

SNSUS 2015

Phenomenons that occur during negotiations towards a bail agreement

between parents and young gamblers -
is that a part of an individual gambling addiction,
or is it a part of the creative adjustment of the family?

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Something to work on for two minutes

Think of a relational pattern in your own family

Work for two minutes more-

Think of how this pattern came alive during conflicts and perhaps negotiations?

We must bear in mind that the key to all family discourse lies in the intentionality of contact

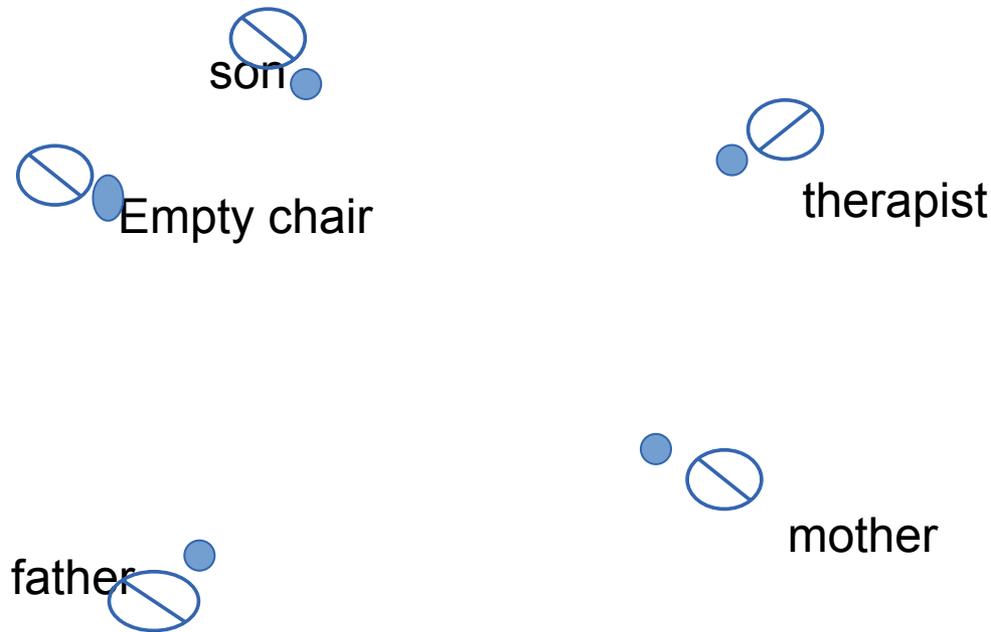
Occasionally I get requests from parents who want to help their young sons or daughters.

Large amounts of money are wagered and lost. Creditors pursue debts aggressively.

Parents are ready to bail or to borrow money to pay for their children.

Creative adjustment

Creative adjustment is to be understood as the ability of the family members to creatively adjust to each other with the intention of reaching the others.

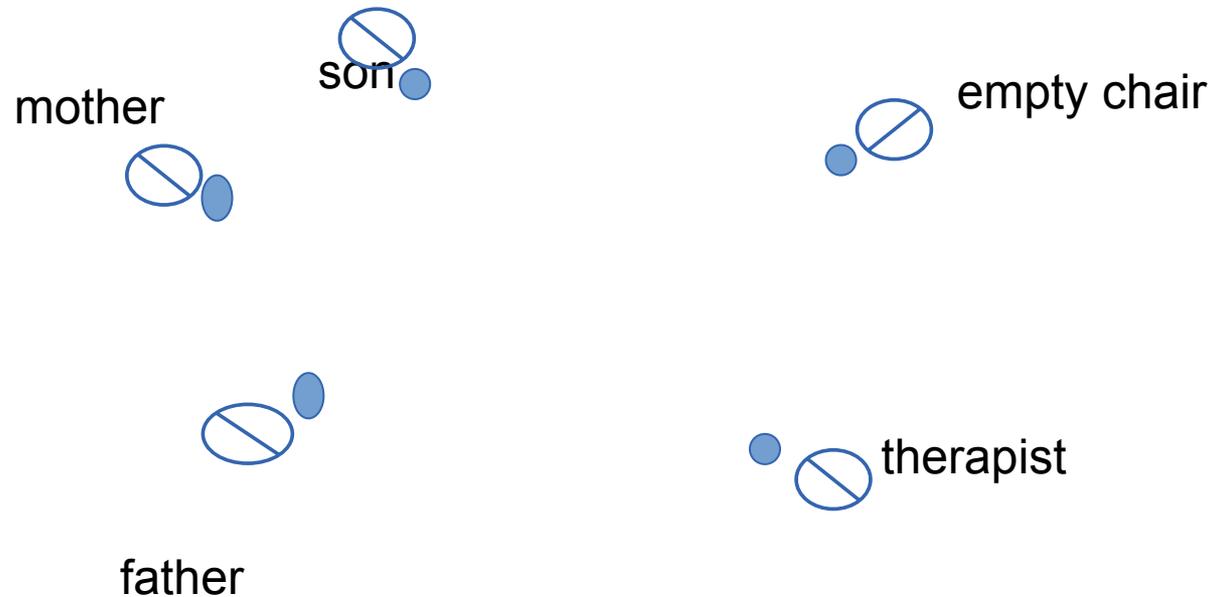


F: (to son) I will pay your debts as long as you promise me never to play poker again
S: What do you mean? Then I can stop living like human being as well, I rather go to prison!
M: Why do you say that- your father and I are only trying to help!
S. you are not helping- he is only trying to get control over me and my life
F: (to mother) There you see- you think this is fair? (angry in his voice)
M: (to father) I wish you two could stop arguing- and just come to an agreement
F: (to son) Will you stop playing poker? That is all I am asking of you
S:(silent- looking out of the window)

We must bear in mind that the family is the matrix of relational identity.

I am what my family has allowed me to be.

M: we just have to pay, there is no time. And will you go in therapy then?
The therapist invite mother to go to the empty chair. Therapist take mothers chair.



T: (to mother): How do you feel sitting here?

M: (to therapist): It feels like always- in the middle- negotiating»

T: How do you feel in your body-in the middle?

M: It is a wellknown feeling, like tired.

T. So- whilst you are here- do you want to say something to the two?

M: (smiling): Yes I want to say- now you both listen to me!

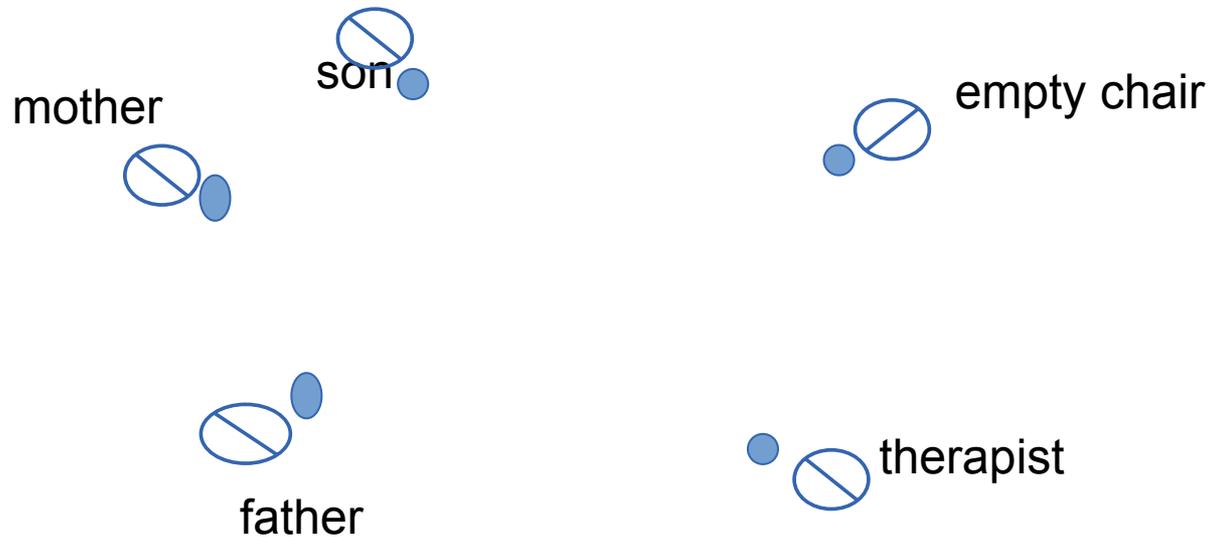
T: I see you are smiling- can you feel that?

M: Yes- I can(smiling even more)- I like having their attention.

T: So- enjoy!- What do you want to say?

M: I will say I am tired of being in the middle- always negotiating between you two-

Helping family members to communicate without necessarily understanding or agreeing with each other means helping them to become aware of the relational intentionality underlying the use of all words



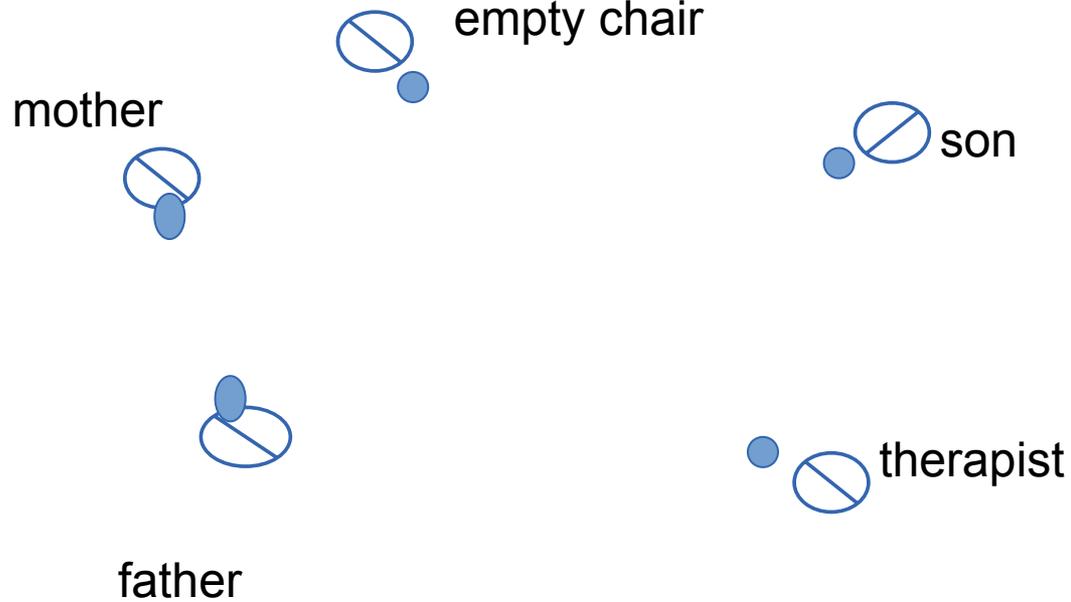
T : (to father): What do you hear your wife is saying?

F: I hear her saying that she is tired of negotiate beetween the two of us.

T: So how do you feel when sayigng that?

F: I feelI do not know how I feel.....I am so upset by all this money.....I cannot think or feel anything

The therapist invite mother and father to turn their chairs aganst each other and the son to the empty chair.



Therapist(to father):: Tell her how you do not know how you feel?»

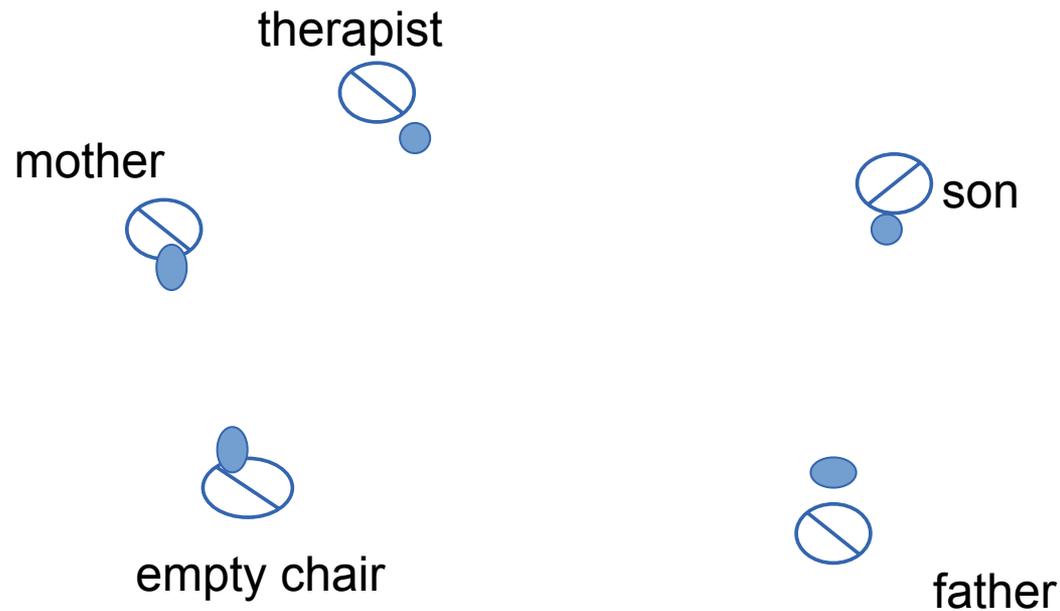
Father: I do not know have I feel....I feel upset and afraid

M: May be you could say that to your son as well?

Father turning to son

The symptom is an appeal to the relationship

The therapist invite father to take her chair and goes to the empty chair.



F: I do not know have I feel....I am upset and afraid

S: I can hear you are upset. You wery often are when talking to me.

It is amazing to see how the experience of changing chairs produces such significant perspective and relational changes.

Not only chairs are changed but also perspectives, leading to new ways of being and new approaches to relationships.

Since we do not live on islands but in constant contact and interaction, any theory of growth and development must deal with the capacity of individuals to relate to their environment

