

kohut's self psychology

kohut's self psychology represents a significant development in psychoanalytic theory, emphasizing the formation, maintenance, and restoration of the self. This approach diverges from classical Freudian analysis by focusing on how individuals experience themselves and their relationships rather than solely on unconscious drives. Central to kohut's self psychology are concepts such as the selfobject, narcissistic transference, and the development of a cohesive self through empathic attunement. The theory has broad applications in clinical practice, particularly in treating narcissistic and borderline personality disorders. This article explores the foundational principles of kohut's self psychology, its core concepts, therapeutic techniques, and its impact on contemporary psychoanalysis. The detailed examination will provide a comprehensive understanding of this influential psychological framework.

- Foundations of Kohut's Self Psychology
- Core Concepts in Kohut's Self Psychology
- Therapeutic Applications of Self Psychology
- Comparisons with Traditional Psychoanalytic Theories
- Critiques and Contributions of Kohut's Self Psychology

Foundations of Kohut's Self Psychology

Kohut's self psychology emerged in the mid-20th century as an innovative psychoanalytic perspective, primarily developed by Heinz Kohut. This framework shifted the focus from instinctual drives to the development and cohesion of the self, emphasizing how early relationships influence an individual's psychological structure. Kohut argued that the self is not an isolated entity but is formed and sustained through interactions with selfobjects—external figures who perform essential psychological functions. The theory draws heavily on developmental psychology and clinical observations of patients with narcissistic disorders.

Historical Context and Development

The advent of kohut's self psychology marked a departure from Freudian drive theory, responding to clinical challenges in treating narcissistic patients. Kohut's observations highlighted the limitations of classical psychoanalysis in addressing self-related pathologies and introduced empathy as a central therapeutic tool. His seminal works in the 1970s established the foundation for this theory, which has since influenced multiple psychoanalytic schools and psychotherapeutic modalities.

Empathy as a Methodological Tool

Empathy occupies a pivotal role in Kohut's self psychology, both as a clinical technique and a theoretical concept. Rather than interpreting unconscious content from a detached stance, therapists are encouraged to adopt an empathic attitude to understand the patient's subjective experience. This approach facilitates the restoration of the self's cohesion and the repair of developmental deficits. Kohut emphasized that empathy allows clinicians to grasp the patient's internal world and unmet selfobject needs.

Core Concepts in Kohut's Self Psychology

The theory of Kohut's self psychology is built upon several interrelated concepts that explain how the self develops and can be disrupted by early relational failures. Understanding these core ideas is essential for grasping the therapeutic implications of the model.

The Self and Selfobjects

At the heart of Kohut's self psychology is the notion of the self as a complex, organized structure that requires ongoing selfobject support. Selfobjects are people or symbols that fulfill essential psychological functions, such as mirroring, idealizing, and twinship. These interactions contribute to the development of a cohesive and stable self. Without adequate selfobject experiences, individuals may develop fragmented or weakened self-structures, resulting in psychopathology.

Narcissistic Transference and Its Functions

Narcissistic transference refers to the patient's unconscious projection of selfobject needs onto the therapist during treatment. This process allows for the reenactment and eventual repair of early developmental failures. Kohut identified two primary narcissistic transference needs: mirroring transference, which involves validation and affirmation, and idealizing transference, which involves admiration and the internalization of strength. Addressing these needs therapeutically is crucial for self-cohesion.

Developmental Lines and Self Cohesion

Kohut proposed developmental lines that describe the progression of self-development across the lifespan. These lines outline how self-cohesion strengthens through successful selfobject experiences, enabling individuals to regulate self-esteem and maintain a stable identity. Disruptions along these lines can lead to various forms of psychopathology, including narcissistic disorders and borderline states.

- Mirroring selfobjects provide affirmation and validation.
- Idealizing selfobjects offer calmness and strength for identification.
- Twinship selfobjects provide a sense of likeness and belonging.

Therapeutic Applications of Self Psychology

Kohut's self psychology has significantly influenced psychoanalytic therapy, particularly when working with patients suffering from narcissistic vulnerabilities. The approach emphasizes the therapist's empathic engagement and the provision of selfobject functions within the therapeutic relationship.

Empathic Attunement in Therapy

The therapeutic process in Kohut's self psychology centers on empathic attunement, wherein the therapist deeply understands and resonates with the patient's subjective experience. This empathic stance helps to repair deficits in self-cohesion and fosters the internalization of healthy selfobject experiences. The therapist acts as a temporary selfobject, facilitating the patient's capacity for self-regulation and self-esteem maintenance.

Handling Narcissistic Pathologies

Self psychology offers effective strategies for addressing narcissistic personality disorders by focusing on the restoration of a cohesive self. Treatment involves recognizing and responding to the patient's narcissistic transferences, providing empathic validation, and encouraging the development of internal structures that can uphold self-esteem independently. The approach contrasts with confrontational methods by prioritizing acceptance and understanding.

Applications Beyond Narcissism

While primarily developed for narcissistic disorders, Kohut's self psychology has been adapted for use with borderline personalities, depression, and trauma-related conditions. Its emphasis on relationships and self-experience makes it relevant for a wide range of clinical presentations, promoting psychological integration and resilience.

Comparisons with Traditional Psychoanalytic Theories

Kohut's self psychology differs fundamentally from classical psychoanalysis, offering an alternative

lens through which to view human development and psychopathology. This section highlights key distinctions and areas of overlap.

Drive Theory vs. Self Psychology

Classical psychoanalysis is grounded in drive theory, focusing on unconscious instincts such as sexuality and aggression. Kohut's self psychology, by contrast, prioritizes the development of the self and relational needs over drives. This shift reorients therapeutic goals towards restoring self-cohesion rather than resolving repressed drives.

Role of the Therapist

In traditional psychoanalysis, the therapist maintains a neutral, interpretive stance. Kohut's self psychology advocates a more active, empathic role for the therapist, who functions as a selfobject to meet the patient's unmet developmental needs. This relational focus enhances the therapeutic alliance and supports emotional healing.

Understanding Narcissism

Freudian theory often viewed narcissism as pathological or a developmental phase. Kohut reframed narcissism as a central aspect of the self that requires nurturing through selfobject experiences. This redefinition has altered clinical approaches to narcissistic disorders, emphasizing empathy and relational repair.

Critiques and Contributions of Kohut's Self Psychology

Kohut's self psychology has been both influential and subject to critique within the psychoanalytic community. Its contributions have advanced understanding of self-development, but some limitations have been noted.

Major Contributions

The theory's introduction of empathy as a methodological and therapeutic cornerstone revolutionized psychoanalysis. Its focus on self-cohesion and relational needs expanded the scope of psychoanalytic treatment, particularly for narcissistic and borderline patients. Kohut's ideas have also influenced contemporary relational and interpersonal psychoanalysis.

Critiques and Limitations

Some critics argue that Kohut's self psychology underemphasizes unconscious conflict and the role of drives. Others note that its heavy reliance on empathy may risk therapist over-identification with patients. Additionally, empirical validation of certain theoretical constructs remains limited compared to other psychological models.

Ongoing Evolution

Despite criticisms, Kohut's self psychology continues to evolve, integrating insights from attachment theory, neuroscience, and contemporary relational models. Its enduring relevance lies in its compassionate understanding of human psychological needs and the therapeutic power of empathic connection.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Kohut's self psychology theory?

Kohut's self psychology is a psychoanalytic theory that emphasizes the development of the self and the importance of empathy in therapeutic relationships. It focuses on how early relationships with caregivers shape the self and influence psychological health.

Who was Heinz Kohut?

Heinz Kohut was an Austrian-American psychoanalyst who developed self psychology as an alternative to classical Freudian psychoanalysis, highlighting the role of the self and empathic failures in psychopathology.

How does self psychology differ from traditional psychoanalysis?

Unlike traditional psychoanalysis that centers on drives and conflicts, self psychology focuses on the self's cohesion and the role of empathic responses from caregivers in developing a healthy self.

What are selfobjects in Kohut's self psychology?

Selfobjects are people or things that an individual experiences as part of the self and that provide essential psychological functions, such as mirroring, idealization, and twinship, which help maintain self-cohesion and self-esteem.

What role does empathy play in Kohut's self psychology?

Empathy is central in Kohut's self psychology; it is the means by which therapists understand and respond to patients' experiences, facilitating self-cohesion and healing damaged self-structures.

How does Kohut's theory explain narcissistic personality disorder?

Kohut viewed narcissistic personality disorder as stemming from failures in early selfobject relationships, leading to a fragmented or vulnerable self that seeks excessive admiration and idealization to maintain self-esteem.

What are the three poles of the self in Kohut's model?

The three poles are the grandiose self (related to ambitions and self-esteem), the idealized parental imago (related to idealization of others), and the twinship or alter ego pole (related to the need for likeness and belonging).

How is Kohut's self psychology applied in therapy?

Therapists use empathy to understand patients' self-experiences and provide selfobject functions within the therapeutic relationship, helping patients repair and strengthen their self-structure.

What is the significance of mirroring in self psychology?

Mirroring involves the validation and affirmation of a person's sense of self by others, which is crucial for developing self-esteem and a cohesive self in early development according to Kohut's theory.

Additional Resources

1. *The Restoration of the Self* by Heinz Kohut

This seminal work by Heinz Kohut introduces the foundational concepts of self psychology. Kohut explores the development of the self and the impact of early relationships on psychological well-being. The book emphasizes empathy and the therapeutic relationship as critical elements in healing narcissistic injuries.

2. *How Does Analysis Cure?* by Heinz Kohut

In this influential text, Kohut delves into the mechanisms of psychoanalytic treatment from the perspective of self psychology. He challenges traditional Freudian views, focusing on the role of empathy and the selfobject experience in therapeutic change. The book offers a detailed examination of how analysis can restore cohesion to the self.

3. *The Search for the Self: Selected Writings of Heinz Kohut*

This collection compiles essential essays and lectures by Kohut, providing a comprehensive overview of his theories on the self. It covers topics such as narcissism, empathy, and the development of the self in childhood. The volume serves as both an introduction and an in-depth exploration of self psychology concepts.

4. *Self Psychology and Psychotherapy* by Arnold Goldberg

Goldberg presents a practical guide to applying self psychological principles within psychotherapy. The book discusses assessment, diagnosis, and therapeutic techniques aimed at addressing self disorders. It integrates theory with clinical examples to enhance understanding and effectiveness in treatment.

5. *Narcissism and the Self: Psychodynamic Treatment of Narcissistic Personality Disorders* by Glen O. Gabbard

Gabbard explores the intersection of narcissism and self psychology in this comprehensive text. Emphasizing psychodynamic approaches, the book outlines the treatment of narcissistic personality disorders through the lens of self psychological theory. It offers case studies and therapeutic strategies grounded in empathy and selfobject needs.

6. *The Self Under Siege: A Therapeutic Model for Differentiation* by Robert W. Firestone

This book integrates self psychology with cognitive-behavioral therapy to address issues of self-differentiation and identity. Firestone proposes techniques for helping individuals overcome self-defeating patterns rooted in early self disruptions. The approach emphasizes strengthening the self and fostering healthy relational dynamics.

7. *Empathy, Trauma, and Meaning: A Self Psychological Perspective* by Arthur C. Bohart

Bohart examines the role of empathy in the therapeutic process, particularly in the context of trauma treatment. Using self psychology as a framework, the book highlights how empathic attunement facilitates healing and meaning-making. It provides insights into the therapist-client relationship and its transformative potential.

8. *Self Psychology in Clinical Social Work* by Michael J. Miller

Targeted toward social workers, this text bridges self psychological theory with clinical practice. Miller discusses assessment and intervention strategies for clients with self-related difficulties. The book emphasizes the importance of empathic engagement and the use of selfobjects in fostering psychological growth.

9. *The Development of the Self in Childhood: Essays in Honor of Heinz Kohut*

This edited volume gathers contributions from leading scholars on the development of the self from a self psychological perspective. The essays explore various dimensions of self formation, including attachment, narcissism, and trauma. The book serves as a tribute to Kohut's legacy and advances contemporary understanding of self psychology.

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kohut s self psychology: Treating the Self Ernest S. Wolf, 2002-09-24 Now available in paper for the first time, this classic text is about how an analyst analyzes. Rooted in the theory of psychoanalytic self psychology as put forth by Heinz Kohut and his colleagues, *Treating the Self* focuses on the application of the self-psychological concept of the psyche to the actual conduct of psychoanalytic treatment. The result is not a how-to approach, but rather a volume that suggests a theory of treatment and offers guidelines for creative ways of thinking about therapy. Written by Ernest Wolf, a close collaborator of Heinz Kohut, this is a personal account of the process of self psychology presented by one of the foremost experts in the field.

kohut s self psychology: Progress in Self Psychology, V. 14 Arnold I. Goldberg, 2013-05-13

Volume 14 of Progress in Self Psychology, The World of Self Psychology, introduces a valuable new section to the series: publication of noteworthy material from the Kohut Archives of the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis. In this volume, From the Kohut Archives features a selection of previously unpublished Kohut correspondence from the 1940s through the 1970s. The clinical papers that follow are divided into sections dealing with Transference and Countertransference, Selfobjects and Objects, and Schizoid and Psychotic Patients. As Howad Bacal explains in his introduction, these papers bear witness to the way in which self psychology has increasingly become a relational self psychology - a psychology of the individual's experience in the context of relatedness. Coburn's reconstrual of countertransference as an experience of self-injury in the wake of unresponsiveness to the analyst's own selfobject needs; Livingston's demonstration of the ways in which dreams can be used to facilitate a playful and metaphorical communication between analyst and patient; Gorney's examination of twinship experience as a fundamental goal of analytic technique; and Lenoff's emphasis on the relational aspects of phantasy selfobject experience are among the highlights of the collection. Enlarged by contemporary perspectives on gender and self-experience and a critical examination of Kohut, Loewald, and the Postmoderns, Volume 14 reaffirms the position of self psychology at the forefront of clinical, developmental, and conceptual advance.

kohut s self psychology: Empathic Attunement Crayton E. Rowe, David S. MacIsaac, 1989 Empathic Attunement captures the essence of Kohut's contributions to self psychology and the mental health field. Straightforward, accurate, and practical, the authors introduce student and experienced clinician alike to the synthesis of Kohut's major concepts and their clinical applications. The authors highlight Kohut's emphasis on the empathic mode of data gathering from within the patient's experiences. Kohut considers empathy--the capacity to think and feel oneself into the inner life of another person--to be the major tool of therapy.

kohut s self psychology: Self Psychology Peter A. Lessem, 2005-05-12 This comprehensive, introductory text makes the concepts of self psychology accessible for students and clinicians. It begins with an overview of the development of Kohut's ideas, particularly those on narcissism and narcissistic development and explains the self object concept that is at the core of the self psychological vision of human experience. It also includes brief overviews, of the allied theoretical perspectives of intersubjectivity and motivational systems theory. Numerous clinical vignettes are furnished to illustrate theoretical concepts as well as one continuous case vignette that is woven throughout the book.

kohut s self psychology: Progress in Self Psychology, V. 4 Arnold I. Goldberg, 2013-05-13 The fourth volume in the Progress in Self Psychology series continues to explore the theoretical yield and clinical implications of the work of the late Heinz Kohut. Learning from Kohut features sections on supervision with Kohut and on the integration of self psychology with classical psychoanalysis. Developmental contributions examine self psychology in relation to constitutional factors in infancy. Clinical presentations focusing on optimum frustration and the therapeutic process and on the self-psychological treatment of a case of intractable depression elicit the animated commentary that makes this volume, like its predecessors, as enlivening as it is instructive.

kohut s self psychology: New Developments in Self Psychology Practice Peter Buirski, Amanda Kottler, 2007-10-23 Since the publication of Heinz Kohut's monumental book, The Analysis of the Self, in 1971, self psychology has undergone a vibrant and exciting evolution that has significantly influenced and expanded the range of psychoanalytic thinking. New Developments in Self Psychology Practice gives voice to the multiple and diverse perspectives that shape contemporary self psychology, from complexity and attachment theories to treatment of children, and from developments in family and group therapies practices and supervisory process to examination of the role of shame, enactments, and traumatic experience in self-object relatedness and subjective experience.

kohut s self psychology: Heinz Kohut and the Psychology of the Self Allen M. Siegel, 2008-02-21 Heinz Kohut's work represents an important departure from the Freudian tradition of

psychoanalysis. A founder of the Self Psychology movement in America, he based his practice on the belief that narcissistic vulnerabilities play a significant part in the suffering that brings people for treatment. Written predominantly for a psychoanalytic audience Kohut's work is often difficult to interpret. Siegel uses examples from his own practice to show how Kohut's innovative theories can be applied to other forms of treatment.

kohut s self psychology: *Progress in Self Psychology, V. 1* Arnold I. Goldberg, 2013-06-17 The premier volume in the Progress in Self Psychology Series was completed two years after Heinz Kohut's death in 1981. Hence, this volume has a unique status in the history of self psychology: it bears the imprint of Kohut while charting a course of theoretical and clinical growth in the post-Kohut era. Biographical reminiscences about Kohut (Strozier, Miller) and commentaries on Kohut's *The Self-Psychological Approach to Defense and Resistance* [chapter seven of *How Does Analysis Cure?*] (M. Shane, P. Tolpin, Brandchaft, Oremland) are juxtaposed with a section of self-psychological reassessments of interpretations (Basch, A. and P. Ornstein, Goldberg). Clinical papers cover the selfobject transferences (Hall, Shapiro), patient compliance (Wolfe), and the self-pity response (Wilson), while theoretical contributions present ideas of Stolorow, Bacal, White, and Detrick that are foundational to their subsequent writings. This volume helped to shape the theoretical and clinical agenda of self psychology in the decades following Kohut's death.

kohut s self psychology: *Psychotherapy After Kohut* Ronald R. Lee, J. Colby Martin, 2013-05-13 Hailed as a superb textbook aimed at introducing psychoanalytic self psychology to students of psychotherapy (Robert D. Stolorow), *Psychotherapy After Kohut* is unique in its grasp of the theoretical, clinical, and historical grounds of the emergence of this new psychotherapy paradigm. Lee and Martin acknowledge self psychology's roots in Freud's pioneering clinical discoveries and go on to document its specific indebtedness to the work of Sandor Ferenczi and British object relations theory. Proceeding to readable, scholarly expositions of the principal concepts introduced by Heinz Kohut, the founder of self psychology, they skillfully explore the further blossoming of the paradigm in the decade following Kohut's death. In tracing the trajectory of self psychology after Kohut, Lee and Martin pay special attention to the impact of contemporary infancy research, intersubjectivity theory, and recent empirical and clinical findings about affect development and the meaning and treatment of trauma.

kohut s self psychology: *Progress in Self Psychology, V. 10* Arnold I. Goldberg, 2013-09-05 The tenth volume in the Progress in Self Psychology series begins with four timely assessments of the selfobject concept, followed by a section of clinical papers that span the topics of homosexuality, alter ego countertransference, hypnosis, trauma, dream theory, and intersubjective approaches to conjoint therapy. Section III, *A Dialogue of Self Psychology*, offers Merton Gill's astute appreciation of Heinz Kohut's *Self Psychology*, followed by commentaries by Leider and Stolorow and Gill's reply. The concluding section offers Stolorow and Atwood's *The Myth of the Isolated Mind*, followed by discussions by Gehrie and the Shanes. A forum for the kind of spirited, productive exchanges that have long found a home within the self-psychological community, *A Decade of Progress* builds on the past in responding to the theoretical and clinical challenges of the present.

kohut s self psychology: *Self Psychology and the Humanities* Heinz Kohut, 1985 Essays discuss courage, leadership, the roles of the group and the individual, narcissism, psychological aspects of history, ethics, civilization, and culture.

kohut s self psychology: *Using Self Psychology in Psychotherapy* Helene Jackson, 1994-03-01 Self psychology offers a new perception of how pathology develops. It emerges, not from intrapsychic conflict, but from the pervasive absence of empathically responsive selfobject in the child's inner and outer world. The goal of this book is to familiarize mental health professionals with this new approach to human behavior and demonstrate its implications for treatment in various stages of development and in a broad range of situations. Mental health professionals who are familiar with the concepts of self psychology will find this book useful in expanding their treatment ideas. For those who are unfamiliar with self psychology, this material will provide new, different, exciting, and effective ways of thinking about patients and intervening in the treatment relationship.

kohut s self psychology: *Kohut's Self Psychology for a Fractured World* John Hanwell Riker, 2024-05-20 Drawing from Kohut's conceptualisation of self, Riker sets out how contemporary America's formulation of persons as autonomous, self-sufficient individuals is deeply injurious to the development of a vitalizing self-structure—a condition which lies behind much of the mental illness and social malaise of today's world. By carefully attending to Kohut's texts, Riker explains the structural, functional, and dynamic dimensions of Kohut's concept of the self. He creatively extends this concept to show how the self can be conceived of as an erotic striving for connectedness, beauty, and harmony, separate from the ego. Riker uses this distinction to reveal how social practices of contemporary American society foster skills and traits to advance the aims of the ego for power and control, but tend to suppress the needs of the self to authentically express its ideals and connect with others. The book explores the impact that this view can have on clinical practice, and concludes by imaginatively constructing an ideal self-psychological society, using Plato's Republic as a touchstone. Informed by self psychology and philosophy, this book is essential reading for psychoanalysts, psychotherapists and philosophers, seeking to revisit and revise constructions of both self and humanity.

kohut s self psychology: *How Does Analysis Cure?* Heinz Kohut, Paul E. Stepansky, 2009-02-20 The Austro-American psychoanalyst Heinz Kohut was one of the foremost leaders in his field and developed the school of self-psychology, which sets aside the Freudian explanations for behavior and looks instead at self/object relationships and empathy in order to shed light on human behavior. In *How Does Analysis Cure?* Kohut presents the theoretical framework for self-psychology, and carefully lays out how the self develops over the course of time. Kohut also specifically defines healthy and unhealthy cases of Oedipal complexes and narcissism, while investigating the nature of analysis itself as treatment for pathologies. This in-depth examination of “the talking cure” explores the lesser studied phenomena of psychoanalysis, including when it is beneficial for analyses to be left unfinished, and the changing definition of “normal.” An important work for working psychoanalysts, this book is important not only for psychologists, but also for anyone interested in the complex inner workings of the human psyche.

kohut s self psychology: *Progress in Self Psychology, V. 18* Arnold I. Goldberg, 2013-06-17 Postmodern Self Psychology, the last volume of the Progress in Self Psychology series under the editorship of Arnold Goldberg, charts the path of self psychology into the postmodern era of psychoanalysis. It begins with Goldberg's thoughtful consideration of the several tributaries of self-psychological thought in the decades after Kohut and continues with Mark Gehrie's elaboration of reflective realism as a self-psychological way out of epistemological quagmires about the essential reality of the analytic endeavor. Clinical contributions offer contemporary perspectives on clinical themes that engaged Kohut in the 1970s: a study of the effect of moments of meeting on systems of pathological accommodation; a reappraisal of empathy as a bi-directional negation; and an assessment of the diverse clinical phenomena that justify a prolonged understanding only phase of treatment. The theory section of Volume 18 comparably charts the movement of self psychology toward a postmodern sensibility. Contributors reappraise intersubjectivity theory as a contextualist treatment approach consistent with dynamic systems theory; return to Kohut's concept of selfobject relationships, with special attention to the separate subjective and intersubjective components of selfobject experiences; and develop one of Kohut's early ideas into a theory of forward edge transferences that strengthen normal self-development. In all, Volume 18 is a richly insightful progress report on the current status of self psychology and a fitting capstone to Arnold Goldberg's distinguished tenure as editor of the Progress in Self Psychology series.

kohut s self psychology: *Releasing the Self* Phil Mollon, 2001-06-08 In the ten years before he died in 1982, Heinz Kohut presented a body of work that created a new conceptual lens, known as self-psychology. Mollon examines Kohut's work, drawing out the true meanings and implications of self-psychology.

kohut s self psychology: *Self Psychology* Douglas Detrick, Susan Detrick, Arnold Goldberg, 2014-03-18 This collection of comparisons and contrasts explores Heinz Kohut's self psychology in

relation to a wide-ranging group of modern thinkers, both inside and outside of analysis. Separate sections analyze self psychology alongside Freud and the first generation of psychoanalytic dissidents; British object relations theorists; and contemporary theorists like Kernberg, Mahler, Lacan, and Masterson.

kohut s self psychology: The Search for the Self Heinz Kohut, 2018-05-08 'The re-issuing of the four volumes of the author's writings is a major publishing event for psychoanalysts who are interested in both the theoretical and the therapeutic aspects of psychoanalysis. These volumes contain the author's pre-self psychology essays as well as those he wrote in order to continue to expand on his groundbreaking ideas, which he presented in *The Analysis of the Self*; *the Restoration of the Self*; and in *How Does Analysis Cure?* These volumes of *The Search for the Self* permit the reader to understand not only the above three basic texts of psychoanalytic self psychology more profoundly, but also to appreciate the author's sustained openness to further changes - to dare to present his self psychology as in continued flux, influenced by newly emerging empirical data of actual clinical practice. The current re-issue of the four volumes of *The Search for the Self* would assure that the younger generation of psychoanalysts would be exposed to a clinical theory that could contribute greatly to solving the therapeutic dilemmas facing psychoanalysis today'. This is Volume one.

kohut s self psychology: The Analysis of the Self Heinz Kohut, 2022-12-22 A major achievement, this monograph on treating NPD shows . . . a high level of integration of clinical experience and theoretical sophistication (*Psychoanalytic Quarterly*). Psychoanalyst, teacher, and scholar, Heinz Kohut was one of the twentieth century's most important intellectuals. A rebel according to many mainstream psychoanalysts, Kohut challenged Freudian orthodoxy and the medical control of psychoanalysis in America. In his highly influential book *The Analysis of the Self*, Kohut established the industry standard of the treatment of personality disorders for a generation of analysts. This volume, best known for its groundbreaking analysis of narcissism, is essential reading for scholars and practitioners seeking to understand human personality in its many incarnations. Kohut has done for narcissism what the novelist Charles Dickens did for poverty in the nineteenth century. Everyone always knew that both existed and were a problem. . . . The undoubted originality is to have put it together in a form which carries appeal to action. — *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*

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