

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, April 19-21, 2024

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

Saturday, April 20, 4:30 p.m. / Kleiner Festsaal / Plenary session

Abstract:

This short paper will look at the way in which taking part in organised, carefully led workplace discussions can introduce workers in education, health and social care to the value of their own observations and the value of reflecting on the thoughts and feelings they struggle to understand and manage in their working lives. How much can be achieved in supporting observation in practice, without direct teaching of psychoanalytic theory? Examples are drawn from a course for perinatal workers, which is not explicitly linked to psychoanalytic approaches.

Keywords:

Workplace discussions, psychoanalytic oriented teaching without teaching theory, perinatal work

Biographical details:

Biddy Youell is a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist; retired from clinical work but continuing to teach and supervise. She was head of the clinical training at the Northern School of Child Psychotherapy (Leeds) and then Head of the Child Psychotherapy profession at the Tavistock. She has always been interested in applications of psychoanalytic thinking, and has recently been involved in developing post qualification training for the perinatal workforce.

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