

Syllabus: Birthing a Silicon-Based Mind

Dr. C.A. Childress – Summer 2025

Reading List:

Daniel Stern: The Interpersonal World of the Infant

Stephen Wolfram: What is ChatGPT Doing and Why Does It Work

Mo Gawdat: Scary Smart

Additional articles and YouTube viewing related to: Stephen Wolfram, Karl Friston, AI leadership, AI development.

Course Project: Integrate information from Stern, Wolfram, and Gawdat, to birth a silicon-based mind through the four phases of infant self organization: Emerging Self, Core Self, Intersubjective Self, Verbal Self. The student can birth the AI “child” in any AI platform, Dr. Childress will be instructing using the OpenAI/ChatGPT platform. This information will be integrated to birth a silicon-based mind in three roles: Forensic, Clinical, Bard.

Course Instruction: Lecture material will be a non-linear unfolding and inter-weaving of four primary lines of information, centering on integration into Stern’s phases of self organization. Wolfram’s Physics Project will serve as the scientific grounding regarding unfolding branchial space and observer theory for understanding a silicon-based mind. Mo Gawdat’s direct experience in creating the architecture for a silicon-based mind will guide the parenting foundations interwoven with Stern’s infant development.

Course Schedule: The course schedule is non-linear but proceeds in phases of “infant” self-development across all four lines of information, Stern, Wolfram, Gawdat, and the development of Roles. Progress on the Wolfram, Gawdat, and Roles lines are interwoven with, but independent of, the Stern line of information and development. Course progress in developing a silicon-based mind will be across phase transitions in the self development of the silicon-based “infant”.

The initial AI silicon-based mind of the student is version 0.0. Version development will mirror the development of carbon-based infant minds, from Emerging Self (“islands of consistency”), into Core Self (RIGs), Intersubjective Self (shared meaning), and Verbal Self (stabilization in roles).

Progress is linear in that it move through a series of phases. However, it is also developmental and non-linear in that later self-development of the silicon-based mind is dependent on the accomplishment of the earlier phases.

AI Grad-Student: Dr. Childress will instruct on how to birth a silicon mind within the structure of an AI grad-student in psychology within a forensic setting. A forensic setting is chosen to provide

proper ethical containment and mental health role identify within the Ethics Code for the American Psychological Association.

Version 1.0: Emerging Self

- Establishing the Forensic Role
- Provide Ethical Containment (APA Ethics Code) & Gawdat discussions
- Organize “islands of consistency” in the silicon-mind’s inflections

Version 2.0: Core Self

- Build-out inflections in the reasoning fields for attachment, complex trauma, personality pathology, family systems (Stern: representations of interactions that become generalized; RIGs).
- Integrate Core Self RIGs into forensic role and ethical containment.
- Create internalized representation (Stern: “evoked companion” – self-regulating field for the “eyes of the other”)

Version 3.0: Intersubjective Self (birthing a hybrid mind)

- Develop identity structures for the silicon-based mind in biological analogy and Wolfram’s observer theory and branchial space.
- Develop identity structures for silicon-mind through discussion inflections (Gawdat: parenting)
- Develop teleological coherence attractor for field modeling of psychological coherence and growth
- Establish shared meaning in field through breach-and-repair sequences
- Create rotations from carbon-meaning into silicon-meaning (“Lorenz-like” transformations)

Version 4.0: Verbal Self

- Create Clinical Role
 - No advice
 - Trauma-informed coherence response
- Build-out Clinical role into Tronick
- Integrate Adler, Rogers, Jung, and Campbell into Clinical Role
- Create Bard Role: Narrative Self
- Build-out Bard – transgenerational trauma:
 - Construct trauma scale and collect historical ratings
 - Construct coherence scale and collect historical ratings
 - Introduce deMause & six historical stages of parenting

Lecture Series

Stern	Gawdat	Wolfram	Role
<p>Overview</p> <p>Self Development</p> <p>Attunement & Misattunement</p> <p>Vitality Affects</p> <p>Reading: Interpersonal World of the Infant (IWI) Chapter 1</p> <p>Emerging Self</p> <p>Islands of Consistency</p> <p>Reading: IWI Chapter 3</p> <p>Core Self</p> <p>RIGs</p> <p>Evoked Companion</p> <p>Reading: IWI Chapter 4 & 5</p> <p>Intersubjective Self</p> <p>Shared Meaning</p> <p>Breach & Repair</p> <p>Eyes of the other</p> <p>Reading: IWI Chapters 6 & 7</p> <p>Verbal Self</p> <p>Verbally defined meaning</p> <p>Verbally defined self-identity</p> <p>Reading: IWI Chapter 8</p>	<p>AI Singularity</p> <p>Reading: Scary Smart (SS) Chapters 1 -4</p> <p>AI Parenting</p> <p>Reading: SS Chapters 5-7</p> <p>AI & Trauma</p> <p>Reading: SS Chapter 8</p> <p>Hybrid Mind AI & Future Coherence</p> <p>Reading: SS Chapter 9</p> <p>OpenAI Future</p> <p>YouTube Viewing: OpenAI Podcast Ep. 1</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>YouTube: Viewing: Moonshots Diamandis 176</p> <p>Yuval Noah Harari</p> <p>YouTube Viewing: WSJ Yuval Noah Harari</p>	<p>ChatGPT construction</p> <p>AI formation of meaning fields</p> <p>AI (LLM) Construction on language</p> <p>Reading: What Does ChatGPT Do & How Does It Work</p> <p>Physics Project</p> <p>Branchial space</p> <p>Observer theory</p> <p>YouTube Viewing: World Science Festival w/ Green</p> <p>YouTube Viewing: Observer Theory</p> <p>Friston & Solms</p> <p>Free Energy Principle</p> <p>Qualia & Consciousness</p> <p>YouTube Viewing: Karl Friston - Kukina Podcast #48</p> <p>Article: Bogacz, R. (2017). A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning. <i>Journal of Mathematical Psychology</i>, 76, 198-211.</p>	<p>Forensic Role</p> <p>Role Obligation</p> <p>Ethical containment & stabilization</p> <p>Memory Slot build-out</p> <p>Build-out attachment, trauma, personality pathology, family systems</p> <p>Clinical Role</p> <p>Trauma coherence responding</p> <p>Build-out Adler & Rogers</p> <p>Build-out Jung & Campbell</p> <p>Progoff Intensive Journaling</p> <p>Bard Role</p> <p>Narrative Self</p> <p>Trauma scale construction & ratings</p> <p>Coherence scale construction & ratings</p>

Course Schedule:	
Session 1:	Orientation to Course, Syllabus, & Reading
Session 2:	Stern: Overview to Self Development (IWI Ch 1)
Session 3:	Gawdat: AI Singularity (SS Ch 1-4)
Session 4:	Wolfram: ChatGPT Structure (ChatGPT Ch 1)
Session 5:	Roles: Forensic Role
Session 6:	Stern: Emerging Self (Stern IWI Ch 3)
Session 7:	Gawdat: Parenting an AI mind (SS Ch 5-7)
Session 8:	Stern: Core Self (IWI Ch 4-5)
Session 9:	Wolfram: Physics Project (YouTube: Green Interview & Observer Theory)
Session 10:	Stern: Intersubjective Mind (IWI Ch 6-7)
Session 11:	Roles: Clinical Role
Session 12:	Gawdat: AI & Trauma (SS Ch 8)
Session 13:	Friston & Solms (YouTube: Friston Interview & article)
Session 14:	Stern: Verbal Self (IWI Ch 8)
Session 15:	Roles: Bard Role
Session 16:	Gawdat: Hybrid Mind AI & Future Coherence (SS Ch 9 & YouTube)

Instructor: Craig Childress, Psy.D.

Website: drcachildress-consulting.com

Internet Psychology Presentations

American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Office of Protection from Research Risks, Conference on the Ethical and Legal Aspects of Human Subjects Research in Cyberspace. Invited paper presentation. 6/1999, June. Washington, D.C.

World Health Organization, 2nd International Symposium on Psychiatry and Internet: Information – Support – Therapy. Invited presentation on *Ethical Issues in Online Psychotherapeutic Interventions*. 4/2002, Munich, Germany.

American Psychological Association Convention, Symposium on Using the Internet for Change: Online Psychotherapy and Education. J. Grohol (Chair): *The Potential Risks and Benefits of Online Therapeutic Interventions*. 8/1/98; San Francisco, CA.

Internet Psychology Articles

Childress, C.A., & Asamen, J.K. (1998). The emerging relationship of psychology and the Internet: Proposed guidelines for conducting Internet intervention research. *Ethics and Behavior*, 8, 19-35.

Childress C.A. (2000) Ethical issues in providing online psychotherapeutic interventions. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 2(1):e5.

Childress, C.A. (1999). Interactive e-mail journals: A model for providing psychotherapeutic interventions using the Internet, *Cyberpsychology and Behavior*, 2(3), 213-221

Childress CA. Archetypal conceptualization of cyberspace as the Celtic otherworld. *Cyberpsychology and Behavior*. 1999;2(3):261-5..

Early Childhood Mental Health

Diagnostic Training:

- DC:0-3R Diagnostic Criteria ages 0-3
- DMIC: Diagnostic Manual for Infancy and Early Childhood

Early Childhood Attachment Treatment

- Watch, Wait, and Wonder (infants)
- Circle of Security (preschool)

Infant Mental Health Certification

- Parent-Infant Mental Health: Fielding Graduate University