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Abstract

"Working in a field perspective requires a radical change in our

approach to the therapeutic encounter. We need to focus on what is

called "the situation", and the concept of intentionality should take

on great importance. The personality-function of self often leads to

repetitive intentions through acts or meaning-making that prevent

contact with novelty. For this reason, gestalt therapists could

fruitlully 'go back' to the concept of intentionality, as prior to any

formation of conscious intent or agency. My assumption is that the

intentionality of one who is in presence of another person has to be

sought through affectivity, that is, through the way in which the

other is affected by the encounter. Far from any premature

differentiation or assignation of responsibility, unaware pre- or non-

conscious intentionality should be approached as it becomes more and

more aware, and available to new and provisional differentiations. As

a result of this proposed shift, some new ground is given to a

psychopathology of fore-contact. The therapist's self-revealing

receives new meanings."

Keywords: Gestalt-therapy, intentionality, fore-contact, situation,

experience, intuition, encounter, vague, confused, non-conscious,

unconscious, body.