

FREUD CONFERENCE 2nd June, 2001

Testing Psychoanalysis

Keynote speaker, Professor Horst Kächele, is Director of the Ulm Psychoanalytic Institute, Germany, and current chair of the Department of Psychotherapy and Psychosomatic Medicine, University of Ulm. An experienced clinician, member of the IPA Research Committee and world renowned researcher in outcome studies, Horst has over 300 publications including theoretical and clinical texts in psychoanalysis.

Psychoanalysis: Does it really work?

Session I: Horst presented the development of outcome related research in psychoanalysis throughout Europe and North America. He discussed the report generated under the leadership of Peter Fonagy, entitled “IPA Review of Outcome Studies in Psychoanalysis”, and of which he was one of the 5 authors.

Session 2: Christine Hill presented a paper on her ongoing Ph.D thesis entitled “What do patients want? The analysand’s perspective on psychoanalysis”. Christine is a clinical psychologist, psychoanalytic individual and group psychotherapist, and member of the IPA College of Research Fellows. She discussed how she arrived at her question from the lack of the patient’s perspective in current psychoanalytic literature, and described her methodology and the preliminary themes emerging from published patient accounts and an early examination of her own interviews.

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Psychoanalysis in the 21st century. What is its future?

Session 3: Horst led off the afternoon session discussing how the many strains of contemporary psychoanalysis have resulted in the continual reformulation of basic aspects of theory. This was then illustrated by a clinical example of attachment research impacting on clinical theory and practice.

Session 4. Frances Thomson-Salo presented the final paper. Frances is a psychoanalyst and member of both the British Institute and Australian Psychoanalytical Society, and has a special interest in mother/ infant work. She considered the potential impact of recent infant research on psychoanalysis, such as current thinking in the infancy field about affects. In particular she examined the early appearance of pride and shame in the first months and how this might impact on practice in the consulting room.