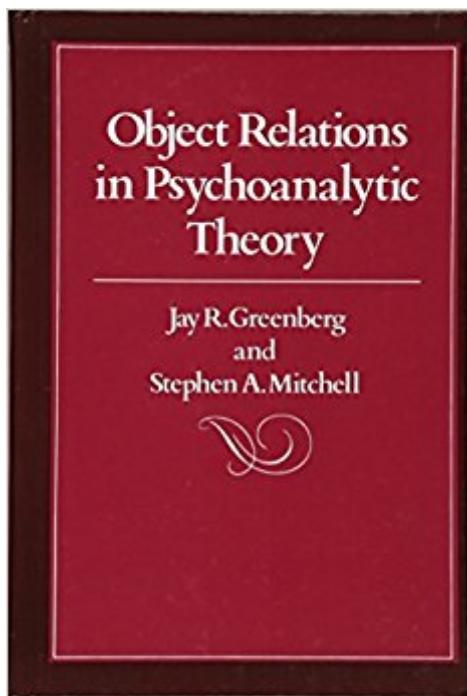


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# Object Relations In Psychoanalytic Theory



## Synopsis

Object Relations in Psychoanalytic Theory provides a masterful overview of the central issue concerning psychoanalysts today: finding a way to deal in theoretical terms with the importance of the patient's relationships with other people. Just as disturbed and distorted relationships lie at the core of the patient's distress, so too does the relation between analyst and patient play a key role in the analytic process. All psychoanalytic theories recognize the clinical centrality of "object relations," but much else about the concept is in dispute. In their ground-breaking exercise in comparative psychoanalysis, the authors offer a new way to understand the dramatic and confusing proliferation of approaches to object relations. The result is major clarification of the history of psychoanalysis and a reliable guide to the fundamental issues that unite and divide the field. Greenberg and Mitchell, both psychoanalysts in private practice in New York, locate much of the variation in the concept of object relations between two deeply divergent models of psychoanalysis: Freud's model, in which relations with others are determined by the individual's need to satisfy primary instinctual drives, and an alternative model, in which relationships are taken as primary. The authors then diagnose the history of disagreement about object relations as a product of competition between these disparate paradigms. Within this framework, Sullivan's interpersonal psychiatry and the British tradition of object relations theory, led by Klein, Fairbairn, Winnicott, and Guntrip, are shown to be united by their rejection of significant aspects of Freud's drive theory. In contrast, the American ego psychology of Hartmann, Jacobson, and Kernberg appears as an effort to enlarge the classical drive theory to accommodate information derived from the study of object relations. Object Relations in Psychoanalytic Theory offers a conceptual map of the most difficult terrain in psychoanalysis and a history of its most complex disputes. In exploring the counterpoint between different psychoanalytic schools and traditions, it provides a synthetic perspective that is a major contribution to the advance of psychoanalytic thought.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A most valuable contribution to the psychoanalytic literature. The authors have undertaken to review all of the psychoanalytic theories concerning object relationships, comparing and contrasting the 'classical' theory with derivatives of it and the important theories which have arisen in opposition to it...It increases the value of the book to readers at all levels that they have elected to make their reviews of the various theories quite full, so that it is possible really to learn something about each theory in some depth...The authors have considered each position from the point of view of its internal logic, correspondence to the clinical data, and how well it seems to answer the problems which it set out to solve...This is a splendid book. (Adrienne Applegarth International Journal of Psycho-Analysis)We are...fortunate that we have the likes of Greenberg and Mitchell to provide us with a first-class study in comparative psychoanalysis to help us keep our minds open. The authors summarize the contributions of Sigmund Freud, H. S. Sullivan, Erich Fromm, Melanie Klein, W. R. D. Fairbairn, D. W. Winnicott, Harry Guntrip, Heinz Hartmann, Margaret Mahler, Edith Jacobson, Otto Kernberg, Heinz Kohut, and Joseph Sandler, organizing these presentations around the particular visions of object relations each has offered...This is a splendid book for several reasons. Its intent embodies the best attitudes in psychoanalysis, and its execution is very sophisticated and instructive. It certainly deserves your study. (Jeffrey J. Andresen, M.D. Contemporary Psychiatry)That the neo-Freudians and the British object-relations theorists emphasize relationships is well known. What is not well known, and what constitutes Greenberg and Mitchell's special contribution, is the idea that accounting for relationships may be a defining task of all psychoanalytic theorizing and that the various theories can usefully be categorized, contrasted, and understood in terms of their particular strategies for doing so...Greenberg and Mitchell's book provides access to this difficult literature. Their discussions of the various psychoanalytic theories are scholarly, convincing, and packed with clever connections and intriguing observations...[The book] provides a long-sought path through the thicket of psychoanalytic writing. (Daniel B. Wile Contemporary Psychology)Presenting the material in admirable clarity, [the authors] provide an excellent overview of the major forces in current psychoanalytic theory as well as connecting those forces to

sociological and cultural concepts in a creative way. Highly recommended. (Library Journal)

What Greenberg and Mitchell accomplished in this book, in terms of comparative theory, is awesome. The field of psychoanalysis and the relational movement are deeply indebted to them for this ground-breaking work. However, I would not recommend this book to most people. Because of its density, it is not the best initial overview of psychoanalytic theory. For that purpose I would recommend Mitchell's "Freud and Beyond," which is an excellent introduction/overview and much easier to get through. If your goal is to learn from the wisdom that Stephen Mitchell brought to the field of psychoanalysis, this is also not the best book. (The authors are not presenting their own theoretical contributions. Rather, they are comparing the major contributions in the history of the field and arguing for a theoretical division into two camps: The Drive Model and the Relational Model. Their preference for the Relational Model is evident, but they do not develop their own Relational ideas in this book.) If you are hungry for Mitchell's brilliant ideas about Relational Psychoanalysis, I'd start with "Relational Concepts in Psychoanalysis." Then move on to his other books (and other Relational writers). The most fitting goal for reading this book would be to develop a more advanced meta-theoretical understanding of the field of psychoanalysis, as well as to gain an appreciation of the historical moment when Mitchell, Greenberg and others put together this important meta-theoretical picture, which was key in facilitating the development of the Relational movement.

A very good book if you are interested in understanding the variations to be found in the field of psychological theory analytic and neoanalytic approaches. It gives a clear understanding by going into detail about the various theorists history as well as the events in their lives/practice that led to the many neoanalytic approaches. Object relations is not a light subject to be sure but this book helps foster understanding for anyone who knows anything about psychological theory.

My clinical supervisor recommended another volume that covers this subject, but one review of that text strongly suggested this book instead. I'm so glad I decided on this one...while the initial recommended book may have been excellent, I can say with assurance that this one was...it's relatively dense reading, but so good! I feel like I have really gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and insight, and this book has pointed me in the direction of learning more about specific approaches. I feel so very empowered, and I really enjoyed the wit, intelligence, and turn of phrase employed by the authors. I would now strongly recommend this excellent book to anyone interested

in the topic.

Greenberg and Mitchell go through 100 years of psychoanalysis thinking and bring it back right here in this amazing book. A must for all clinicians and professionals...Brilliant

OK. but this seller is not good overall, I have purchased a few books

A classic.

I did rate 5 for this book because the writer did a good job to resume the major theory of the object relations and there models. It is a fast way to browse the different major author. Compte tenu de mon souci de perfectionnement comme thÃ©rapeute, ce livre me permet un survol sur les diffÃ©rentes thÃ©ories sur les relations d'objet. Il facilite la comprÃ©hension des comportements humains et sert de grille de rÃ©fÃ©rence Ã  l'Ã©tablissement d'observations cliniques.

Love this book .A wonderful comprehensive review.

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