

ALONENESS IS NOT THE LAST WORD:

THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING DEEPLY CONNECTED TO ANOTHER

May 14, 2013 at 6:00pm
Casey Commons

Presenters: Kate Guts, Steen Halling,
Adam Pierce, Elisabeth Romatz, and
Jennifer Schulz



We will report on our dialogal phenomenological study which started as a study of intimacy and ended up focusing on the experience of being deeply connected to another person. In interviewing our participants, we wanted to know what brought them into these experiences, what changed in these moments so that they stood out as memorable, and how, and to what extent, these moments resonated beyond themselves. We found that the themes that constitute the core or essence of this phenomenon include responding with openness and lack of self-consciousness to a call or invitation from the other that brings us fully into presence to and awareness of this person. These moments stand out in our lives as unique and “more real than real” in that the sense of being deeply connected to another is a fully compelling and saturating moment. They may strengthen an existing relationship or create a disruption in our lives if an incident of connection is followed by disappointment. However ineffable these moments may seem when we attempt to describe them, they have an enduring power in our life that becomes manifest when we find a place in which to talk about them to someone else. We conclude by discussing the implications of these moments of deep connection for relationships and for psychotherapy, and by considering how the phenomena one studies may take researchers in unexpected directions if they are willing to let go of some of their preconceptions and expectations.

There will be a networking hour from 6-7pm with a light dinner, followed by the presentation at 7pm

REGISTRATION FORM

Return to:

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*Registration Deadline May 3rd.