

Working with clients with Interpersonal Dependency and Pathological Bonding Patterns (ID-PBP)

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They presenter's work. Please reference it if used. Thank you.

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Program

- •ID-PVP as a clinical and social problem.
- •Human Sociability and brain development.
- •Action Systems.
- Interpersonal dependency patterns and strategies in adults
- •Intervention with clients with ID-PBP

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Frequently overlooked cases

People that exhibit egosintonic PBP.

People whose PBP is masked by a DSM diagnosis

People who present symptoms only in when in couple and are stable when not in a relationship.

People who exhibit problems only in certain types of couples. Frequently have chosen compatible PBP types.

The avoidant types.

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ID-PBP as a clinical and social problem

Great subjective suffering in people messed up in disruptive relations and others that have given up on having a relationship.

Underlying feature or co-morbid in many emotional and mental disorders. Related to all five major symptoms clusters in psycho-emotional disorders (S-Seglert, 2006).

cPTSD: Pervasive difficulties in 3 areas: (1) self organization, (2) affect regulation and (3) relational security. ID-PBP related to all 3.

Directly related to major social problems as gender and domestic violence, including suicides and homicides.



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ID-PBP as a clinical and social problem

Great subjective suffering in people messed up in disruptive relations and others that have given up on having a (healthy) relationship.

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Infidelity...

- -First cause of relationship breakup (Medina, Colin and Martínez 2013).
- -Related to abuse, violence and murder (Tolosa 2016, Vera 2015).
- -Related to depression and anxiety (Cano y Leary 2000).

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We are highly dependent



We are the most social species on the planet.

Our sociability is based on emotions (empathic and psychopatic).

Emotions are closely related to brain development and maturation

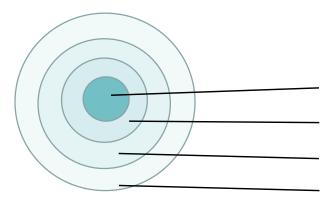
Interpersonal aspect is the most important in trauma.

Strongly related to beliefs about the world, others and myself.

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Intimacy levels

(Dunbar numberr = 150)





Intimate relations (3-5)

Close relations (10)

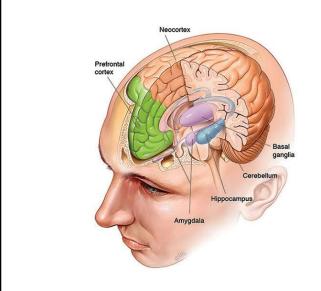
Frequent relations (35)

Social relations (100)

Ignacio Tamarit, José A. Cuesta, Robin I. M. Dunbar, y Angel Sánchez, 2018: Cognitive resource allocation determines the organization of personal networks. PNAS

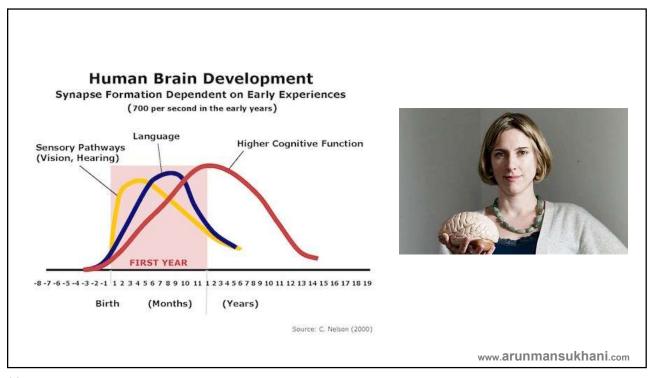


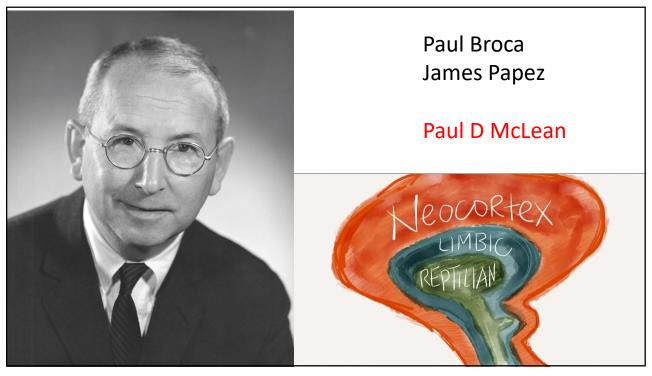
ACE affect brain structures

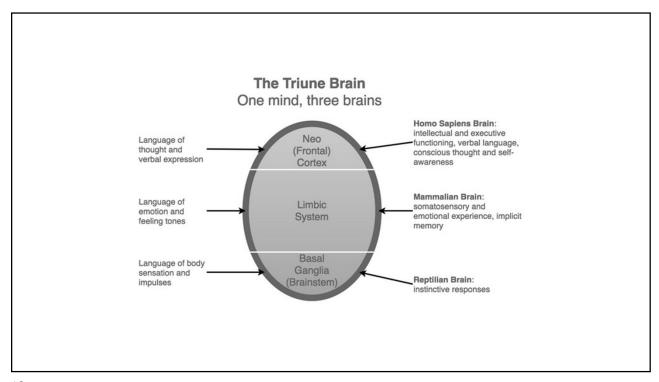


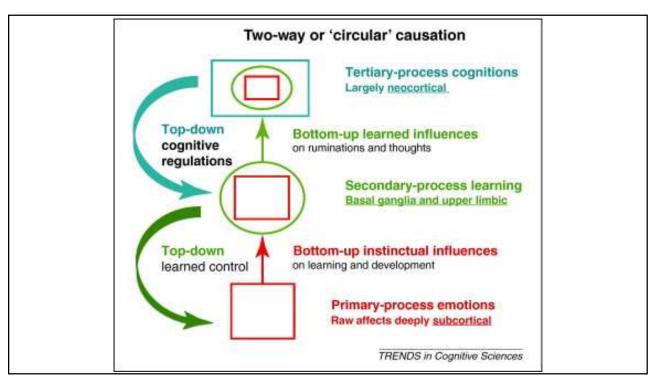
- Corpus Calllosum reduced area (deficient hemispheric integration).
- Abnormal Amygdala size (depending on type/time of abuse)
- Decrease in the size of the Hippocampus.
- PFC: vm PFC and dIPFC (reduction of myelin).

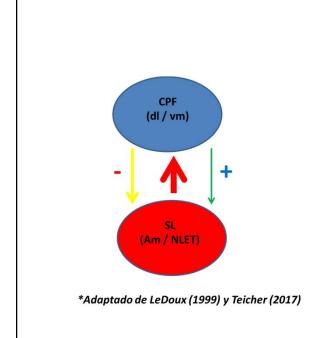
Martin Teicher 2017











- ☐ Loss of context information
- ☐ Problems in inhibiting (behaviours, memories, etc).
- ☐ Difficulties in up down inhibition of the amygdala: difficulties in emotional regulation.
- ☐ Dificulties with working memory and long term memory integration.

Thayer 2007, Bar 2009, Preston 2013, Liberzon 2016

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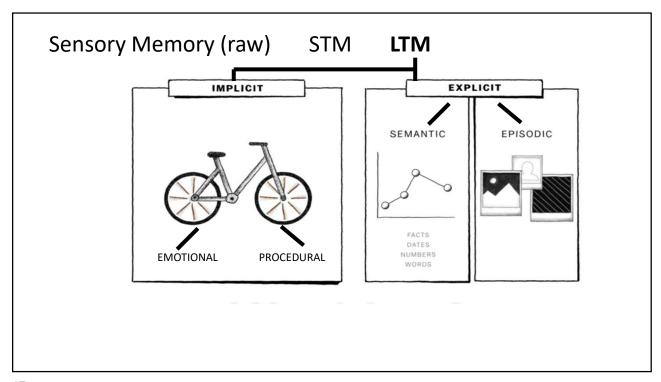
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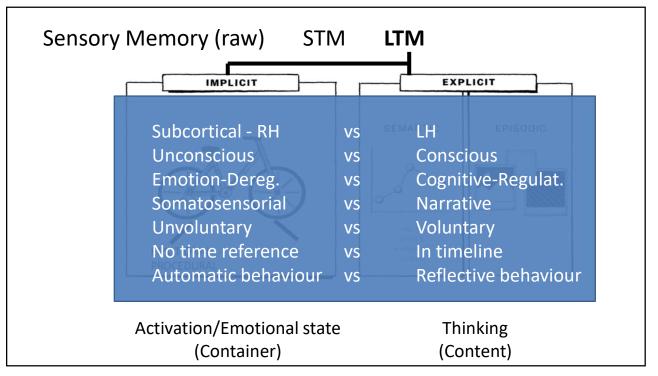
Control – Behavioral – Motivational – Action – Affective SYSTEMS

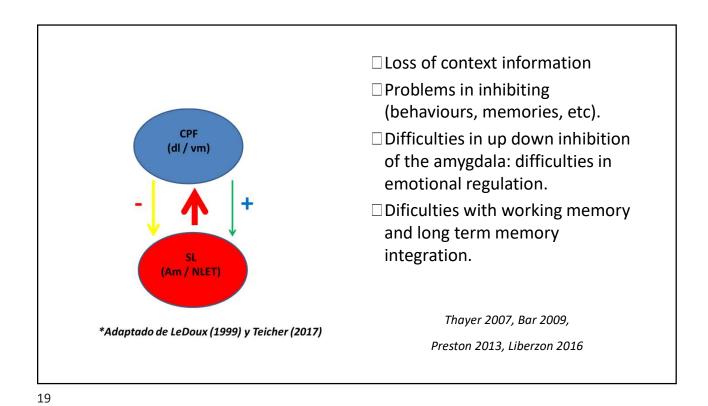
Biologically evolved neural programmes, universal and that organize some aspect of behaviour in a way that enhances survival or reproductive chances of an individual *Mikulincer & Shaver 2016.*

- Innate neural organizations (Steele 2016). They function as "automatic protocols" (Bargh 2018) that get activated and tend to homeostasis (Sapolsky 2017).
- Universal and linked to survival/reproduction through "emotional behaviours" (non volitive) (Panksepp 2012). Linked to Implicit memory.
- Flexible goal-oriented responses (*Bowlby 1969*): Goals are fixed, behaviours are acquired/modified through learning. They overlap and can over-compensate.
- In childhood they function as on/off (binary), gradually developing in the adult into sophisticated, differentiated, integrated and under cortical control responses.
 Under stress, they go back to binary functioning.

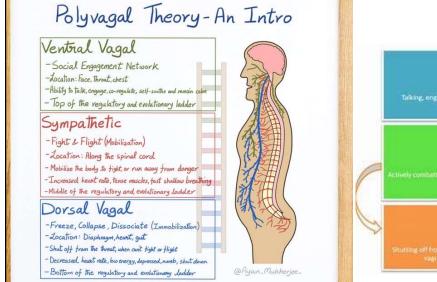
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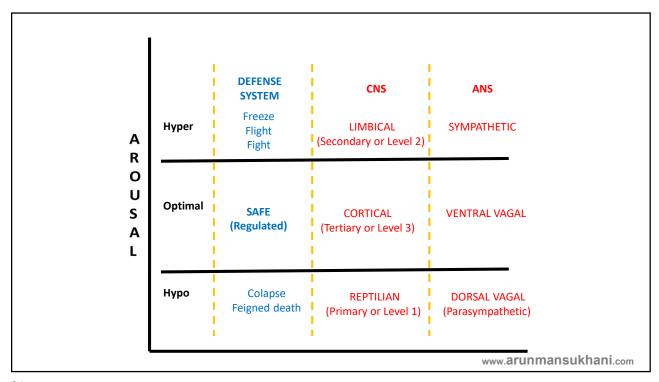
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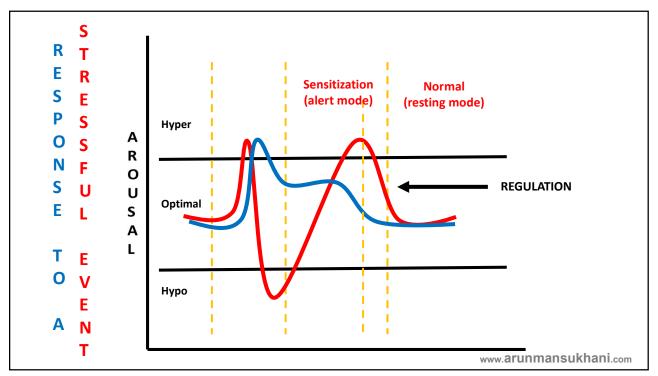


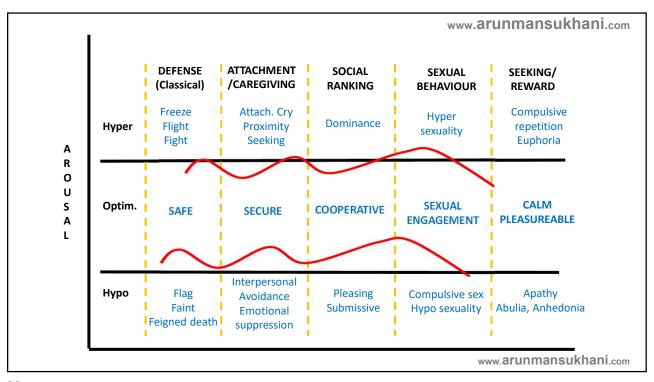
1 Social Engagement
Talking, engaging, co-regulating, self-soothing and calming to inhibit sympathetic-adrenal influence.

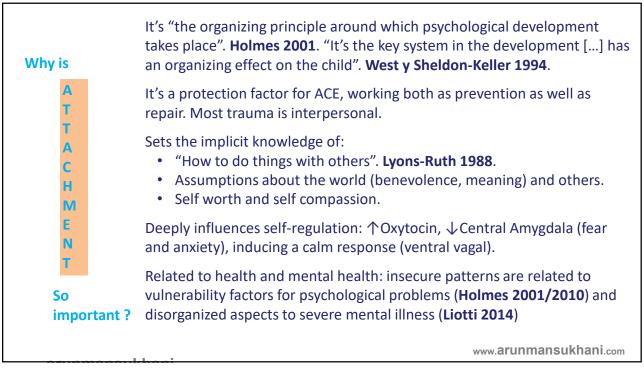
2 Mobilisation
Actively compating the stressor through engaging the SNS. Running, fighting or freezing. Turns of gut.

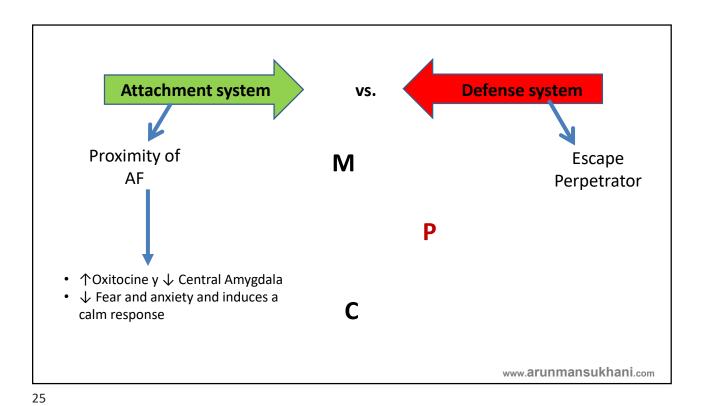
3 Immobilisation
Shutting off from the stressor and shutting down the body using the older vegits PNS. Distociation, collapse, passive avoidance.











Watch out for popular versión of attachment theory



- ▶ Maternocentric vision.
- Exclusive parental model: guilt and anxiety.
- ▶ Helicopter parents: mistakes anxious strategies with secure strategies
- ▶ Not much attention on autonomy.
- ▶ Don't pay attention to other systems.
- ▶ Doesn't take in account conflictive nature of relationships.
- ▶ Doesn't take in account rupture/reparation.
- ▶ Justification of present difficulties, not asuming personal capacity of change.

A few words about **Social Ranking System**

- Present in Social animals. Related to Sexual System. Correlates with cortex size (vmPFC, orbital PFC) and amygdala (Sapolsky 2017). Regulated by serotonin (Peterson 2018), testorterone (Panksepp 2012) and <u>oxytocin</u>.
- Intertwined frequently with attachment. Parent-offspring conflict theory: Children's demands vs parent's output (Trivers 1974). Parents are main Social Ranking Agents, forcing children to submissive or dominant positions: when children perceive "weak" parents.
 - Hyper activation without regulation. Higher anxiety levels, less self-regulation, more impulsive behaviors (Peterson 2018).
 - Regulation through Reactive and Displaced aggressive behavior ("stress induced displacement aggression", Card & Dahl 2011).
 - Anger at parents. Feedback loop with attachment.

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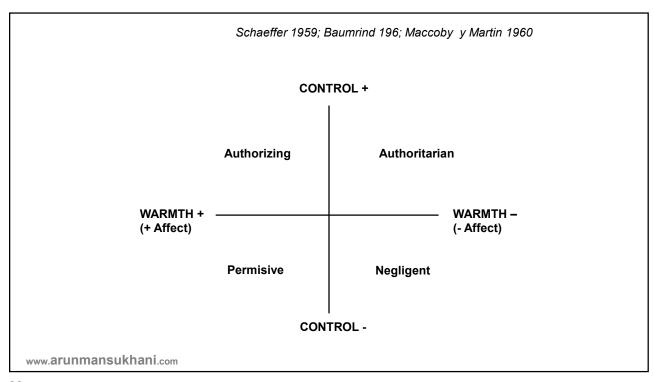
A few more words about Social Ranking System

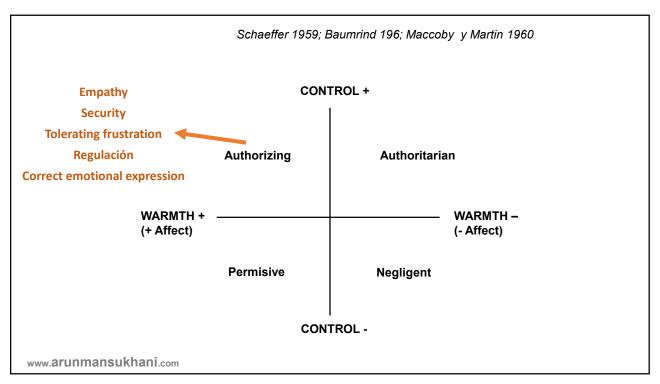
Individuals that perceive themselves as higher SES are/have (Piff et al, 2012):

- More self-focused pattern of social cognition and behavior (Krauss, Piff & Keltner, 2011).
- Less cognizant of others (Krauss, Piff & Keltner, 2009).
- Worse at assessing others emotional states (Krauss, Coté & Keltner, 2010).
- More disengaged during social interaction (Krauss & Keltner, 2009).
- Less generous and altruistic behavior (Piff et all, 2010).

Individuals that perceive themselves as los SES status have lower Self-concept (value and agency) and have more negative emotions.

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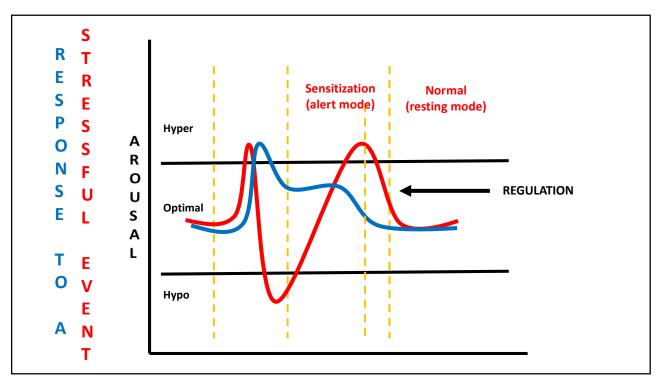
Sexual Behaviour System

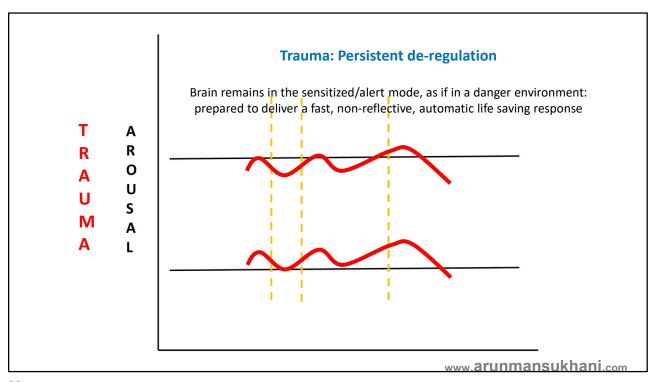
- Enhances reproductive success (Birnbaum 2006). Testosterone, Estrogens, Progesterone. Oxytocin and Vasopressin.
- Works closely with attachment and social ranking. Should be differentiated and integrated in adults.
- Sexual trauma from AF disorganizes this system, but not only.

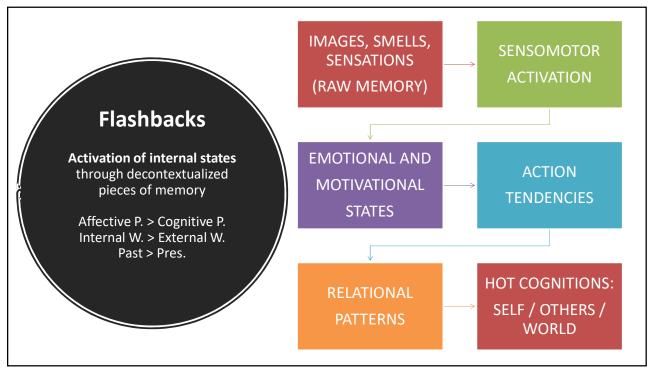
Seeking / Reward System

- Dopamine. Induces a state of excitement, curiosity, anticipatory eagerness.
- Homeostatic imbalances in other systems and negative affective states (inc. fear) de-regulate SRS (Panksepp 2012): Compensates trauma.
- Linked to addictive/compulsive states (hyper) and despair/learned helplessness (hypo). Makes small stimuli rewarding.
- Problems with self-care in hypo and hyper states.

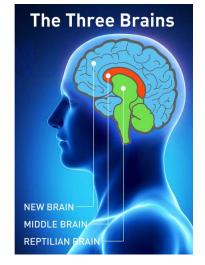
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In a post traumatic response, our NS:

fails to go back to homeostasis (optimal arousal levels) after activation (hyper/hypo) of one of the BA systems,

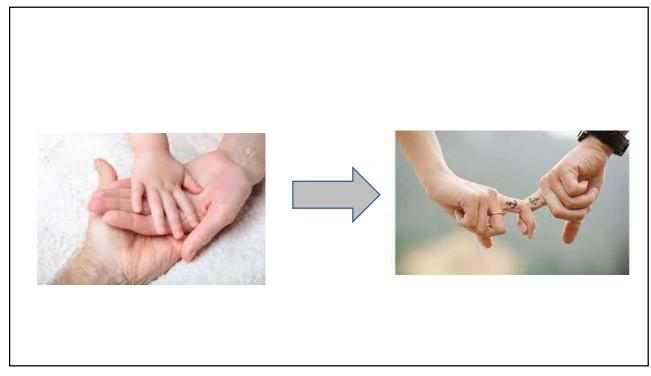
remaining in a sensitized mode that results in frequent deregulation and

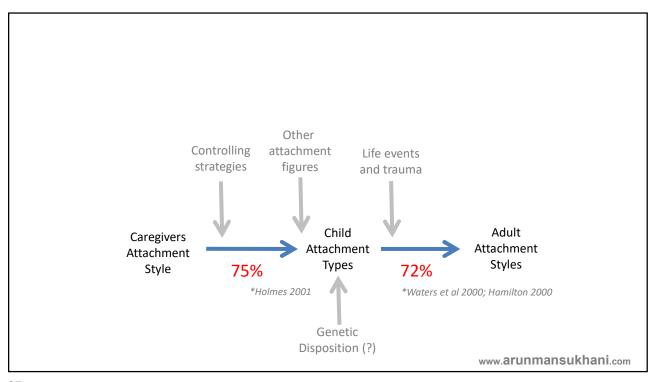
producing a stress response, not as much as a reaction to present threats, but to dysfunctional stored "memories" and internal cues (flashbacks).

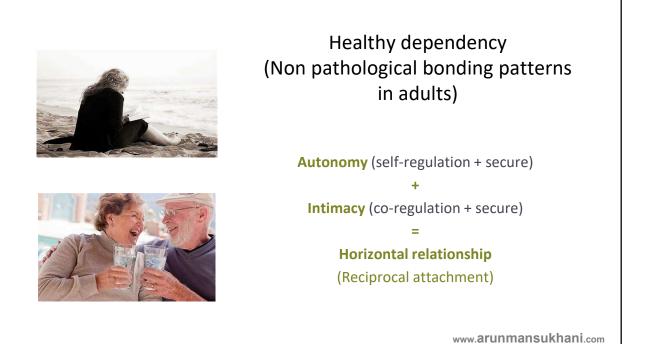
Implicit traumatic and non-traumatic memories are the core of psychopathology.

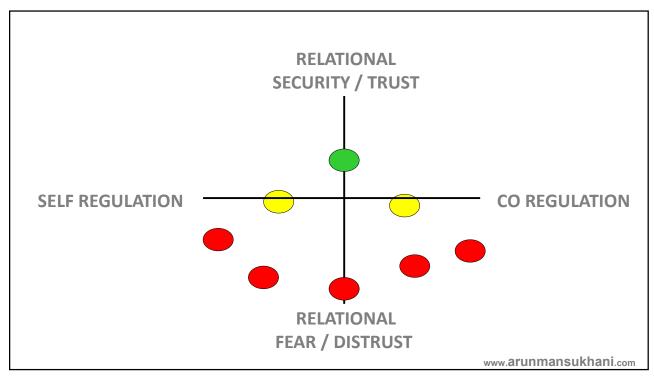
Hofmann and Hase 2012.

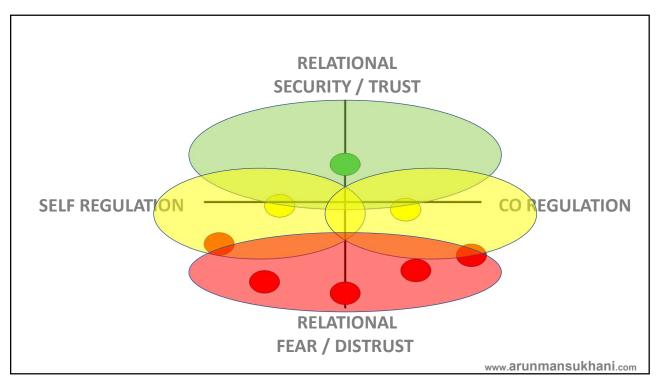
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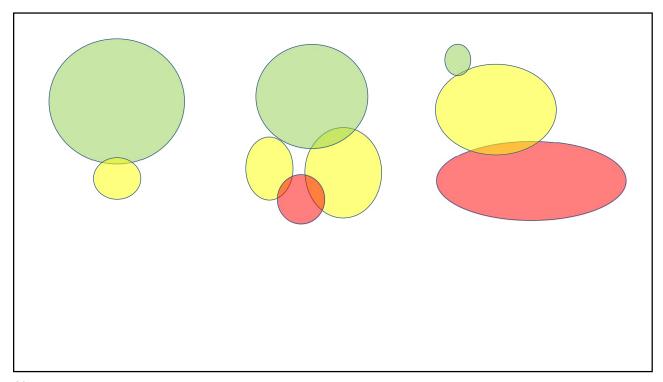


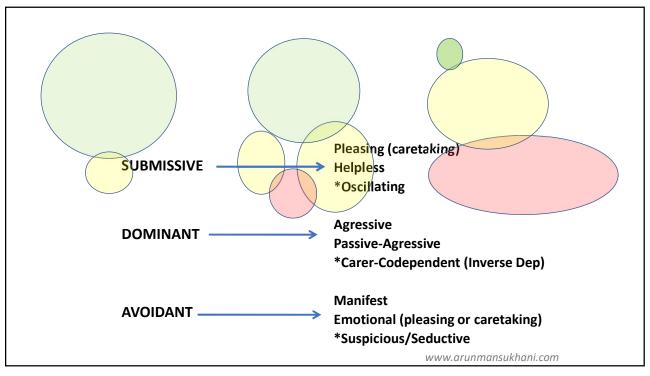






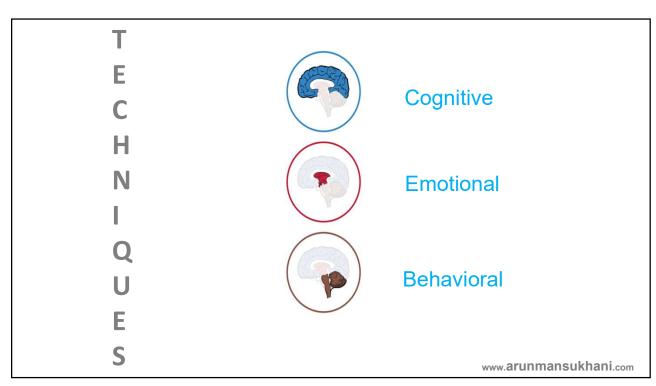






PBP	BASIC EMOTION	FEAR EXTERNAL	FEAR INTERNAL	SAFETY	BEHAVIOR
SUBMISSIVE	Anxiety	Abandoned Not valued Not noticed	Worthless Not lovable	Co-Re	Submit Please Care
DOMINANT	Fear, (Anger)	Rejected Hated Dominated	Abject Pitiful Damaged	Co-Re In control	Dominate Control Care
AVOIDANT	Sadness, (Distrust)	Controlled Invaded Loss of liberty	Sadness Loneliness Vulnerable	Auto-Re via supression	Rigid Detached Pleasing Care

Avoidant strategies (Hypo activation)	Anxious Strategies (Hyper activation)		
CNS: up-down – ANS: Dorsal vagal	CNS: down-up – ANS: Simp.		
Self regulation: Intimacy avoidance	Co-regulation: Solitude avoidance		
Emotional independence: Instrumental explanations of situations, relations and behaviors.	Emotional Dependence: Emotional attributions of situations, relations and behaviors.		
\downarrow Empathy (emotional). \uparrow Limits	\uparrow Empathy emotional \downarrow Limits		
↑ IW control: resources and change	个 EW resources: "slaves" to IW		
Control zone: Emotional and sensorimotor supression	Narrow WoT: frequente deregulation		



Phased intervention

- Fase 0: Reception and initial assesment.
- Fase 1: Stabilization (symptom reduction)
- Fase 2: Work with the inner world.
- Fase 3: Work with past (traumatic) memories.

Phase 0

Therapeutic relationship

"Therapy is an in-vitro experiment in intimacy" (Holmes 2010).

- Clients and therapists activate their damaged (?) attachment system
- The past that is being re-created is not therapist's but patient's:
 - Have worked on his/her attachment history. (Earned Secure Attachment, Mayn & Goldwyn, 1984; Hess 2008).
 - Ba a **Safe Base** for the patient (Johnson 2016).
 - An **interactive co-regulator**: capacity of being in relational mindfulness.
- Treat them as **capable adults**: adopt a **collaborative stance** more than attachment based interaction (Liotti). Ask, explain, give options, implicate, participate.
- Validate client's worldview/strategies before challenging them (costs).
- Understand the importance of **enactments** and handle them.

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Phase 0: Enactments – Relational Flashbacks

- -Situations were the therapist reacts as someone in the client's past (or vice versa) entering in a negative relational dynamic: **past intrudes the present <u>during session</u>**.
- -Very frequent in complex cases. Can be very **subtle. 2 types**:
 - 1. Client's wound has accidentally been touched, activating pain and defensive strategies (client and/or therapist), dragging the therapists into a negative interaction and responding emotionally.
 - 2. Client relates to therapist through his strategy: pleasing, need to be rescued, seeking childlike affectivity, idealizing the therapist... And the therapist corresponds with a complementary strategy.
- -Represent ruptures in the therapeutic relation: an excellent chance for repair.
- -Reacting authentically, with "non-defensive recognition" (Holmes, 2010). Can be the beginning of therapeutic change and the first chance the patient has of experimenting a healthy and adult relationship.

Phase 0: Working with Enactments

- Realize that an enactment is happening. Be non-reactive; stay in MF.
- Speak carefully but openly and explore:
 - What just happened, the system, including the therapist.
 - Focus on present. Go from the content to the relational dynamic.
 - Admit possible mistakes (non-defensive recognition) related to therapist's internal dynamics. Express the therapists "soft" feelings.
 - Help client understand and express their "soft" feelings.
 - Look for solutions: How can we solve this? / what can we learn from this?

(... only if all is moving smoothly, otherwise, leave for the next session)

- Try and connect with past situations/people where the person felt the same: targets.
- Don't question the therapeutic bond, especially at this point.

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Phase 1

IDENTIFY and help client BE AWARE:

- ▶ Present stress factors, conflicts... triggers: past intruding the present.
- ▶ Flashbacks (much more than just intrusive images).
- ▶ Capacity of DF: numbing, response latency, difficulties articulating.
- ▶ Regulation capacity and resources.
- ▶ Repetitive defensive strategies.
- ▶ Disorganized strategies. Overlapping/overcompensating of systems.
- ▶ References to the past and out of place words.
- ▶ Basic assumptions about self, world and others (Janoff-Bulman 1992).
- ▶ NC that start appearing. Pay attention to the "reverse NC", typical of the Defensive strategies.
- ▶ Present life objective conditions: <u>better if they contradict the NC</u>. Easier to change a behavior than a cognition (Festinger 1957).
- ▶ What will change if they assume their past? Are they prepared?

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Phase 1

Most relevant phase in complex cases, with 3 main objectives, needed in daily life or at least in sessions:

- Stability: Emotional regulation. Capacity of self-soothing.
- Relational **Security**. Start feeling safe enough to explore insecurity (Holmes 2010).
- **Understanding**: Start connecting present issues and symptoms with:
 - 1. Internal emotional states.
 - 2. Past events, that are the cause of those states.

that will help working with the past make sense to the client.

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Phase 1

working towards stability, security and understanding

- 1. Therapeutic **relationship**-Enactments.
- 2. Regulation:
 - -Behavioral: Self-care and addictions (Primary Regulation).
 - **-Emotional**: Self-soothing and gradual exposition (Secondary Regulation).
 - -Cognitive: Psychoeducation (Tertiary Regulation).
- 3. Detect and understand **defence mechanisms (interpersonal strategies)** and turn them into resources that the adult self can use at will.
- 4. Improving internal dynamics: Inner adult.
- 5. Positive affect tolerance.
- 6. Work with **present interpersonal conflicts and help connect to the past**. Present conflicts are due to repetitive patterns and are connected to the client's past.

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Phase 1: Behavioral (primary) regulation – self care

Clients lack these abilities due to very negative self-perceptions (don't deserve), addictive (short term) strategies and negative internal dynamics:

- · Reduce stress:
 - Help create self-care routines: sleep, food... (William James).
 - Addictions and bad habits. Energetic levels (Pierre Janet).
- Pleasure-Growth activities: hedonic, eudaimonic and met goals.
- Limits (own/ others). Learn to look for and ask for help, care, etc.
- Detect dangerous places / people.

Use RDI and future templates (near and far). Create positive networks.

Self care will lead to self acceptance and self compassion: it will help process past later on. Easier if clients' present contradicts their NC.

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Phase 1

Emotional (secondary) regulation

- Emotional regulation techniques.
- Present Orientation techniques and Calm state.
- Differentiate intense memories from "going back there".
- Help identify flashbacks. Make them put words.
- Help notice self soothing strategies, turn them into resources.
- Help realize defensive strategies/emotions and emotions beneath. Help articulate:

Defense – Cost – Wound

- As they start connecting to the past, help put in timeline.
- Adjust rhythm during sessions to gradually expose to disturbing material – Widen the WoT

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Phase 1

Cognitive (tertiary) regulation: Psychoeducation and understanding

Talk openly about their **fears and doubts** about therapy and therapist.

Should be **short** and in the "**proximal development zone**":

Attachment, Action Systems, Functions of Guilt (3 types), attachment to perpetrators, emotional parts, Introjection, Trauma and self, sexual response during sexual abuse, etc...

Understand how past is blocked and at the same time Past=Present:

- Past emotion, sensations, relational dynamics become present.
- Present responsibility attribution is passed on to the past.

Trying to leave your past out actually makes it intrude not consciously.

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Phase 1: Addictions (Seeking/reward system)

Can be used with any behaviour that follows an addictive pattern

(Short T benefits > Mid/Long T costs)

- Worst fear: Flashforward (Logie & De Jong 2015). Attachment system.
- Addiction free future (DeTur-Popky 2007).
- Positive moments idealization (Knipe 2008).
- "Feeling state" (Miller 2016).
- Triggers ("Urge"; DeTur-Popky 2007). "Craving" (Cravex-Hase 2010).
- Specific resources.
- Specific past: previous triggers, previous relapses, dependency onset, etc.

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Phase 1: Social Ranking System or dominant behaviours

- Dominant behaviours due to hyper activation without regulation:
 - Help Create/Reinforce the Inner adult. Teach self-regulation techniques. Use RDI and future templates.
 - Work as displaced aggression (addictive behavior).
 - Work with the idea of loss of control:
 - Loss of control is really control taken over by another part of the self.
 - Understand that part and needs. Needs are legitimate but not the means:
 - Where did you learn that this behaviour was valid? Process these situations (cognitions related to regulation, being capable, etc).
 - Help connect with the "soft" emotion under the "hard" emotion.
- Other option: work as with defences.

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Phase 1

Sexual System

Frequently enmeshed with: **Defense** (disgust), **Attachment** (to the perpetrator or lack of attention-protection), **Social Ranking** and **Seeking/Reward**.

Shame: In CSA, especially when perpetraded by AF, NC of guilt/shame can be very difficult to manage (therapist worsens) being frequently a blocking point in therapy and in occassions creating a very strong sense of being bad/worthless:

- I am damaged because this happened to me.
- It happened to me because of what I am.
- It's not what happened, it's what I am

This will create frequent blocks in future processing. **Psychoeducation** in phase 1 (that later will be used in cognitive interweaves) is very important: Attachment to perpetrator, excitement, sexualizing relations, re-traumatizing relations, dissociative features, etc.

What changes in the client's life if he/she accepts what happened?

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Phase 2

Present conflicts with couples

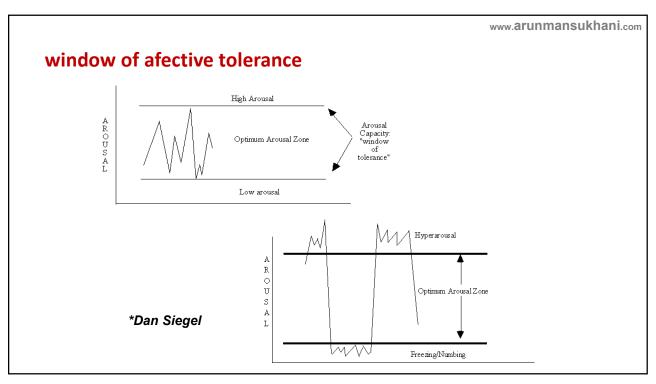
The objectives: improve co-regulation and safety.

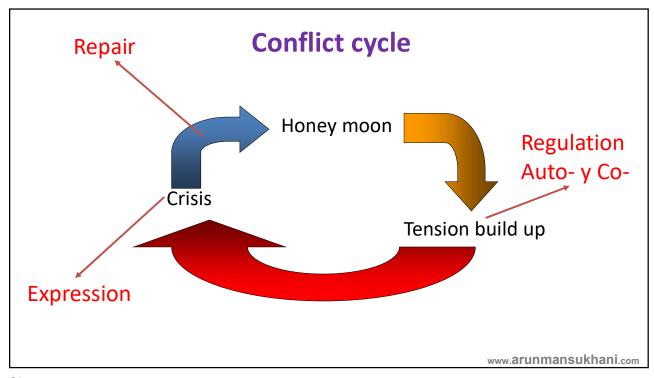
- Restore safety and auto and co-regulation: Tolerance window.
- Techniques to promote co-regulation in sessions.
- Improve Communication and interaction patterns.
- Positive and negative affect tolerance.
- Conflict Reduction Relapse prescription.
- Work in limits
- Conflict analysis: conflict as a window to another type of relationship.
- Work with specific problems: sexual (sex as re-traumatization).

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Phase 1

Present conflicts with children

- **1. Reinforce** them as sensitive and implicated parents.
- 2. Start with the main attachment figure:
 - 1. Feelings as child misbehaves. When did they feel this before?
 - 2. Help them see we can't function well in the present when past is being activated. **Suggest we work with their emotions** to help the child.
 - 3. Work the **present** (reduces activation and helps open up the attachment system) or help them **connect with the past**
- 3. Other option: Help them talk about their **expectations** as parents: Uncover **idealization**. It's the opposite normally of their own childhood (what was lacking: compensation fantasy).

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Phase 2

Positive affect tolerance (Andrew Leeds 2011)

In some cases, start with positive affect tolerance, before going to negative affect tolerance. It has to do with trusting others and being deserving; It will promote self compassion and self care, that will help later processing.

Difficulties that may arise...

- Be evocative because it was not previously received connecting with the feeling of being seen, of not deserving... Impostor syndrome
- It can evoke strong self-criticisism or de-stabilize the inner world.
- It may connect with fear of being hurt (or ridiculed) because of past experiences.
- Mistrust, because people that treated me well in the past hurt me.
- Fear of hope, because hope makes me vulnerable.

...will help us connect to the client's life story

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Phase 1: Work with Defenses (Interpersonal Strategies)

- Help increase awareness (and volitional control). Understand the need beneath.
- Re-label as interpersonal strategies (learned patterns of response). Praise and
 appreciate this strategy/part. We don't want to get rid of them, we want to turn
 them into resources (conscious and under volitional control of the adult)
- Understand the function, the need, the cost. Work with the strategy, not against it



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Work with Defenses (Interpersonal Strategies) Phase 1 **Triggers** and create new strategies in present. 3 Go to the wound Connect with the cost and (attachment): process: -where did you -I have to be perfect / I can fail learn that...? (and they won't stop loving -If you were not me) perfect, what -I can't trust / I can learn when would that say (or who) to trust. about you? -I have to control / I can learn to leg go. www.arunmansukhani.com

Traumatic experiences or early assumption of responsibilities/care (one's own or others) interfere with development of **healthy adult** or develop "false adults".

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Childlike emotional "False adult" states states

- "False adult" states behave as adults but are rigid, non-regulating, counter-phobic, perfectionist, tired, angry, disappointed... Represent the child's efforts to adapt to external demands. May be felt as a **thin fuctionality cloak** (impostor síndrome, etc).
- Adult states, like other, are **not a continous state**, but intermitent. When more present, they **calm and regulate** the child, adolescent and false adult states.

Phase 2: Inner Adult State

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Phase 2:

Developing + Strengthning

The Adult State

Characteristics of the Inner Adult state (<u>remember</u>: not a constant state):

- -Self sooth, calm others, open to be regulated. Has resources.
- -In touch with own needs and emphatic.
- -In touch with own emotions, can sustain others emotions.
- -Compassive and self compassive.
- -Self reinforcing and reinforcing of others. Open to positive affect.
- -Capable of self-care, caring for others and being cared for.
- -Capable of setting limits for others and for oneself.
- -Behaves as adult with other adults and with children.
- Make aware, reinforce and/or install when appears spontaneously.
- Use specific techniques to install Inner adult.
- Work with the inner child, "loving eyes protocol" (Knipe 2008).

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Phase 2: Working with the Inner World

- Contradictory behaviour
- Contra volitional behavior.
- Low Self Esteem.
- Under developed adult
- Strong emotiona reactions (EP).
- Dissociative features
- Structural Dissociation

- DBT-Linehan (1993).
- Hipnosis-Livingstone (2006).
- Voices-Ross (2000); Ross and Mosquera (2019).
- IFS- Schwartz (1995).
- Schema Therapy (2003).
- Structural Dissociation-Van der Hart (2005).
- Ego State Therapy-Forgash y Copeley (2008).
- Progressive Approach-Gonzlz y Mosq (2012).

Phase 2: Working with the Inner World

Resource

Defense

Emotional state

ΕP

Structural Dissociation

- Conscious / Unconscious
- Flexible / Rigid
- Volitional control / Automatic
- Present orientation / Past orientation
- Adaptative / Unadaptative
- Regulated / Unregulated
- Amnesia and mental autonomy
- Related to the self and identification
- Executive control.

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Phase 2: Working with the Inner World

Daily life parts: Social, functional, "manager" parts (Scwhartz 1995; Forgash y Knipe, 2015). ANP. (V. der Hart et al, 2006).

Emotional parts:

- Defensive:
 - Dependent parts: clingy, needy, demanding, etc.
 - Avoidant, addictive, hippie or Budha parts.
 - IW controlling: avoid showing weaknes, vulnerability...
 - EW controlling parts: aggressive, strong...
- **Disorganized**: Defensive, but with self destructive behaviours.
- Wounded parts, "Basic Fault" (Balint 1979). Fixated on past/trauma. Vulnerable, weak...

Phase 2: Working with the Inner World

Although parts vary in the needs they want to fulfill and the behaviours they consider fit to meet those needs...

- They can evolve, if they find new ways of meeting needs.
- They Will calm down as adult state strengthens.
- They all have the same final objective.
- Strenghten adult state.
- Present orientarion Shared awareness, co-consciousness.
- Understanding (function), compassion.
- Acknowledgment and Identification.
- Integration

Static phase: Descriptive,

Psychoeducation.

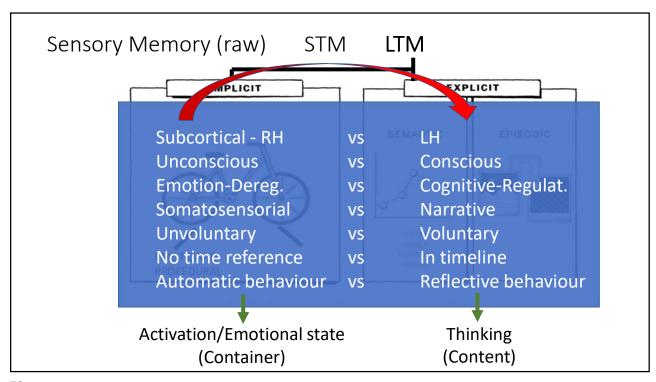
Dynamic Phase (symbolic): Drawings, Inner child, dissociative table, etc...

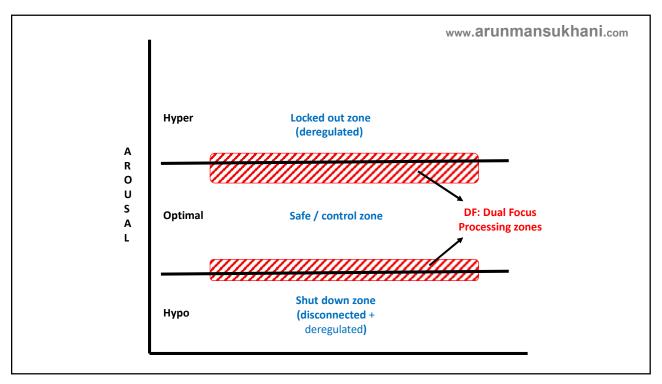
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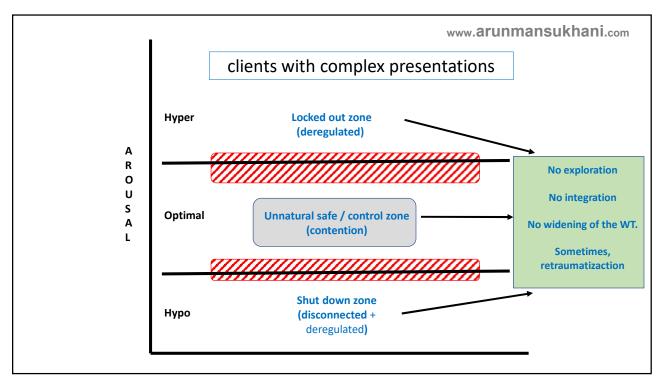
Phase 3: Working with memories - Processing

- ACT
 - S. C. Hayes (2004)
- EMDR
 - F. Shapiro (2001).
- FOCUSSING
 - E. T. Gendling (2001).
- SOMATIC EXPERIENCING
 - P. Levine (1997).
- SENSORIOMOTOR PSYCHOTHERAPY
 - P. Ogden y K. Minton (2000).

- MBP
- MBSR
- MBCT
- ACT
- MBPP
- Etc.







Inter-subjective field

- Originally proposed by H. S. Sullivan (1892-1949), More recently by Daniel Siegel.
- Based on Porges and co-regulación.
- Experimental support in recent years with investigations about brain synchronization (Dikker 2017; Pérez 2017).
- Relational mindfulness leads to personal mindfulness
- Enhances:
- 1. Attention and cognitive flexibility (Moore y Malinowski 2009)
- 2. Enhances experience integration (Schore 2014).
- 3. Improves personal integration and self-compassion (Campos et al 2016).

Phase 3: Working with memories - Processing

Phase 3: Exposure rhythm during sessions

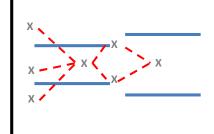
Phase oriented treatment:

- Stabilization and symptom reduction
- Memory processing
- Integration and rehabilitation

In each session:

- Regulation: help to be inside the window of tolerance.
- Processing (taking the person to the limits of the WT)
- Installation and orientation to external life.

- Capable of managing activation.
- Insight and understanding.
- Adult as a secure base.
- Corrective attachment experience (being regulated by someone).



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