

*DW Winnicott and Anthropology: Culture as Transitional Space*

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This presentation will summarize some of the ways in which cultural anthropologists have engaged with the work of psychoanalyst DW Winnicott in recent years and suggest some avenues for further dialogue between anthropology and object relations psychology. First, the presenter will discuss some of the challenges that anthropologists who focus on child-rearing in non-Western cultures have presented to Winnicott's assumptions about gender roles and mother-infant relations. She will then turn to anthropologists who cite his concept of the transitional object. Anthropologists have found this concept particularly useful in analyses of material culture and the social functions of art. Finally, the presenter will look at what the idea of culture as transitional space, characterized by tension between the objective and subjective, might contribute to the study of social transformation.