

SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Inger Bernth: An ethnological approach to personality development

In a unique cooperation Bowlby and Ainsworth developed their attachment theory. An image of man where dependence and independence are incompatible is substituted by a view where attachment and selfreliance develop in a mutual relation. When you trust that if you are in a fix, there is a person with greater resources from whom you can seek help and who is willing and able to recognize your appeal for help (an attachment person), you can most confidently act in the world. This holds from the cradle to the grave. This article describes the development of the theory and its relation to psychoanalysis and the background in ethology. Brief discussion of empirical research and problems.

Anne Rechenbach: The history and actuality of the attachment concept.

Attachment theory is seen as one of the most empirically grounded conceptual frameworks among skilled psychologists and psychiatrists. Because of the enormous amount of clinical literature and creative research on the effects of early parent-child relationships, attachment theory is prominent today. Development of methods (SSP, AAI) over the last 30 years have contributed to the validity of research. Moreover the current research on neuroaffective and neurobiology has largely supported the basic ideas of attachment theory. The attachment theory disagrees with the classical psychoanalysis and underlines the dominating effects on early attachment on self-perception and personality development. The history of the theory is described and the methods Strange Situations Procedure (SSP) and Adult Attachment Interview (AAI) together with the basic concept Internal Working Model and different Attachments pattern are reviewed.

Bernadette Buhl-Nielsen: Attachment in an interdisciplinary perspective

Attachment theory has become popular as a psychological framework for understanding both normal development and psychopathology, but the psychological aspects of attachment are only an aspect of a larger picture. Bowlby wanted to integrate the insights of the natural sciences with subjective, psychoanalytic concepts, an ambition he shared with both Darwin and Freud, his two most important intellectual sources. The aim of attachment theory was an interdisciplinary integration that could offer a broader and deeper understanding of development and psychopathology. Bowlby coordinates his interdisciplinary perspective with the aid of a biologically based control systems theory.

Sv. Aa. Madsen: The fathers in attachment research

Since the emergence of attachment research mother-child-relations have been in focus. During the last decades more and more studies of father-child-relations have been conducted. Despite many allegations of the opposite the results from this research show that attachment theory is a genderneutral theory. Research shows that children can have different attachment paterus with father and mother. It has moreover been shown that fathers and mothers in a representative population are equally able to form a secure base for their children; 60 percent of both men and women belong to the category »Secure/Autonomous« when tested with the Adult Attachment Interview. A Danish study on fathers' attachment to their infants shows that men's working models of caregiving for their infants emerge from their relations with their own mothers.

Kari Killén: Children and attachment

Attachment theory and methods for assessing attachment at different ages is in constant development. This article will only address attachment at one year and in pre-school age. All children attach to their parents no matter how they are being treated. They have to in order to survive. But they attach in different ways dependent upon the emotional interaction between them and their caregivers. After a short introduction to the assessment method, the Strange situation procedure, the different attachment patterns will be described in the relation to an ongoing research project at NOVA. Children at risk will be the main focus.

Benny Karpatschof & Eva Helweg: An attachment beyond death

The paper perceives the grief process for children who have lost a parent as a struggle to re-establish the broken bond. The point of departure is empirical, based on an evaluation study of a counselling for children in grief as well as theoretical, based on one of the author's theory of moral development and on the book *Continuing Bonds* (Klass et al. 1996).

Anne Rechenbach: Relationship disorders and psychopathology

Research concerning the relationships between attachment patterns and psychiatric disorders is still new and at a modest level. Even so the attachment theory has several findings concerning attachment patterns and personality disorders. Today we know a lot about how the attachment patterns develop and how the patterns are transmitted intergenerationally. It is specially the disorganized attachment pattern, characterized by traumas and loss, where we found a high correlation between attachment patterns and psychiatric diagnoses. Here there has been found etiological relationship between early attachment and psychiatric disorders. Also the antisocial disorders can be understood in light of attachment disturbances. Another way to describe personality disorders is to look for maximizing and minimizing of attachment needs. Borderline personality disorder patients defensively maximize their attachment needs while the antisocial patients defensively minimize their attachment needs.

Carsten René Jørgensen: Attachment theoretical based understanding of personality disturbances

By way of introduction a historical basis of the present view on personality and personality disturbances is presented. Subsequently, the outlines of an understanding of severe borderline personality disorder in adults based on the attachment theory are made. This disorder is often related to anxious-ambivalent and in some cases to anxious-avoidant attachment, as well as severe disturbances in affect regulation, mentalization, and social competence. All in all, areas of problems contributing to these patients' characteristic stable unstableness, difficulties in interpersonal relations and self-destructive behaviour. In conclusion, the therapeutic implications of the attachment theory's essential contribution to understanding the borderline personality disorder are touched upon, including affect studies of attachment based psychotherapy of borderline personality disorders.

Tove Aarkrog: Attachment theory and transference focused psychotherapy of borderline personality disorders

During the later years our knowledge of patterns of attachment has increased enormously. The early unconscious formation of these rather stabile patterns has been proved. Viewing back it is evident, that already the object relation theories include much knowledge of the importance of attachment. As a basis for the following the development of the concept of borderline is given. Insecure patterns of attachment are found in several forms of psychopathology, patterns that influence the development of borderline personality disorder (BPD) etiologically and characterizes the attachment of the BPD later in life. During the last forty years a specific psychodynamic form of psychotherapy has developed for treatment of BPD, an expressive psychotherapy, which during the later years has focused on the transference/countertransference i.e. emphasis on the relation between the therapist and the patient. By the theory of attachment the psychotherapeutic relationship has become considered to be a new attachment, in which the pattern of attachment of the patient influences the course of the psychotherapy. In transference focused psychotherapy the influence of insecure patterns of attachment is evident. Consequently the therapist must face these patterns and use them to understand the problems evolving during the course of psychotherapy.

Dennis Lind: The contribution of attachment research in the understanding of psychopathology i childhood.

From the vantage point of Attachment Theory research has shown correlations between insecure attachment in childhood and later development of psychopathology. The existence of a psychological intergenerational transmission between children and adults has also been shown. From modern neuroscience it is known, that the physiological functioning of the brain is influenced and moulded by caregiving experiences. These findings call for a renewed discussion of the interplay between nature and nurture, which for a number of years has been dominated by the importance of constitutional factors. In this article two models of understanding the development of psychopathology are presented: The first is »Developmental Psychopathology«, which consists of developmental principles for the understanding of psychopathology. The second is a development of attachment theory which proposes that attachment can be seen as the psychological trigger of a genetic potential. The Author of this article underlines the importance of assessing relational aspects in understanding manifest psychopathology during childhood and adolescence regardless of constitutional causes.

Mette Høyer: Attachment, development and maladaptive development i early childhood

Attachment Theory and research has contributed to a recognition of the importance of the child's real relations and caregiving environment, both in research as well as in clinical preventive interventions. The notion of developmental paths (or trajectories) as a model of the ontogenetic development as well as the assessment method, the Strange Situation Procedure, is discussed in relation to selected empirical findings. The intention is to emphasize some empirical as well as conceptual difficulties in distinguishing between attachment as an individual and as a relationsspecific phenomenon. With regard to clinically pathological conditions it can be difficult to separate attachment behavior from behavior related to the pathologic condition itself.

Katrine Zeuthen: Attachment, infantile sexuality and sexual abuse

In this paper the attachment concept of the French psychoanalyst Jean Laplanche is presented. His definition of attachment is an expression of his reading of Freud's psychoanalysis, a reading that takes as its starting point the meaning Freud gives the interplay between child and adult in his theory of infantile sexuality. It is argued that it is important to look at the development of infantile sexuality in the light of the child's early relations to its caregivers. Furthermore it is described how this can be seen in the clinical work with children that have been sexually abused: When a child has been sexually abused in an early age and especially if the offender is one of the child's primary caregivers it can be very difficult for the child to distinguish between its own infantile sexuality and the fantasies that follow in the development of this on the one hand, and on the other hand the sexual abuse the child has experienced and which has been a part of the attachment between the child and the adult.

Peter la Cour: Religion and attachment: A critical review of theories and empirical findings.

Contemporary psychological research has viewed religion in the light of attachment processes. L.A. Kirkpatrick and Pehr Granqvist have especially contributed to the theoretical development and its empirical support. Their most important works are chronologically presented in this paper, with a critical view especially concerning the empirical support for the theories. Ten reflections are offered as conclusion, dealing with over-interpretations as well as constructive applications of religion viewed as attachment. The principles involved in control systems theory are briefly presented in order to understand how Bowlby attempted to integrate his theory. A description of different interdisciplinary perspectives on attachment is presented, with an emphasis on physiology and neurophysiology. Finally, the advantages of an interdisciplinary perspective are discussed.

Jan Tønnesvang: Religious selfobject functionality and attachment

The article discusses how religious objects (God, religious characters etc.) provide selfobject functions, how God might serve as an attachment figure, and how these religious functions vary psychologically according to the individuals general self-constellation and attachment style. Within the discussion it is shown how Gordon Allport's distinction between 'extrinsic' and 'intrinsic' religiosity and his considerations of 'the religious sentiment' are revitalized in modern self-psychological and attachment research on religiosity. The article closes with a remark on the relevance of research in the psychology of religion for the understanding of the individual's life-realisation in late modernity.

Peter Elsass: Spirituel attachment. Examples of immatriel attachment and non-attachment.

Attachment has been dominated of a person orientated focus, and only few psychologists and psychiatrists have given attention to immatriel and spiritual attachment. Different historical examples of isolation from other persons, solitude and loneliness, are given as an introduction to a more cultural psychological perspective on attachment. Attachment and religious representation are illustrated with the interviews of Benedictian nuns in celibacy. Solitude and celibacy are dependent of a secure attachment, but in spirituality another interrelatedness are formed, so called »spiritual attachment«. Buddhisme and non-attachment is shortly introduced as an example of another view of the psychology of the self and its relationship to other significant persons.

John Thobo-Carlsen: Comprehension of illness and narrative therapy

Sketching the development of a reflexive, semiotic process of signification, a conceptual and methodical basis for a qualitative access to diagnosis and treatment which is capable of handling semiotic (i.e. signifying) processes, is suggested. So a more fine-meshed tool for investigation than the one which the quantitative causality-dominated access to the ill-health area seems to hold out, is proposed. Far from trying extensively to understand the pathological picture by interpreting what is seen or told on the assumption that only a system-immanent, causal-logical explanation of a psycho-biological character can account for the misery, the article aims with its dialogic story model to consider the therapeutic and clinical situation as a verbal and bodily space, a dialogic field where something becomes or appears – perhaps for the first time. Therapeut and client ought instead to be considered as reader, listener and spectator of that which unfolds between them. Thus a meaningfulness will appear which becomes or unfolds as a original concatenation of a plurality of factors which play together in the pathological picture.

