

Joe Melnick, Jean-Marie Robine, Mary-Lou Schack, Ernesto Spinelli

Contact and Intrapsychic Perspectives: Gestalt Therapists Reply to Questions From the Editors and From Ernesto Spinelli¹

Three experienced gestalt therapists respond to questions from the editors and Ernesto Spinelli, an existential psychotherapist, on the topic of “contact and intrapsychic perspectives.” A lively dialogue among them develops in which they address significant areas of differences and agreement.

Key words: gestalt therapy, contact, contact-boundary, intersubjectivity, relational gestalt therapy, field, cycle of experience, sequence of contacting, intrapsychic perspectives, situation, id functioning, ego functioning, personality functioning, self, process.

Editor's Note

Self and intersubjectivity was the theme of the dialogical section in the first issue of this journal. Arguably, that discussion was implicitly a conversation about *contact*, since contact is the lynchpin of gestalt therapy theory and practice. Now we explicitly turn to *contact and intrapsychic perspectives* as the theme for this issue of the journal — and topic of this dialogue.

Our discussants are well-known gestalt therapists: Joe Melnick, Jean-Marie Robine, and Mary Lou Schack.

Ernesto Spinelli, a phenomenological and existential psychotherapist, joins the editors in posing questions to our discussants.

¹ This section was edited by Dan Bloom. The dialogue is reconstructed from written responses to the questions posed.