Disorders and Disorders of the Sense of Self: Disorders of Self-Cohesion 66-84; Executive Function Disorders 163-190; Nonverbal learning Disabilities 191-221; Asperger’s Disorder 222-245.


December 14 #7: Syndromes of the Grade School Years: Disorders of Affect, Mood Regulation and Anxiety
Affect and Anxiety

• Anxiety
  • Borderline states
  • Childhood Depression -- Suicidal Ideation
  • Obsessions and Compulsions -OCD
  • Narcissism in Childhood
  • Psychosis

The Psyche-soma and Somatic Complaints and Conditions
Gender Identity Issues in Early and Middle Childhood

Readings:


Bleiberg. Histrionic and borderline children and adolescents. (pp. 130-149).


**January 11 #8 : Disorders of Relationship and Engagement with the Outside World**
Marital Discord and Divorce
Family & Societal Issues

- Domestic violence
- Divorce
- Adoption
- Economic Hardship -- Inner City

Environmental Assaults

- Development and Transformations of Aggression
- Parental Disciplinary Practices
- Bullying and School violence
- Trauma and other maltreatment

Role of parents and the family

- Relevancy to Clinical material
- Giving Feedback to the Parents
- Working with the Parents
- Child care issues

**Readings:**


Palombo, J. Working with parents, 283-298.


ADDITIONAL READINGS

Class #1:


Class #2:


Class #3:


Class #4:
Hesse, E., Main, M., Abrams, K., and Rifkin, A. Unresolved states regarding loss or abuse can have “second generation” effects: Disorganization, rose inversion, and frightening ideation in the offspring of traumatized, non-maltreating parents. In M. Solomon and D. Siegal (Eds.), Healing trauma: Attachment, mind, body and brain. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. (pp. 57-106).


Class #5:


Class #6:

Harris, J. (1998) Behavioral phenotypes (pp. 245-301); Tourettes disorder (pp. 427-438); Behavioral toxicity/Gestational substance abuse (pp. 361-374.) In


**Class #7:**


Kernberg, Part IV: The Borderline Personality Organization: Introduction, Borderline Personality Disorder, Narcissistic Personality Disorder 131-192; Avoidant 109-118; Kernberg Obsessive-Compulsive Personality 119-128


Waddell, Latency, 73-93.


Class #8:

Hetherington, E. and Camara, K. *Families in transition: The processes of dissolution and reconstitution.* (pp. 398-439).


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