

Jessica Benjamin: recognition and destruction: An Outline of Intersubjectivity,
From LIKE SUBJECTS, LOVE OBJECTS, P 27-48

1. What commonality of ideas converged among psychoanalytic schools seeking to reformulate relational theories of self, and what inevitable problem emerged for each of them?
2. What does the term intersubjectivity mean? How does the meeting of two subjects differ from the meeting of a subject and an object?
3. Winnicott formulated the distinction between the other perceived as outside the self and the other other perceived subjectively. How is this difference crucial for relational psychoanalysis in creating two categories of experience, and what are those categories?
4. Why does intersubjective theory postulate that the other must be recognized as another subject?
5. What does Benjamin speculate is the largest effect of the denial of the mother's subjectivity?
6. Benjamin criticizes separation individual theory as inadequate or incomplete for understanding the child's development. What does she speculate is the main element left out of consideration? What does she mean by the infantocentric viewpoint, and how is that a hinderance to our understanding?
7. What effect does Benjamin see as attributable to Kohut's limited and defined focus in his theory of empathy?
8. What is the distinction drawn by Benjamin, based on her knowledge of infant researchers, especially Daniel Stern, between mutual influence, and mutual recognition? What capacities have to be in place for the latter to come into being in the infant? How does this capacity relate to intersubjectivity? What does she mean by concrete affective sharing? How does an awareness of inner experience manifest, and what does it show? What is the mother actually experiencing?
9. Contrasting intersubjectivity and separation individuation, what meanings are attributed by Mahler as opposed to Benjamin in Mahler's differentiation and practicing sub phases?
10. How does Benjamin see the differences between Mahler's focus on separation during this period, and her own focus on connection?
11. Benjamin compares Hegel's notion of the conflict between independence and dependence and the classical psychoanalytic view of the self's need for omnipotence. How are they alike? What is the fundamental paradox of recognition here?
12. How does Benjamin's intersubjective theory conceive of resolution in Mahler's rapprochement subphase conflict, as opposed to Mahler's resolution. Why is Mahler's an inadequate solution, from Benjamin's perspective?
13. What is Benjamin's paradox? How does Winnicott's distinction between relating and using provide a solution to this paradox?
14. How is internalization a problem in psychoanalytic theory according to Benjamin? What has been left out? And what is beyond internalization that makes it valuable?
15. What is the developmental trajectory of intersubjective relatedness as traced by Benjamin?
16. Describe complementarity.
17. Compare the subject/object world of intrapsychic theory with mutuality. What role does complementarity play in its achievement?
18. If from a two person perspective aggression is an essential concept because the clash of two wills is inherent in subject-subject relations, how is aggression then accounted for?
19. How can intersubjective theory reconcile both mutual recognition and a "normalized" breakdown?

Jessica Benjamin. Introduction;: recognition, intersubjectivity, and the Third, p 1-8

1. Compare intrasubjective and intersubjective, and intrapsychic relating and intersubjective relating.
2. How does Benjamin begin to approach her introduction to the Third? What is meant by the position of the Third?
3. How does intersubjectivity dethrone the all-knowing analyst?
4. What are the two meanings Benjamin gives to her concept of recognition?
5. What does Benjamin mean by "doing" May be with or to?
6. Describe Benjamin's metaphor of the dance as applied to the Third
7. Does intersubjectivity replace intrapsychic in Benjamin's theory?
8. Describe acknowledgement and the lawful world
9. How does Benjamin formulate repairing the third?

