

The International Rippling of Trauma in Family Court

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I'm reviewing the ethics code for Scandinavian psychologists. I'll be posting my commentary regarding it to my blog. I meandered off track, so I edited out a section where I talked about trans-generational rippling trauma across most areas of the globe. It's true and interesting, just not directly relevant to Scandinavia, although it is.

It also has relevance, though, to all international psychology associations, we are the ones with the professional responsibility to be awake from the rippling transmission of trauma, and to stop it, heal it, in the process of its transmission. Damaged empathy. That's the symptom of unresolved trauma... damaged empathy. That's where some serious self-reflection by court-involved psychology needs to occur. Where is your empathy - normal-range human empathy - for the suffering of these parents?

You've taken their kids away, my goodness gracious, at least give them some grief counseling. Holy cow, normal human empathy. The cruelty is phenomenal. That is the most striking thing for me. The absence of empathy from professional psychology to your suffering. Simply utterly astonishing.

It's trauma. Unresolved trauma. Damaged empathy. They don't know it. They're living in the trauma, passing it on, brutalizing without empathy and compassion. Lost your kid? Ah, gee, too bad. Next.

Professional psychology? Really? Where is empathy? You know, that Carl Rogers guy... empathy and basic human compassion for human suffering. Please.

It's because of trauma. The trans-generational transmission of trauma. Here's my edited out section:

In my professional view to my professional colleagues - as psychologists - it is the ripple of trans-generational trauma. In Europe, it is the trans-generational transmission of World War traumas - two, back-to-back. Massive psychological trauma throughout Europe from 1914 til 1946.

The war ends. All of Europe has been psychologically brutalized, exhausted, and traumatized. What we are witnessing in your response to children and families in the court system is a brutal disregard for suffering. The ripple of trauma. Where is your empathy - fundamental human empathy - for the grief and loss of the targeted parent? They have had their child taken from them. Their grief and loss are immense - just like the grief and loss of all Europe from savage World Wars. Psychologists - European psychologists - where is your empathy for these parents in their grief and loss?

The trans-generational transmission of trauma... loss... in the parent-child relationship. It's an awakening from the trauma-dream ourselves, from our transference. Professional psychology has been part of the transference, the trans-generational transmission of trauma, the ripple of unresolved trauma. We need to be the first to awaken.

I'm old. I'm a product of that ripple, of lynching of blacks in the South, of world wars, of the brutality of colonialism. I was born in 1955. The Eisenhower years of "let's all ignore the absolute hell of the World Wars we've just experienced and pretend everything is okay" - la-la-la, everything is wonderful with my new washer-and-dryer... Luuuucy! ha-ha-ha, isn't Milton Berle funny.

This was followed by a trauma backlash explosion of authenticity in children, the 60s and 70s. Authenticity fragmented structure seeking its truth. This search for true intimacy led to a fragmentation of family, as authenticity reorganized intimacy. We are continuing this reorganization of intimacy by authenticity even into our current dialogue surrounding gender self-identity, authenticity organizing intimacy, a search for the truth of self-authenticity.

Starting in the 80s, we're faced with a trauma-ripple in damaged intimacy, evidenced in divorce and fractured families. Damaged empathy rippling across generations... in the family. The conflicts of unresolved trauma emerged within our family courts in the 80s to 00s - "high conflict divorce" they are called. Unresolved trauma in the family.

As we struggle to find solutions, our own struggles carry our own unresolved trauma, the brutalization to our empathy - the rippling brutalization from our parents, and their parents before them. Rippling trauma... rippling unresolved grief and loss. Rippling damaged empathy.

Where is your empathy for these parents who have lost their children? Where is your empathy for their grief and loss? Damaged empathy, unresolved trauma.

The trans-generational transmission of trauma. In Europe, it's the world wars. Russia also has Stalin - massive unresolved grief and loss rippling there. Africa, South America, and much of Southeast Asia are rippling the savage brutality of colonialism. China has its own history of internal trauma, most recently in the Cultural Revolution of Mao.

Japan is interesting. Japan's processing of their internal bushido trauma and World War II trauma is complex. I've been attending somewhat. They're not handling it well, but they are handling it. It's being processed in a complex way, with a lot of pain and growth.

I worry about India. A lot. Love the Indian people and culture, very warm. The trauma there is substantial, and it's more primal in its sexual violence. The Islamic trauma is of deep professional concern, it too is gender oriented, which is troubling. It's the sexualized violence that creates the malevolent and sadistic line to the rippling trauma.

In the United States, we're rippling everyone's trauma, because we're a nation of the refuse immigrants - the most traumatized - from all other nations, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. We are born of the people from trauma from everywhere, and we're also rippling the nightmare trauma from European monarchy and aristocracy. That ripple is our genocide of the first nations.

Look to the French Revolution, the Terror, and the Great Terror, for the explosive ripple of that trauma - monarchy and aristocracy trauma. We started the French

Revolution, the United States did. Our revolution throwing off the monarchy trauma into an increased freedom and authenticity in self-expression triggered the same ripple back into its origins of trauma. Boing - bounce-back to the continent of birth.

The French didn't handle it well. Robespierre. The English are nutty. They are still within its grasp. They still have an active monarchy. Italy, do you have a King of Italy? Germany, any Queen of Germany anymore, no more Hapsburgs or anything? No? Anyone, any royal dynasties anywhere anymore? Couple, okay. Kind of like holding on to old pictures of the family. Not really active government.

Feudalism was not pleasant. Monarchies and aristocracies were extremely traumatic. Better than the Mongol hoard I suppose, but questionably better. Pick a time, pick a monarchy, it's nasty-nasty to be a normal peasant person, lots and lots of trauma everywhere... everywhere. The king and dukes, yay. Every other human, sucks for you big-time, lots and lots of trauma - monarchy & aristocracy trauma.

In addition to the world's trauma from immigrants, the United States is also rippling our trauma from slavery. From my vantage of the 1950s, I can see into the lynchings in the South. We are rippling massive trauma. What is so incredibly impressive is how the Black psychology, an Afro-cultural spiritual-mental orientation, is processing it. Very impressive. There is substantial trauma, ongoing... and ongoing.

We're working it through. Trauma is pretty ugly stuff. That's why we don't deal with it... la-la-la didn't happen, doesn't exist... except in the damaged empathy it creates, trauma, rippling out, and rippling across the generations to our children.

If you want to know trauma and this pathogen, go speak with the Jews, go speak with Israel. Or should I say, listen. In the company of deep understanding, I have nothing to say on trauma, I listen. We need solutions.

Professional psychology within each country needs to awaken first from its own participation in the trauma dream - the rippling of trauma - the brutalization born from damaged empathy and compassion, that creates damaged empathy and compassion.

Reading the Scandinavian ethics code, there are exceedingly positive indicators of sanity. The next sections reveal these...

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