

DMNS FAIR

Queens College, City University of New York
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
Faculty Achievement In Research

MY NAME: Larry S. Liebovitch

MY DEPARTMENT: DMNS & Physics

SOMETHING INTERSTING ABOUT ME: (OPTIONAL, MAY BE LEFT BLANK)

I used to go to Burger King after Yoga.

MY RESEARCH (IN SIMPLE WORDS THAT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD BY ANYONE ON THE Q64 BUS):

What constitutes a good therapeutic relationship in psychotherapy?

We're studying a mathematical model of how the emotional state of a therapist and client changes over time.

The emotional state of each one depends on how they feel when they're alone, how they felt a few minutes ago, and how they respond to each other.

We found that:

- 1) The person who is most responsive to the other achieves the most positive state.
So, a successful therapist should be calm and not too reactive.
- 2) Both people will go through emotional ups and downs during the course of the therapy.
- 3) A therapist that starts with a negative emotional state is bad, very bad, for the client.

(Two articles, one psych, one math, are currently under review for publication.)

MY RESEARCH IN 140 CHARACTERS (OPTIONAL, MAY BE LEFT BLANK)

Surprisingly, important aspects of psychotherapy can be captured by a simple mathematical dynamical model.