



The Psychoanalytic Observation of Children

Origins and Recent Developments

Training and Research

Its Significance for Psychotherapy and other Fields of Psychosocial Work

An International Conference at the University of Vienna

Friday, 19th April 2024 (from 1.45 pm)

Saturday, 20th April 2024 (all day)

Sunday, 21st April 2024 (until 2.30 pm)

Programme

Programme overview

Friday, 19th April 2024

01:45 pm – 06:00 pm International observation discussion groups

07:00 pm – 09:00 pm Welcome reception at the University of Vienna

Saturday, 20th April 2024

09:15 am – 11:00 am Plenary session I

11:00 am – 11:30 am Coffee and tea break

11:30 am – 01:00 pm Parallel sessions A1 – A4

01:00 pm – 02:30 pm Break for lunch

02:30 pm – 04:00 pm Parallel sessions B1 – B3

04:00 pm – 04:30 pm Coffee and tea break

04:30 pm – 06:00 pm Plenary session II

Sunday, 21st April 2024

09:00 am – 10:30 am Plenary session III

10:30 am – 11:00 am Coffee and tea break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Parallel sessions C1 – C3

12:30 pm – 01:00 pm Break – coffee, tea and refreshments

01:00 pm – 02:30 pm Plenary session IV and closing of the conference

Friday, 19th April 2024, 1:45 pm – 9:00 pm

International Observation Discussion groups and welcome reception

1:45 pm – 6:00 pm

International Observation Discussion groups at various locations in Vienna in English and German

International psychoanalytic observation groups will take place at various Viennese locations from 1.45 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. All locations have a special connection to the conference theme. One week before the start of the conference, the organisational committee will inform all conference participants which group they belong to and at which address the particular group will meet.

Two participants will present written observation reports in each group. Then all group participants are invited to discuss these reports in order to get a deeper understanding of the observed child and his or her relational experiences. Two experienced leaders of observation groups will support this process of developing and sharing thoughts. Participants who do not have much experience of the psychoanalytic discussion of observational reports will thus have the opportunity to get to know the nature and purpose of this approach. Experienced participants and group leaders also may share some thoughts about the discussion process and different styles of leading a group.

The organising committee intends to create internationally mixed groups of participants. With respect to different language skills, groups will be established in both English and German. We hope all conference members will be able to attend the Friday afternoon groups in order to maximise the shared work of the conference.

1:45 pm – 2.00 pm

Arrival, welcome and opening of the observation discussion group (workshop)

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Observation protocol discussion - Session 1 / Paper 1

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Observation protocol discussion - Session 2 / Paper 2

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Reflection of the day

6:45 pm – 9:00 pm

Welcome reception at the University of Vienna

The organisational committee invites all registered participants to attend the welcome reception at the main building of the University of Vienna at 6:45 pm (Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna). Participants of the Observation Groups will be informed about the best way to get to the main building of the University of Vienna.

Saturday, 20th April 2024, 9:15 am – 6:00 pm
Paper presentations and discussions at the University of Vienna

9:15 am – 11:00 am
Plenary session I:

Origins of the psychoanalytic observation of children in Vienna

Rolf Göppel (GER)

The everyday observation of children for research reasons
in the 19th and early 20th century

Roman Krivanek (AUT)

The observation of children in Anna Freud's Jackson Nursery (1937/38)

Wilfried Datler (AUT)

From Esther Wander's observations with Charlotte Bühler in Vienna
to Esther Bick's conception of Infant Observation at the Tavistock Clinic in London

Margaret Rustin (UK) and Inge Martine Pretorius (UK)

First remarks on the opening of the discussion

Chair: *Michael Rustin (UK)*

11:00 am – 11.30 am
Coffee and tea break

[The programme continues on the following pages.]

11:30 am – 01:00 pm
Parallel sessions A

Parallel session A1:
The impact of infant and young child observation on parent-infant psychotherapy

Gertraud Diem-Wille (AUT)

From Infant Observation to Parent-Infant Therapy: How we apply our experience of Infant Observation to the therapeutic work with parents and their children

Lenka Ockova (CZ)

Beyond words: making sense of what is seen and felt. Drawing on infant and young child observation in clinical work

Parallel session A2:
The observation of children and psychosocial work in various settings

Jeanne Magagna (UK)

The silent scream. The application of Infant Observation principles to work with parents' and children's groups, nurses' reflective practice groups, school settings and psychoanalytic psychotherapy to children who are immobile, not speaking or not eating

Barbara Neudecker & Regina Studener-Kuras (AUT)

Observation in psychoanalytic parent counselling – prospects on building a psychodynamic understanding of a child's inner world, family relations and child development

Parallel session A3:
Connections between external social processes and observation seminar explorations

Matthew Chuard (UK)

The child-in-the-family-in-the-community: psychoanalysis, infant observation and the social matrix. Further examination of the external world and the way that it shapes unconscious processes and identity formation

Wilfried Datler, Christin Reisenhofer, Alexa Weber, Judith Thaller, Margit Datler and Sabine Freilinger (AUT)

Bifokal Young Child Observation in families and parent-toddler groups – and beyond: The research design of the Vienna Parent-Toddler Group Study with special respect to a casuistic example

Parallel session A4:
Demanding and painful transitions

Lisa Dioli, Aurora Scabia, Eleonora Testa, Elena Coletti (IT)

Getting back in touch. The role of Infant Observation in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) and the supportive work with parents and their premature babies.

Ulrike Schäuferle (GER)

"Just the two of them?" or Struggles of a pair of fraternal twins in the transition from home to day care

Saturday, 20th April 2024, 9:15 am – 6:00 pm
Paper presentations and discussions at the University of Vienna

1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
Break for lunch

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Parallel sessions B

Parallel session B1:
The significance of observing children for the development and validation of psychoanalytic theories

Reinhard Fatke (CH)

Psychoanalytic observation of children from two different perspectives with differing outcomes: A comparison between Hans Zulliger and Fritz Redl

Johannes Gstach (AUT)

To confirm Freud's theories? - Reports about observed children published in the "Journal of psychoanalytic pedagogy/education" [Zeitschrift für psychoanalytische Pädagogik] in the interwar period

Parallel session B2:
Learning experiences of students who observe children in the context of research projects

Mia-Charlott Bohnet (AUT)

Emotions in observing a toddler: Looking for a deeper understanding of an observer's countertransference by the use of Monographic Writing

Susanna Wiedermann (AUT)

The observed mother – the observing mother: reflections on anxiety, ambivalence, concern and guilt in the role of the observer in a psychoanalytic research project

Parallel session B3:
On the relationship between restraint, observation and stronger involvement

Jenifer Wakelyn (UK)

What is psychoanalytic about the *Watch Me Play!* approach?

Lisa Engelke (AUT)

Struggling with the transition from Young Child Observation to Work Discussion. On unconscious defence, emotional challenges and a significant contribution to professional development

[The programme continues on the following pages.]

Saturday, 20th April 2024, 9:15 am – 6:00 pm
Paper presentations and discussions at the University of Vienna

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Coffee and tea break

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Plenary session II

**The psychoanalytic observation of children – its significance
for the development of psychoanalytic competences and capacities**

Inge Martine Pretorius (UK)

The value of direct child observation for students of Psychoanalysis
and the development of psychoanalytic theory

Biddy Youell (UK)

Introducing psychoanalytic observation through work discussion.
The relationship between experiential learning and theory

Christin Reisenhofer (AUT)

First remarks on the opening of the discussion

Chair: *Christa Paulinz (AUT)*

[The programme continues on the following pages.]

Sunday, 21st April 2024, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm
Paper presentations and discussions at the University of Vienna

9:00 am – 10:30 am
Plenary session III

**The psychoanalytic observation of children in observational settings:
Its impact on children, families and observers.
Thoughts on the method of the psychoanalytic observation of children**

Christiane Ludwig-Körner (GER)

Critical comments on Infant Observation and suggestions for alternatives

Trudy Klauber (UK)

"One hour a week observing the baby." Is it a lot or a little? Opportunities and limitations on the background of a current understanding of Infant Observation

Gertraud Diem-Wille (AUT)

First remarks on the opening of the discussion

Chair: *Alexander Schwetz (AUT)*

10:30 am – 11:00 am
Coffee and tea break

[The programme continues on the following pages.]

Sunday, 21st April 2024, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm
Paper presentations and discussions at the University of Vienna

11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Parallel sessions C

Parallel session C1:
**Mindful observation and its relevance for psychotherapy
and psychosocial work in various contexts**

Kitty Schmidt-Löw-Beer (AUT)

What can observing babies teach us about emotionally disturbed clients? A case illustration

Christa Paulinz (AUT)

Concepts of Selfpsychology/Intersubjectivity as foundation of the observation of children.
An approach towards a discussion about how to deal with observed phenomena
in various contexts

Parallel session C2:
Support for observers and people running observation seminars

Agathe Israel (GER)

Emotional learning in supervision groups for people running infant observation groups

Christin Reisenhofer and Kathrin Trunkenpolz (AUT)

Observing children at risk. Some psychoanalytic remarks on engaging students
in a research project

Parallel session C3:
**Young Child observation as a method for investigating change
and developmental processes**

Frederika Wagnerová (AUT)

"Markus has changed so much. His behaviour is so good now." Exploring changes in the
relational experiences of a child at risk by using Young Child Observation as a research tool

Tina Eckstein-Madry, Ulrike Schäufele and Wilfried Datler (GER/AUT)

Exploring the emotional impact of a young child's transition from home to nursery: Linking
the results of Young Child Observation with the analysis of cortisol data

[The programme continues on the following page.]

Sunday, 21st April 2024, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm
Paper presentations and discussions at the University of Vienna

12:30 pm – 01:00 pm
Break – coffee, tea and refreshments

01:00 pm – 02:30 pm
Plenary session IV and closing of the conference

**What is special about observing children psychoanalytically?
In search for common approaches and distinctive features**

Round table and open discussion

Brief opening statements by

Michael Rustin (UK)

Gertraud Diem-Wille (AUT)

Margret Rustin (UK)

Barbara Neudecker (AUT)

Chair: *Wilfried Datler (AUT)*

Closing of the conference

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