

REFLECTIONS ON THE PAPER SUPERVISION OF SUPERVISION (3)

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Dear Mirjana,

I send you herein a few reflections on your paper on supervision of supervisors.

I think that there are different levels of understanding in your paper, which may be interesting to classify through the concept of "spaces of subjectivity" (from J.Puget, and René Kaès) as intrasubjectivity, intersubjectivity and transsubjectivity.

I understand trans-subjectivity through the idea of the unconscious "common" use of an external container by many persons; it is a "depository" context or frame where the more undefined and less mature aspects of each person belonging to a group, community or an institution are deposited. (Bleger)

This shared link to common depositories "returns" to each participant a sense of belonging to a supervision group and to "group analysis" as an institution. "Belonging" to circumstantial contexts and to those such as the fam-

ily which are constitutive of oneself, is unavoidable.

In your intrapsychic space, we find the internal relation to your familiar objects of identification being represented, as you very nicely explain in your paper using specific words (mirror and black laces), but also your "internal supervisor", which I understand as your ethical position in relation to different aspects of your life and professional identifications, etc., which (when in the presence of others) appear to the group as your personal style as a leader, and which your supervised group "mirrors", reflects and returns to you as your place and function inside it.

Your paper refers to your learning of this role as supervisor in the intersubjective value that is given by your group members, with an enlargement to a potential larger depository, which is the supervision of a supervisors' group.

I think this idea of spaces may help organize the interesting levels of what

is called a "parallel process" and the movements which bring you to your "insight" through different settings.

Your "internal supervisor" is your own professional way of organizing ethical positions about power and gender, acquired in your life experience. I can say that your existential mirror identification with your grandmother is completed by the dream of your supervised colleague who dreams of you as a married woman, a way to send you to your couple representation and the place of masculinity in the image she has from you (as well as her own, of course).

In this trans-subjective scenario, there are "common and shared" (Kaes) representations of symbolic objects and also a concrete common depositary which is the institution of "supervision of the supervision group"; your quotations of multiple authors which sometimes have contradictory ideas provide very different ways to approach the situation, place and function of a supervisor and several ways in which this can be conceptualized. But what you have chosen to show in your paper is what I may call your own ideal (or moral ideology) in relation to the trans-subjective power which is given by institutional hierarchies of "superior vision". In this sense, I agree with you that your position as supervisor has to be prudently equilibrated, (what I have

called a "modest omnipotence"), to accept the relativity of our "power" in this difficult work.

I perceive that your passionate motivation is the transmission of your curiosity about the incognita of the unconscious and sharing the value of "parallel processes" in bringing up and structuring personal insight, thus returning to the conceptual separation of the three "spaces of subjectivity", which can facilitate thinking some group situations.

The "trans-subjective" depositary institutions in a concrete and symbolic sense, contain the never-ending personal intrapsychic and intersubjective development of each member's personality, but there is also a certain risk of imposing a too "super" normative vision which, to the contrary, may arrest development!

Accepting to be a "supervisor", to see what this is about for oneself and for others, has to be taken very seriously and, at the same time, not overly seriously! Perhaps the significance of a "supervision of supervisors" group is to share experience and learning in a common ground, having the courage to express and to share our own different cultural background and opinions, without, as much as possible, imposing or expecting normativity from others.



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