

TA Analyzes the Sound of Two Hands Clapping
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Notes

Prolegomena A

HELLO

<clap>

If you understand what just happened you already understand my presentation.

Prolegomena B

Vann Joines and his team initially introduced me to TA and SEI while I was teaching at Miles College, a Black College outside of Birmingham, Alabama in 1973. It was a stressful time for everyone in that culture.

Prolegomena C

After moving to the RTP, I began taking courses in TA at SEI by Vann Joines. He was developing ideas that he and Ian Stewart published in TA Today and Personality Adaptations.

Metaphor #1

A New Metaphor for Understanding What Personality Is

Physicist Meinard Kuhlmann described a quantum particle as a bundle of statistical possibilities. Only when that particle encounters another particle is one of those possibilities actualized—i.e., creating something new that can be observed.

This can provide a very effective metaphor for understanding ‘personality’.

Metaphor #2

The pronouns ‘I’, ‘you’, ‘we’, ‘they’ as well as ‘he’, and ‘she’ often create the reality they are referring to. That is, rather than these pronouns being used in place of the nouns, as my 9th grade English teacher made us memorize, they create that ‘noun’ the first time they are used and then point to it.

Metaphor #3

Unlike a quantum particle, a human being has the ability to choose to change what happens when two personalities encounter each other by changing the statistical probabilities of the outcomes. H. Richard Niebuhr's lectures on ethics in *Responsible Self* offers 3 metaphors often used in ethical discourse—which are useful for understanding any situation in which choice is involved.

Metaphor #1 Revisited—The Significance of 'Statistical'

'Statistical' refers to the likelihood that a particular event will occur. Counseling could be understood as a process of changing the probability that a particular outcome will occur. Jack Dusay's ego gram could be interpreted as a graph of these probabilities.

Vann taught us that the first question we should ask a client to begin each session, 'What would you like to change about yourself today?' That could be understood as 'What statistical probabilities would you like to increase or decrease about yourself today?'

Discussion #1

The creation and significance of the I-you dyad as the basis of TA.

Discussion #2

An empirical understanding of human personality by identifying the ego states being actualized in a transaction.

Discussion #3

Problems with psychological tests for TA

Discussion #4

Where the hands hit--In the counselor's workshop