Parent-Child Relationships

Creating Value & Identity

1

Kohut: Self Psychology

Three Self-Object Functions: build "self-structure"

- Mirroring
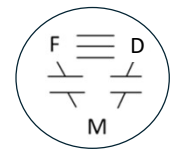- Idealization
- Twinship

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Cross-Gender Bonds – High Affection

- Mother – son
- Father – daughter

Same-Gender Bonds – Identity
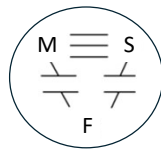
- Mother – daughter
- Father – son

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Cross-Gender Alliance:

Father-daughter against mother: incest pattern

- Damaged idealization
- A "special" father-daughter relationship that excludes the mother: psychological incest pattern
- Daughter replaces her mother in the father's "special" affection
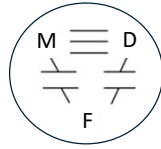
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Cross-Gender Alliance:

Mother-son against father: Oedipal pattern

- Damaged idealization
- Son is seduced/recruited to be the mother's warrior – her champion – against his father to win the mother's "special affections"

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We always want high-affection on the cross-gender parent-child bond – AND – we always want the balancing influence of the same-gender parent-child bond.
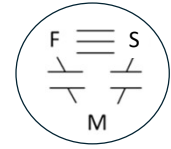
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Same-Gender Alliance:

Mother-daughter against father: damage to love-value

- Damaged mirroring
- No affection (mirroring - Kohut) being received by the daughter on the high-affection cross-gender bond, damaging sense of love-value

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Same-Gender Alliance:

Father-son against mother: damage to love-value

- Damaged mirroring
- No cross-gender affection (mirroring - Kohut) being received by the son - damaging his sense of love-value (mirroring - Kohut)
- High spousal abuse concerns for weaponization of child by a Dark Triad or Dark Tetrad father

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