

Implications for Erotic Transference:

The Spectrum of Interaction

Arthur Lynch, DSW

Janet Bachant, PhD

Arnold Richards, MD

SPECTRUM OF INTRACTION

Mind is mental **process**

Continuum rather than discrete entities

Broader reach of clinical opportunities
enabled by continuum approach

INTERACTION

A dimension of every human relationship



INTERACTION

An essential aspect of any treatment



ADVANTAGES OF SPECTRUM HEURTISIC

Organizes therapeutic interaction

Identifies interactive possibilities

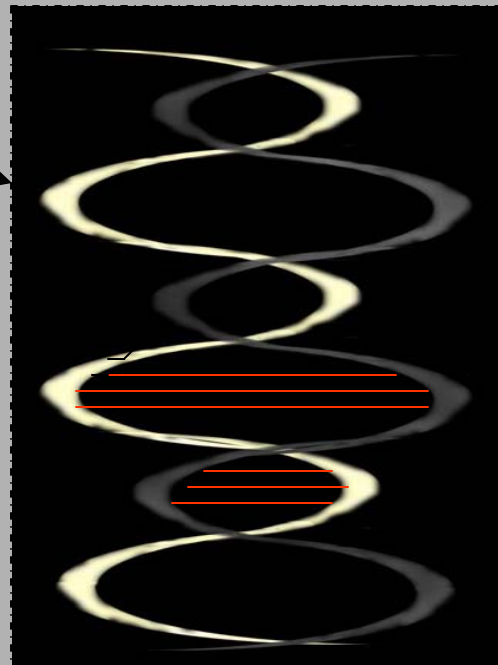
Guides exploration and curiosity

Avoids premature closure

INTERACTION

Interpersonal and intrapsychic dimensions
are **intertwined**

**Interpersonal
Dimension**



**Intrapsychic
Dimension**



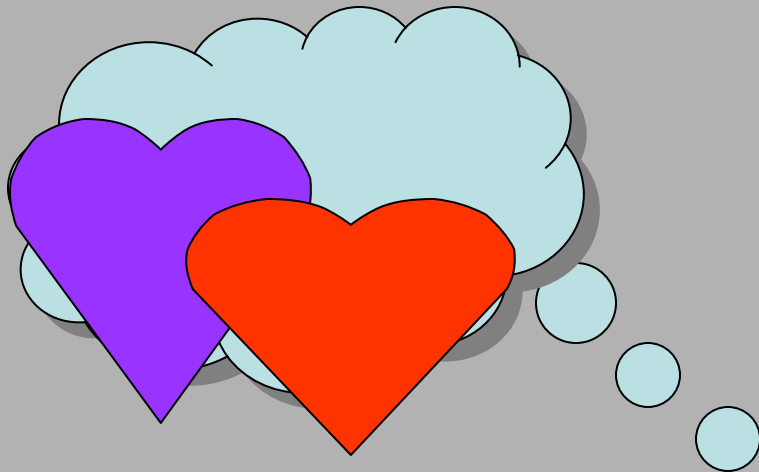
**Bio/Psycho/Social
Bonds**

ANALYTIC ATTITUDE

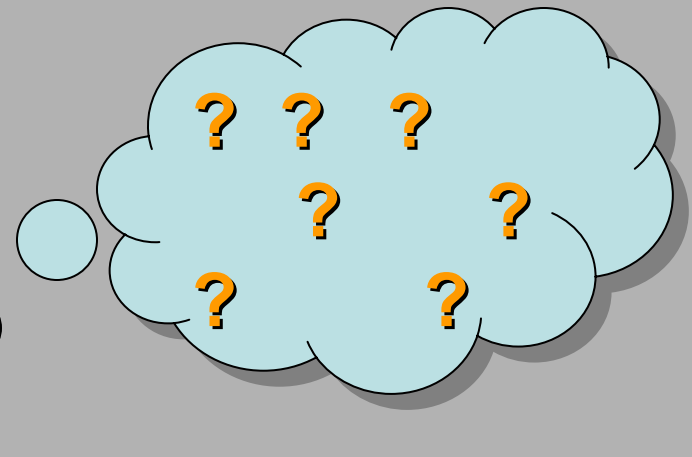
Guides therapist's involvement in interaction

Oscillation between

Experiencing
the process



Thinking about
the process



The Spectrum of Interaction

Acting Out

Transference
Actualization

Enactment

Countertransference
Actualization

Boundary
Violations

The Spectrum of Interaction: Intrapsychic and Interpersonal Foci

Interpersonal focus

Intrapsychic focus

Intrapsychic focus

Enactment

**Transference
Actualization**

**Countertransference
Actualization**

Acting Out

**Boundary
Violations**

Spectrum of Erotic Interaction

Erotic Acting Out

**Erotic Transference
Actualization**

Erotic Enactment

**Erotic Countertransference
Actualization**

Erotic Boundary Violations

ACTING OUT

Patient's wish or need expressed through action **outside** the treatment

Tends to be **action focused**

Replaces verbal communication

Serves multiple functions including

- **resistance** and
- **communication**

TRANSFERENCE ACTUALIZATION

Patient seeks gratification of transference wish or need **in** the analytic process

Gratifies or defends against wish or need

Tends to be **process focused**

Patient has **perception** of gratification

ENACTMENT

Impetus **shared** by patient and therapist

Substitution of emotional gratification for exploring and understanding

Enactments **conceal** and **reveal**

Can **illuminate** neglected aspects of self

Can be **verbal** or **non verbal**

ENACTMENT (cont)

An **offer** that can't be **refused**

Therapist unaware of or **dismisses importance** of enactment

Therapist realizes **after the fact** that analytic attitude has been **breached**

Can **promote** understanding of **unconscious** material

Enactments serve **multiple functions**

COUNTERTRANSFERENCE ACTUALIZATION

Therapist seeks gratification/realization of transference wish or need **in** the process

Therapist substitutes gratification for interpretation or understanding

Ruptures analytic attitude

Loss of capacity for **preserving** the frame

Best explored with **intrapsychic** focus

BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS

Any transgression for **personal gratification**

Emotional

Financial

Professional

Social

Sexual sphere

etc

**derails the
analysis for**

Sex

Influence

Information

Money

Personal affirmation

etc

Danger of the Slippery Slope

Collapse of the inner and outer boundaries
that **secure trust**

Spectrum of Erotic Interaction

Erotic Acting Out

**Erotic Transference
Actualization**

Erotic Enactment

**Erotic Countertransference
Actualization**

Erotic Boundary Violations

CONCLUSION

Interaction **always** part of the analytic landscape

Erotic transference activity **exists as a continuum** on the Spectrum of Interaction

Enactments and **actualizations** may suggest **differential modes** of analytic intervention

CONCLUSION (cont)

Thinking on a continuum **enhances** analytic **consideration and intervention**

The spectrum allows for **infinite possibilities** and **uncertainties**, avoiding premature closure

A continuum of interaction **accommodates** a **range of different perspectives**