

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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**Concepts of Selfpsychology/Intersubjectivity as foundation of infant observation.
An approach towards a discussion about how to deal with observed phenomena**

Sunday, April 21, 11:00 a.m. / Kleiner Festsaal / Parallel session C1

Abstract:

When the counsellor steps into the classroom there may be whisper, „*Who is she?*“ She may be addressed „*Is it Jackie (or Linda or Bob etc.) who you are here for?*“ or asked for help in some school task-questions. The appearance of a person new to the system of a school class gets phantasies going in each student. Counselling work is to be understood against this background.

We are aware of the fact that entering a system creates new dynamics. Phantasies and ideas illustrate the dense, multidimensional process of observing and being observed - initiated from the very beginning of the counsellor (in person, announced) meeting with students.

My discussion focuses on the potential of this development when working with a child at risk in a participating observation mode. My professional attitude is based on selfpsychological and intersubjective concepts. Intersubjective communication welcomes new and newly shared meanings, expects the unpredictable and permanent reconstruction of what is considered reality.

I will melt my conceptual and operational ideas into a case presentation. I also will add some remarks on the education and training of counselling teachers.

Keywords:

Self Psychology, intersubjectivity, counselling in schools, child at risk, education and training of counselling teachers

Biographical details:

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