

The Carter–Jenkins Center presents



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Autoerotism, Autoerotic Activities and Ego Development

by

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Heinz Kohut comments on this paper

- History
- Heinz Kohut comment on this article

Page of Kohut's Monograph were the reference above mentioned to this article appears (footnote 6)

the re-emergence from stages of lesser object differentiation—and the concomitant oscillation between the experience of preverbal tension states and verbalizable fantasies—will proceed in a task-oriented purposive atmosphere which encourages the maintenance of the autonomy of the observing and integrating part of the analysand's ego.⁴

But I shall not further pursue the comparison between the Kleinian theoretical and clinical outlook on psychopathology and the specific theoretical and clinical formulations suggested with regard to the narcissistic personality disorders. To undertake the task of drawing such a comparison in depth lies beyond the limits of this investigation since it would require the differentiating presentation of the psychopathology of paranoia and manic-depressive psychosis, on the one hand, and of the narcissistic personality disorders, on the other.⁵ Instead I shall round out the theoretical clarification of the concepts of the mirror transference and the idealizing transference against the background (1) of the progressive-regressive movements between (a) the stage of the body-self nuclei of the fragmented body self (autoerotism) and (b) the stage of the cohesive body self (narcissism),⁶ and (2) the correlated differentiation between (a) isolated psychological mechanisms and (b) the cohesive and structured total mind self.

The terms mirror transference and idealizing transference refer to the therapeutic activation not of isolated psycho-

⁴ The analysis of the aggressive component of the preobject-differentiation stage of psychological organization proceeds along similar lines; i.e., the phenomenon of "narcissistic rage," too, can be illuminated maturationally, developmentally, and in its later dynamic-economic significance if its maturationally appropriate, original purpose and significance are kept in mind.

⁵ The immediately following discussion of the differentiation between the functioning of isolated psychological mechanisms and the activity of cohesive psychological configurations is, however, not without some relevance with regard to the Kleinian theoretical system, which, in my opinion, tends to blur this important distinction.

In the present context see also the outline of the differential diagnosis between the psychoses and the narcissistic personality disorders in Chapter I.

⁶ See in this context the illuminating contribution by Nagera (1964).

Concept of Autoerotism and Autoerotic Activities are at the base of Freud's Sexual Theory

- Little attention received by these concepts**
- Other areas of confusion**
- Confusion about the meaning of the term object and
the two main reasons for it**

The concept of Autoerotism and Autoerotic Activities

- **Definitions**
- **History of these concepts in Freud's works**
- **The question of the development of the body image**
- **The firsts formulations on narcissism and its relation to the development of the body image and the concept of the self**

Narcissism and the body image

- The formulation of narcissism and its relation to the development of the body image
- Differences between the autoerotic activities of the narcissistic phase and those of the phase of autoerotism
- Freud's final views as stated in the Outline

Autoerotism, Primary Narcissism and Object Relations on the context of d Ego Development

- First type.: Phase of Autoerotism**
- Second type.: Phase of Primary Narcissism**
- Third type.: Phase of true Object Relations**
- Fourth Type.: Secondary Narcissism**

Summary

- **Brief Summary**

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ANY QUESTIONS?

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