



Heidi Crockett: Trauma as a Lack of Brain Integration Between the Left and Right Hemisphere



Heidi Crockett is a licensed psychotherapist and bodyworker, author, and educator at TrueNorth Health Center. She teaches embodiment through the science of Interpersonal Neurobiology (IPNB). Explore the experience of integration between the left and right hemispheres. Learn what happens to integration as the result of trauma and how we may guide ourselves and others back to integration after trauma.

TOP EMBODIMENT TIP: When you have choice (which is self-regulation) and connection (which is co-regulation), you can access an extraordinary state of being a human being. It is your birthright to have an integrated brain.

Exploring Interpersonal Neurobiology: What Is It?

- Created by Dan Siegel with the intention to bring together all areas of science in one framework. Interpersonal Neurobiology explores differentiation and linkages: how parts of our minds, brains, and bodies are differentiated and how they may be linked and work together for optimal functioning.

Exploring the Left and Right Hemispheres: How Are They Different? How Can They Work Together?

- The Left Hemisphere is more externally focused. It involves a narrator seeing what is happening and is one step removed from the current experience. The Right Hemisphere is more internally focused. It experiences what is happening on a body and sensory level. Bilateral Integration brings the two hemispheres together through the Corpus Callosum so that feelings can be transformed into words. The greater the integration, the greater the ability to regulate affect.

Exploring Trauma Through This Integrative Lens: What Happens to Integration When a Person Experiences Trauma?

- Trauma is the opposite of integration. Dissociation blocks the integration of the nervous system. Trauma is the moment of the blocking.
- Choice and connection help heal the split of the hemispheres. Choice is internal and involves self-regulation. Connection is external and involves co-regulation. We learn to self-regulate by being successfully co-regulated.
- We need to strengthen our soothing systems, prioritize rest and relaxation, share insight and empathy, extend kindness to self and others, help each other co-regulate, and create new meaning experiences from our trauma memories.

<u>Resources</u>

- Website: <u>www.heidicrockett.com</u>
- **References**: Gabor Mate Compassionate Inquiry; the presentation by Gil Hedley; the research of Dan Siegel.













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