

David Crofts' Personal Reality

Consciousness, as distinct from Mind, consists of a collection of sensations felt by the sense organs. These sensations can be centrally appreciated or they can be pushed out onto something external like the sensations we get from looking at an object.

Problems arise when sensations that are normally centrally appreciated on the body are pushed out like an observed object. I believe that the pushing out of these sensations so that they have the significance of an observed object is a defense mechanism that infants destined to become schizophrenics learn at an early age to handle overwhelmingly stressful sensations.

After the defense mechanism has taken its course, the stressful sensations might no longer be felt, but the damage has been done. The interface to one's body has become confused with the interface of the eyes. The infant's ability to appreciate the ambience of his surroundings has been damaged with the residue of sensations of their own body. Their eyes glaze over and they are surrounded by what psychiatrists call a "narcissistic haze".

The infant grows and develops in this "narcissistic haze" never appreciating properly the ambience of the world. Their ability to recognize a stimulus as external is damaged and it is like they are not properly "born".

When the person has their first episode of mental illness they are once again able to fix a stressful sensation with a stare. I believe that this stressful sensation is usually sexual frustration.