SEEING/HEARING: AVERTING OUR GAZE, CLOSING OUR EARS

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This paper aims at continuing the conversation that has been building over time concerning the inclusion of the socio-political sphere within our therapeutic dialogues, making visible the links between the "internal" and "external" world we all inhabit. Ullman (2012) from her position within the psychotherapeutic community in Israel, speaks to "the tendency to downplay if not ignore the impact or indeed the inextricable connection of the current sociopolitical context to our work. (p. 187)" Robbins using Levinas, states, "The text (Bible) says: 'Thou shalt not kill. It also says that there are a variety of ways to kill… The everyday killing with good conscience, the killing in all innocence—there is such a thing as well! (p. 132)" That is, there are so many ways to "kill" another' not simply when we perform the physical act with a knife or gun, but also when we look away from another in need, or close our ears to their call, or "totalize" them by trying to make their otherness into sameness. Scheper-Hughes (2002) further elaborates on this "human capacity to reduce others to nonpersons, to monsters, or to things that give structure, meaning, and rationale to everyday practices of violence… that include all expressions of social exclusion, dehumanization,

depersonalization. (Hinton, p. 369)" Vignettes will be presented that raise questions about what we "choose" to hear and what we do not "choose" to hear; what we "see" and how we avert our gaze.

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