The Tripartite Matrix: Personal, Group, and Society

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Using the concept of the social unconscious and the matrix drawn from Group Analysis we will explore the relationship between the foundation matrix, the dynamic matrix, and the personal matrix by means of lecture and experiential learning using the social dreaming matrix and the median group.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify and define the social unconscious.
2. Illustrate ways in which the foundation matrix impacts clinical work.
3. Identify Bion's 3 basic assumptions about groups and Hopper's fourth.
4. Describe role suction in the context of the basic assumptions.
5. Give one clinical example of the tripartite matrix.
6. Demonstrate the use of the social dreaming matrix and median group.
7.

Social Unconscious—The individual is as much compelled by the colossal forces of the social as they are by their own id and we defend against the recognition of these social forces without being aware of it.

Matrix—The hypothetical web of communication in a given group. It is the common ground which determines the meaning and significance of all communications withing the group.

Basic Assumptions
Wilfred Bion and Earl Hopper

Dependency- Leader/NPD (Role Suction)

Aim is to attain security. Idealize leader and depreciate their own strength. A group of psychiatric patients and benevolent psychiatrist can meet this. Often pts feel they don't even have to work at telling her what is wrong because she is omnipotent and knows better.

Fight- Flight- Leader/Paranoid (Role Suction)

Aim is to preserve itself and that can be done only by fighting someone or by running away. In D ba the sick one may be offered as s/o for the leader to care for, in F/F ba the individual may be sacrificed for the groups survival.

Pairing- Leader/Seductive-Hysterical (Role Suction)

Aim is for the group to meet to bring forth the Messiah or the savior. Two people get together on behalf of the group for pairing or creation. A leader need not be present, but the group has the **hope** that a new leader or new thought will save the group or bring new life. The group will be be saved from feelings of hatred, destructiveness, or despair.

I:A/M Leader/Magical Borderline (Role Suction).

Aim is to deal with trauma to the group as a result of failed dependency which leads to fears of annihilation. Incohesion is manifested by a dialectic between aggregation and massification.

	In UNC Fantasy	**ba Harnessed for Work Group**
1. ba D is	Omnipotent	Dependable
2. ba F / FL is	Unbeatable/Uncatchable	Courageous
3. ba P is	Marvelous/Unborn	Creative
4. ba I:A/M is	Magical	Reflective and Safe

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