

Intersubjectivity: Stolorow & Collaborators

2025-2026 Fall Trimester, 10:30am - 12:00pm

Judith Rustin, LCSW
judith@judithrustin.com

Course Description:

This course is designed to present the fundamental concepts of Intersubjectivity as defined by Robert Stolorow and Collaborators, George Atwood, Bernard Brandchaft and Donna Orange. Although the concept of Intersubjectivity first appeared in Philosophy (Husserel), as a theory of Interaction, it gained prominence as it was used by infant researchers. It gained prominence in the psychoanalytic lexicon as a theory of Interaction in the 1980s. A number of psychoanalytic theorists now call their theory, Intersubjectivity. This course is designed to highlight and specifically describe Intersubjectivity as defined by the founders of our Institute. To quote Stolorow from a 1997 article in *Psychoanalytic Psychology*: Intersubjectivity is defined as the psychological field formed by an infinite variety of forms of interaction as two differently organized subjectivities collide, interface and impact the other.

Bibliography:

The majority of the readings will be from:

Stolorow, R., Brandchaft, B., Atwood, G. (1987). *Psychoanalytic Treatment an Intersubjective Approach*. If the book is not available to you from a library, I urge you to buy or rent the book. It is available either way on Amazon.

Readings:

September 8, 2025	Stolorow, R., Brandchaft, B., Atwood, G. (1987). Psychoanalytic Treatment an Intersubjective Approach. Chapter 1 - Principles of Psychoanalytic Explorations. Chapter 2 – Reflections on Self-Psychology.
September 15, 2025	Stolorow, R., Brandchaft, B., Atwood, G. (1987) Ibid. – Chapter 3 – Transference the Organization of Experience (written in collaboration) with Frank Lachmann).
September 22, 2025	Stolorow, R. Branchaft B. Atwood, G. (1987) Ibid – Bonds That Shackle, Ties That Free. pp. 47 -66. Optional: Bernard, B. (2007) “Pathological Structures of Accomodation” Psych. Psychology. 24/667 – 687. Note: Most of Brandchaft’s clinical examples as the ones in Chapter 4., are examples of what Brandchaft called Pathological Structures of Accommodation. It is a particularly useful concept in clinical work.
September 29, 2025	Stolorow, Brandchaft & Atwood (1987) Ibid: Chapter 5 – Affects and Selfobjects (written in collaboration with Daphne Socarides Stolorow). pp. 66 – 87.
October 6, 2025	Stolorow, Brandchaft & Atwood (1987) Ibid: Chapter 8. Treatment of Borderline States. pp. 106 – 131.
October 27, 2025	Stolorow, Brandchaft & Atwood (1987) Ibid: Chapter 9. Treatment of Psychotic States: pp. 132 – 172.
November 3, 2025	Stolorow, R. & Atwood, G. (1992) Context of Being: The Intersubjective Foundations of Psychological Life. The Analytic Press: Hillsdale, N.J. Chapter 6 (written in Collaboration with Bernard Brandchaft) Varieties of Therapeutic Alliance. And Chapter 7 Varieties of Therapeutic Impasse (written in collaboration with Jeffery Tropp) pp. 87 – 122). I will send PDF’s of these chapters at a later date.
November 10, 2025	Stolorow, R., Atwood, G., Brandchaft, B. (1992) Three Realms of the Unconscious and Their Therapeutic Transformation. Psychoanalytic Review 79:25-30. Available on p-e-p
November 17, 2025	Stolorow, R. (2007) Trauma and Human Existence. The Analytic Press, New York, N.Y. pp. 1-31. This book is tiny and is available on Amazon for sale or rent. It is inexpensive.
November 24, 2025	The tenth class is reserved for Donna Orange. Donna is the fourth collaborator of Stolorow et.al. article TBD.