

ATTACHMENT, TRAUMA AND THE FAMILY

DR ADAH SACHS

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Attachment is an instinct

Activated
by fear and distress

Alleviated
by the attachment figure's attention

The attachment relationship:

High & frequent distress → Dependency

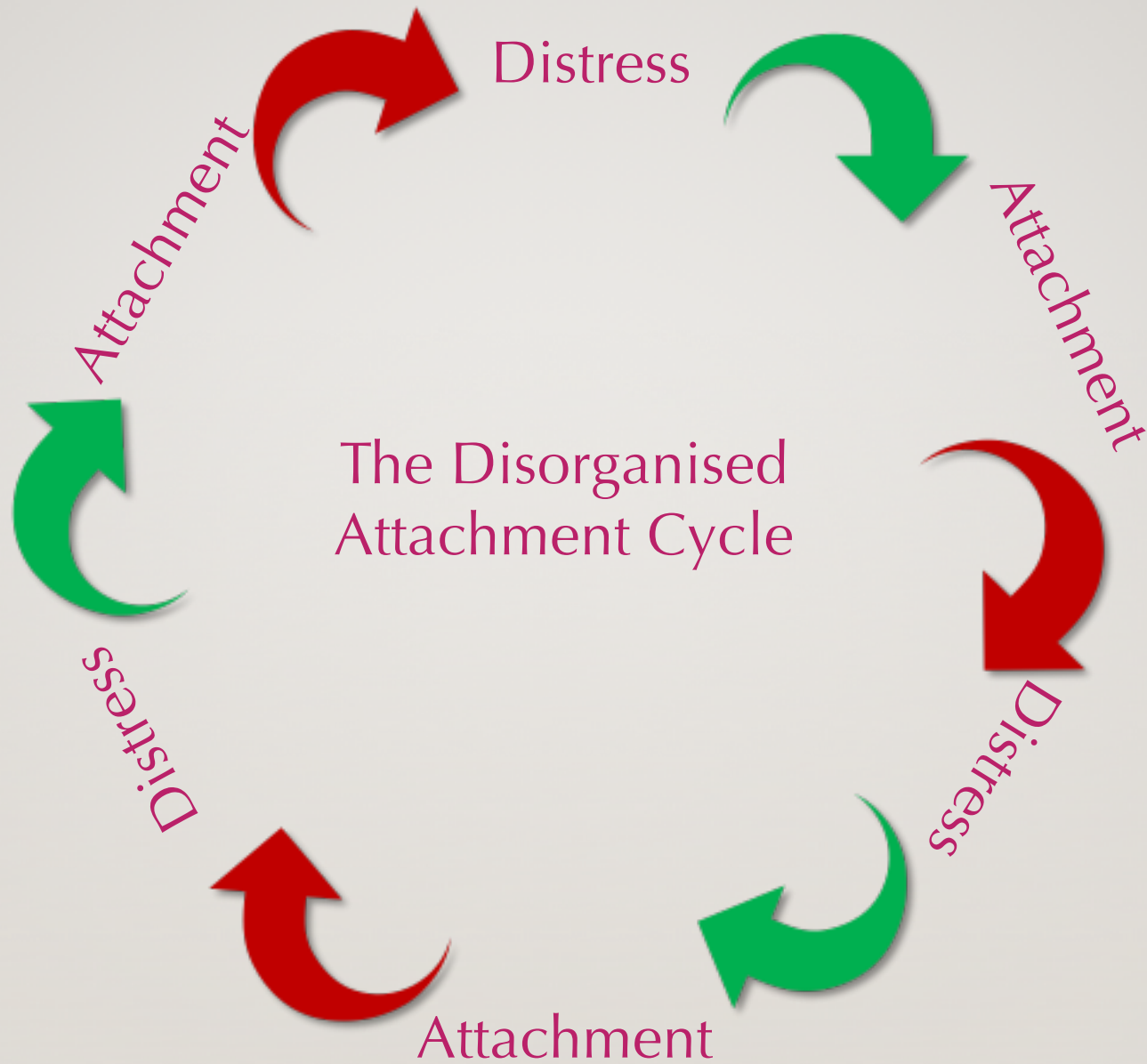
Attentive parenting → Independence

“The helpless infant will do everything within its powers to preserve itself, ie to maintain its close association with the mother.”

Suttie, *The Mother: Agent or Object?*

British Journal of Medical Psychology, 1932, 12, 199-233.

The Disorganised Attachment Cycle



ATTACHMENT TYPES IN DECREASING ORDER OF AIDING SURVIVAL

Secure

Bowlby, 1958-;
Ainsworth, 1966-

Insecure

Insecure avoidant/ insecure

Bowlby, 1958-;
Ainsworth, 1966-

Disorganised

Main, 1981-

"Cannot classify"

Hesse 1996

Agonistic/ Erotizing/ Care-giving

Liotti, 1999-

Infanticidal attachment

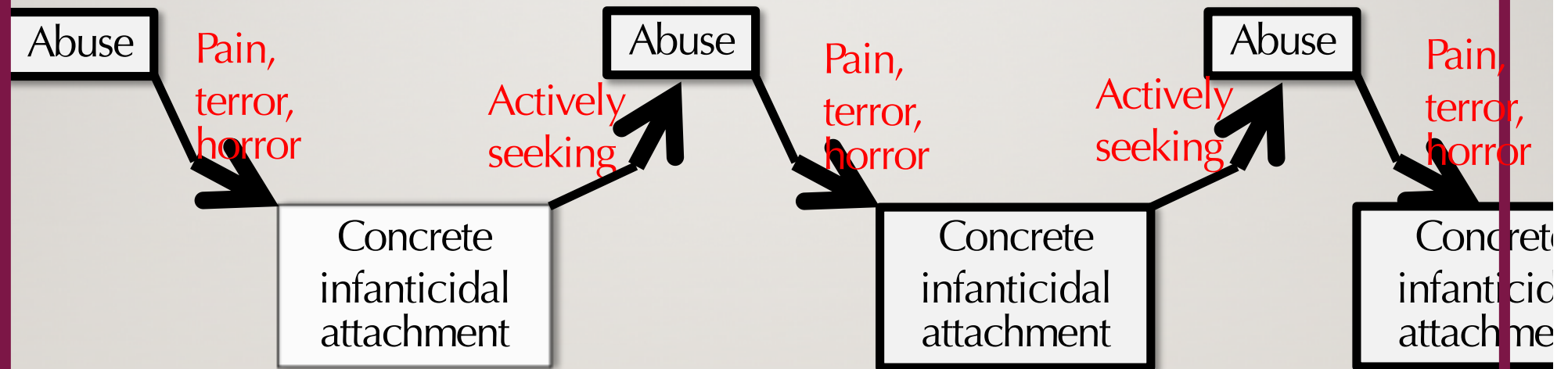
Kahr, 2007

Symbolic infanticidal attachment

Concrete infanticidal attachment

Sachs, 2008-

The Concrete Infanticidal Attachment Cycle



Concrete Infanticidal Attachment: Essential Attributes

- A childhood (or longer) of involvement in violent, sadistic and life-threatening crime as a victim, witness, perpetrator or any combination of them.
- These crimes are carried out within a group to which one belongs, willingly or otherwise, such as a religious sect, a family, a military offshoot, a paedophile ring etc.
- This group serves as the person's attachment figure (note the attachment plurality, mirrored in the structure of DID).
- Within the group, the relevant crimes are deemed moral or even virtuous (if not legal).
- The deepest moments of relatedness to the attachment figure (the group) are reached during the performance of these crimes.
- The severity of the DID is related to the perceived cohesiveness, size and power of the group as a whole, as well as to the intensity of the violence.

