

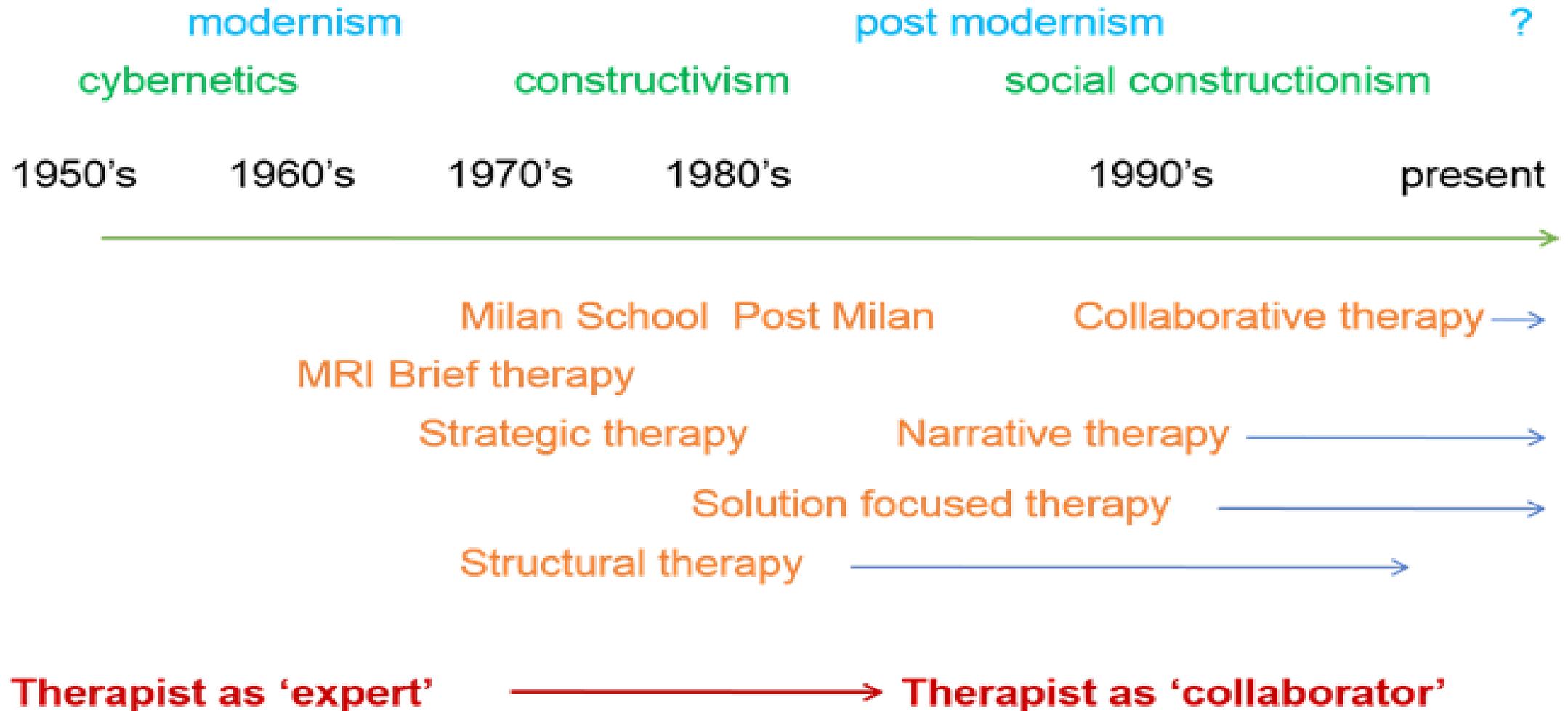
Making sense of meaning in postmodern therapies: Connections and diversions

Kirsten Dierolf and Hugh Palmer

Hope in Conversation and Action
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History of systemic therapies (© Hugh Palmer)



Key Figures



Fry, Weakland, Bateson and Haley circa 1955



Erickson and Bateson circa 1978

Differences....

- “Erickson had a major concern in his life – finding ways to influence people. He seems to have been the first to say that the responsibility for therapeutic change lies with the therapist, rather than with the patient”. (Haley 1985)
- “Bateson didn’t like power. He didn’t even like the word...anyone who said ‘I’m going to change this person’. If they said ‘I will offer this person some ideas, and if they change, it’s up to them,’ then Gregory would have no trouble with them. But if you take responsibility for changing people, then you would have a problem...Any influence outside the person’s range is odious to him. Any indirect manipulation is [also] out of the question”. (Haley in Lipsett, 1982)

Bateson on Erickson's followers

- KEENEY: You're saying that people who go to see Erickson come away with a craving for power?
- BATESON: Yes! They all want power.
- KEENEY: Is there something about seeing (Erickson) that induces this power hungriness?
- BATESON: Well, it's the skill which he has of manipulating the other person which really in the long run does not separate him as an ego dominant to the other person. He works in the weave of the total complex and they come away with a trick which is separate from the total complex, therefore goeth counter to it, and becomes a sort of power. I think it's something like that. (Keeney 1977)

Galveston Declaration

- In May of 2016, a think tank gathering was held on Galveston Island, Texas. The two-day event was called Galvanizing Family Therapy: Reclaiming and Revitalizing Collaborative Practices. Jim Duvall, Jill Freedman, Gene Combs, and Karen Young organized this event. Harlene Anderson and David Paré acted as facilitators.
- The 'Galveston Declaration' is an attempt to articulate shared values, and present them in a way that will encourage practitioners, agencies and organisations to think more clearly about how these values inform our practice and also the ways in which we manage and treat our clients and colleagues.

We Value This:	More Than This:
PLURALISM – differences of view	SINGULARITY - of view
1. Acknowledging multiple “truths”	1. Holding to a singular firm belief
2. Responsiveness to particularities in context	2. Applying generalities (including diagnosis)
3. Exploring multiple social realities	3. Searching for a single reality
4. Exploring multiple cultures, contexts, interactions and influences	4. Privileging specific cultures and contexts over others
FLUX – differences of state	STATIC - fixed states
1. Facilitating the emergence of new identities	1. Stabilizing fixed or rigid identity/identities
2. Regarding “every interaction as mutual influence”	2. Assuming “neutrality and objectivity” with potential for unidirectional influence
3. Recognizing people as persons embedded in relationships	3. Treating people as separate individuals
4. Experimenting with transformational restorative justice practices	4. Implementing traditional retributive justice practices

OPENING SPACE – expanding choice

1. Living with curiosity
2. Opening space for enlivened possibilities
3. Inviting others to entertain change
4. Proactively including others (while respecting their possible choice to remain apart)

CLOSING SPACE – removing choice

1. Living with certainty
2. Closing space for problems to persist
3. Imposing change interventions upon others
4. Passively and/or actively excluding others from participating

RESPONSIBILITY– generativity

1. Noticing resources, competencies, and possibilities
2. Anticipating potential effects of resource use and developing sustainable ecologies
3. Assuming collective responsibility and accountability
4. Enacting an ethics of caring and privileging restorative justice

DEFICIT FOCUS – constraint

1. Identifying and diagnosing deficits, dysfunctions, and limitations for correction
2. Utilizing profitable resources without consideration of the consequences
3. Projecting responsibility and specifying to whom it belongs; judging others
4. Applying moral judgements and retributive justice