

# From Interpersonal to Relational: The Relational Turn

**2025-2026 Fall Trimester, 8:30am - 10:00am**

Peter Kaufmann, PhD

646-258-7202

[p.kaufmann1133@gmail.com](mailto:p.kaufmann1133@gmail.com)

## **Course Description:**

In this course, we will consider the basic ideas that characterize Interpersonal theory and technique and study how they have been incorporated into the work of important Relational thinkers including Mitchell, Greenberg, Bromberg and D. Stern. We will highlight the interpersonal emphasis on environmental influence, the self-system, the repetitive dimension of experience and here and now interaction in treatment. We also will underline how these emphases have been integrated in the contributions of these theorists. Candidates will be encouraged to bring in clinical examples that illustrate the concepts that we are studying.

## **Course Objectives:**

1. Candidates will understand the basic concepts of the interpersonal position Including Sullivan's ideas about environmental influence, anxiety, the self-system and the detailed inquiry.
2. Candidates will better understand how Levenson facilitated the transition to contemporary relational thinking with his emphasis on pervasiveness of the repetitive dimension of experience, here and now interaction in treatment and the "real" elements in developmental and therapeutic relationships.
3. Candidates will be better able to identify the interpersonal elements in the thinking of Mitchell, Greenberg, Bromberg and D. Stern.

## Readings:

September 8, 2025	<p><b>Week 1</b></p> <p>Levenson, E. (1992) Harry Stack Sullivan: From Interpersonal Psychiatry to Interpersonal Psychoanalysis. Contemporary Psychoanalysis, 28, pp.450-456.</p> <p>Background: Mitchell and Black (1995) Harry Stack Sullivan and Interpersonal Psychoanalysis. In Freud and Beyond. Basic Books; New York</p>
September 15, 2025	<p><b>Week 2</b></p> <p>Searles, H. (1959) Oedipal Love in the Countertransference. International Journal of Psychoanalysis. Vol. 40, pp. 180-190.</p>
September 22, 2025	<p><b>Week 3</b></p> <p>Edgar Levenson (1989) Whatever Happened to the Cat. Interpersonal Perspectives on the Self. Contemporary Psychoanalysis. 26:537-553.</p>
September 29, 2025	<p><b>Week 4</b></p> <p>Erhenberg, D. (1982) Psychoanalytic Engagement-the Transaction as Primary Data. 18, pp.535-555.</p> <p>Erhenberg, D. (1984) Psychoanalytic Engagement II-Affective Considerations. Contemporary Psychoanalysis. 20:560-582.</p>
October 6, 2025	<p><b>Week 5</b></p> <p>Mitchell, S. (1986) The Wings of Icarus. Contemporary Psychoanalysis; 22, pp.107-122.</p>
October 27, 2025	<p><b>Week 6</b></p> <p>Mitchell, S. (1988) Penelope's Loom. In Relational Concepts in Psychoanalysis. Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Mass.</p>
November 3, 2025	<p><b>Week 7</b></p> <p>Greenberg, J.(1986) Models of Neutrality. Contemporary Psychoanalysis. 22, pp. 107-132.</p>

November 10, 2025	<p><b>Week 8</b></p> <p>Davies, J and Frawley, M. (1992) Dissociative Processes and Transference-Countertransference Paradigms in the Psychoanalytic Treatment of Adult Survivors Of Childhood Sexual Abuse. <i>Psychoanalytic Dialogues</i>, 2(1) pp.5-36.</p>
November 17, 2025	<p><b>Week 9</b></p> <p>Bromberg, P. (1994) "Speak that I may see you"; Some reflections on Dissociation, reality and psychoanalytic listening. <i>Psychoanalytic Dialogues</i>, 4 pp. 517-547.</p>
November 17, 2025	<p><b>Week 10</b></p> <p>D. Stern (2004) The Eye Can See Itself. <i>Contemporary Psychoanalysis</i>, 4(2), pp. 197-137.</p> <p>Towards Integration: Kaufmann, Peter (2023) When Empathy Opens. <i>Psychoanalytic Perspectives</i>.</p>