Summary of Manfred Halpern's Theory of Personal and Political Transformation (as it stood in 1987)

There are **8 relationship archetypes** that people can have with each other, with ideas or with institutions:

Subjection: one has overwhelming power over the other. Obey or die!

Isolation: both parties agree NOT to interact. Everyone for themselves.

Buffering: the two interact only through a ritual, activity or intermediary.

Direct Bargaining: each negotiates with the other on equal terms: a fair exchange.

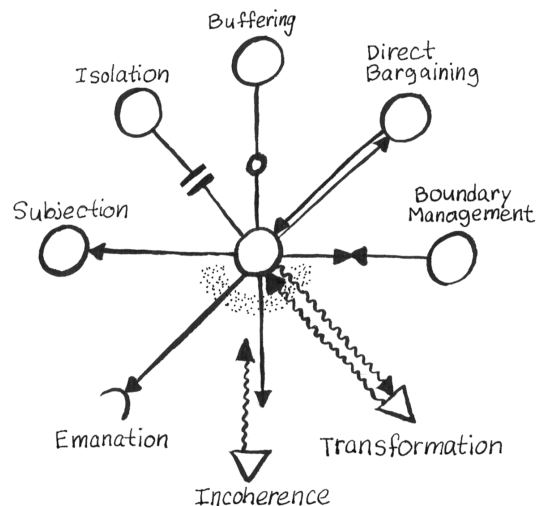*Boundary Management*: each has autonomy within their own borders.

Emanation: one is a mere extension of a more compelling and mysterious other. Total security. No questions. No conflict!

Incoherence: relationships break down. Nobody can agree on anything. There is no justice.

Transformation: discovering new, better relationships and participating in a continuing creation.

Deformation, the anti-relationship, happens when we cling to emanation as incoherence overwhelms us. It leads always toward destruction and even death.

Emanation, Incoherence and Transformation can be ways of life.

The Drama of Transformation is the driving force behind literature, religion, politics and science (c.f. Thomas Kuhn)

Act I (*Emanation*): Everything seems perfect and there's nothing to question.

Act II (*Incoherence*) Things change and relationships fail. There are no answers. When clinging to the past makes it worse, it's time to let go and make room for new inspirations.

Act III (*Transformation*), we find new inspirations, try them out, and some lead to much better relationships.

When we try not to change those new relationships, we return to Act I. But in modern life, Act I simply no longer works as a way of life.

Further Reading: Manfred Halpern and David Abalos, *Transforming the Personal, Political, Historical and Sacred in Theory and Practice* (U. of Scranton Press: 2009) ISBN 978-1589661783; 400p. This is the most up-to-date version of the theory, but it is extremely dense and academic!