



Working at Relational Depth in Counselling and Psychotherapy

Dave Mearns, Mick Cooper

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`this is a great, most important and, for the English-language readership, ground-breaking book. The subject of the book is of enormous interest and importance within and beyond the person-centered and experiential orientations in the whole field of psychotherapy and counselling, both in its practice and its theoretical development.

This great book had to be written. It presents an existential, phenomenological, dialogical approach at its best, and highlights the power of encounter relationship. This book does not only portray the state of the art of person-centered and experiential psychotherapies. Since many modalities develop in this direction - it is foundational for the realm of psychotherapy and counselling as such. The book is of enormous international interest; not only the international perspective on literature and development in the field, but also the crosslinks of different views contribute to the development of psychotherapy and counselling and will be fruitful for interdisciplinary dialogue.

This book stands as a landmark. It will be very influential to theory and practice. If you don't read it, you will not be able to join in further discussion and theory and practice developments' - Person-Centered and Experiential Psychotherapies

`a bold, heart-felt and daring discourse on the issue of communication in the therapeutic encounter. Somebody needed to write a book such as this. Hopefully it will encourage us to examine more closely, and conduct more research upon, what happens between therapists and their clients' - *Psychology and Psychotherapy*

Working at Relational Depth in Counselling and Psychotherapy is a ground breaking text, which goes to the very heart of the therapeutic meeting between therapist and client. Focusing on the concept of 'relational depth', Dave Mearns and Mick Cooper describe a form of encounter in which therapist and client experience profound feelings of contact and engagement with each other, and in which the client has an opportunity to explore whatever is experienced as most fundamental to her or his existence.

Drawing from their own practice, interviews with therapists and a diverse range of theoretical and empirical sources, the authors address the key question of how therapists can meet their clients at a level of relational depth. They show how different aspects of the therapist combine to facilitate a relationally-deep encounter, highlight the various personal 'blocks' which may be encountered along the way, and introduce new therapeutic concepts – such as 'holistic listening' – which can help therapists to meet their clients at this level.

Two powerful case studies – a client with a drink problem and a traumatized client – have been selected to illustrate key aspects of working at relational depth. Like many of the ideas discussed in this book, the case studies represent a challenge to conventional thinking about the therapist-client relationship and the nature of the therapeutic process.

Eagerly awaited by many counsellors and psychotherapists, Working at Relational Depth in Counselling and Psychotherapy is a source of fresh thinking and stimulating ideas about the therapeutic encounter which are relevant to trainees and practitioners of all orientations.

Dave Mearns is Professor of Counselling, University of Strathclyde. His previous books with SAGE include Person-Centred Counselling in Action, Second Edition (with Brian Thorne), Developing Person-Centred Counselling, Second Edition and Person-Centred Counselling Training. Mick Cooper is Senior Lecturer in Counselling, University of Strathclyde. His previous publications include Existential Therapies (SAGE Publications, 2003).



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Blair Chappell:

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