

An Attachment Theory Based Perspective on Loss and Trauma

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Current/Ongoing Projects:

1. Adult attachment, the continuing bond to the deceased, and complicated versus normal grief in conjugal loss.
2. The continuing bond to the deceased in parental and sibling bereavement.
3. A cross-cultural comparison of the continuing bond to the deceased among American and Southeast Asian bereaved individuals.
4. Disorganized attachment and PTSD in survivors of childhood sexual abuse.
5. Trauma in the context of genocide: investigation of chronic PTSD in survivors of the former Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.
6. Second generation effects of trauma: the psychological impact on children of survivors of the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.

Readings:

Bar-On, D., Eland, J, Kleber, R., Krell, R., Moore, Y., Sagi, A., Soriano, E., Suedfeld, P., van der Velden, P., & van IJzendoorn, M. (1998). Multigenerational perspectives on coping with the Holocaust experience: An attachment perspective for understanding the developmental sequelae of trauma across generations. International Journal of Behavioral Development, 22, 315-338.

Field, N. P., Gao, B., & Paderna, L. (2005). Continuing bonds in bereavement: An attachment theory based perspective. Death Studies, 29, 277-299.

Fraley, R. C., & Shaver, P. R. (1999). Loss and bereavement: Bowlby's theory and recent controversies concerning grief work and the nature of detachment. In J. Cassidy & R. R. Shaver (Eds.), Handbook of attachment theory and research (pp. 735-759). New York: Guilford Press.

Hesse, E., Main, M., Abrams, K., & Rifkin, A. Unresolved states regarding loss or abuse can have "second-generation" effects: Disorganization, role inversion, and frightening ideation in the offspring of traumatized, non-maltreating parents. In M. Solomon and D. Siegel (eds). Healing Trauma: Attachment, mind, body, and brain. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Liotti, G. (2004). Trauma, dissociation, and disorganized attachment: Three strands of a single braid. Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training, 41, 472-486.

Solomon, J., & George, C. (1999). The place of disorganization in attachment theory: Linking classic observations with contemporary findings (pp. 3-32). In: J. Solomon and C. George (eds). Attachment disorganization. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.