

Lynne Jacobs, Peter Philippson, and Gordon Wheeler

Self, Subject, and Intersubjectivity: Gestalt Therapists Reply to Questions From the Editors and From Daniel Stern and Michael Mahoney¹

Three gestalt therapists, Lynne Jacobs, Peter Philippson, and Gordon Wheeler respond to questions from the journal editors, and from Daniel Stern, and Michael Mahoney, on the topic of *self*, *subject*, and *intersubjectivity*. The discussants then engage with one another and explore their perspectives through dialogue on their similarities and differences.

Key words: gestalt therapy, self, subject, intersubjectivity, contact-boundary, relational, emergence, empathy, psychoanalysis, phenomenology, constructivism, dialogue, inclusion, self functions, field, contact, contact interruptions.

Editors' note: No better topic could begin our dialogical journey than the theme of *self* since the kernel of gestalt therapy suggests that self is itself the function and structure of contact. It is from this point that we begin to build dialogical bridges. We marked this aspect of the contact-boundary and invited three leading gestalt therapists to engage in a conversation by replying to a series of questions on *self*, *subject* and *intersubjectivity* from us, the editors, and from experts from other modalities, Michael Mahoney and Daniel Stern. While the format appears to be a transcript of live discussion, it is actually a condensed and edited version of a series of replies from our authors. It will become immediately evident that this topic “grabbed” each of them to different degrees, and without question, each shows his or

¹ Philip Lichtenberg was editor of this section.