Inter-Subjective Perspective of the Self: The Work of Ogden, Benjamin and Others
Reading list for December 12th 2026
Alison Rolfe

I am looking forward to meeting with you on December 12th and discussing the relational and intersubjectivist 'turn' in contemporary psychoanalytic and Jungian thought.

Please read the following 4 papers if you can. The Benjamin and Ogden readings are both classic papers in relational psychoanalysis. The Colman paper forms part of a debate that took place in the Journal of Analytical Psychology in 2013, between those who (like Colman), who were influenced by the 'relational turn', and those who (like William Meredith-Owen) took a more traditional position. The chapter by Mark Winborn provides a very recent contribution to Jungian relational theory, whilst also giving a helpful overview of the history of the intersubjective perspective in psychoanalysis and analytical psychology.

Benjamin, J. (2004). Beyond Doer and Done to: An Intersubjective View of Thirdness. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 73:5-46.

Colman, W. (2013). Bringing it All Back Home: How I became a Relational Analyst. *The Journal of Analytic Psychology,* 58:470-490.

Ogden, Thomas H. (2004), The Analytic Third: Implications for psychoanalytic theory and technique. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, LXXIII

Winborn, M. (2025) The Intersubjective Perspective in Jung and Bion: Complementary views of unconscious process, structure and interaction. In Brown, R.S and Saban, M. (2025) *The Relational Jung: Challenging the inward orientation of Analytical Psychology.* London: Routledge. Chapter 7, pp. 108-128.

Here are some recommendations for further reading if you have a particular interest / for future reference

Kalsched, D. (2015) Revisioning Fordham's 'Defences of the self' in light of relational theory and contemporary neuroscience. *The Journal of Analytic Psychology,* 60, 4: 477-496.

Knox, J. (2013) 'Feeling for' and 'feeling with': developmental and neuroscientific perspectives on intersubjectivity and empathy. *The Journal of Analytic Psychology,* 58, 491 – 509.

Meredith-Owen, W. (2013) Are waves of relational assumptions eroding traditional analysis? *Journal of Analytical Psychology*, 58, 593-614.

Schmidt, M. (2014) Influences on my clinical practice and identity. Jungian analysis on the couch – what and where is the truth of it? *The Journal of Analytic Psychology,* 59, 5, 661 – 679.