

# **Playing with 'the father' in memory and desire: Exilic thirdness in transitional space**

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## **Abstract**

This paper is located as a transitional object in transitional space, that while exploring the play of paternal function, itself serves to provide paternal function in a process of becoming. It is an account concerned with intersectionality, a situated subjectivity, and the psychosocial in a South African context. It employs theoretical plurality to speak to how we construct meaning, position authority, and navigate otherness with thirdness, and to explore how a broader situated experience might be an influence on how we approach the therapeutic endeavour. Maternal and paternal orders are conceived relationally, to present thirdness as the interplay of primary and secondary process. As such, it offers a perspective on paternal function that is not only the bearer of paternal law and separating third, but also a facilitator of space and play that operates in the spaces between. To do so, the narrative traverses the author's experience of disability and trauma.