

Monday 15th, 15.10 - 15.30.

Phillip Klever, LCSW, LMFT **Emotional Cutoff and Family** **Functioning**



Bowen theory hypothesizes that the emotional fusion between parents and children is managed with varying degrees of distance or emotional cutoff, which influences the functioning of the next generation. In addition, Bowen theory hypothesizes that viable emotional contact with past generations contributes to a “more orderly and asymptomatic life process in both generations” (Bowen).

This presentation reports on a longitudinal study that examined various aspects of emotional cutoff and its effects on symptomology in the next generation. The quantitative analyses found an association between family of procreation symptomology and the following variables related to emotional cutoff: openness with parents; the degree of inside and outside positions in the primary triangle; financial dependence; contact and openness with multigenerational family members, including first cousins; knowledge of the multigenerational family; geographic proximity and flexibility; and attendance at funerals and participants’ wedding. The participants’ openness with their parents also correlated with their openness with the multigenerational family. The qualitative analyses supported and expanded on these quantitative findings.

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