

**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**

**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 eating**

**Saturday, April 20, 11:30 a.m. / Hörsaal 29 / Parallel session A2**

**Abstract:**

Non-speaking older children are sometimes rejected as being suitable for psychoanalytic psychotherapy. This presentation describes the application of infant observation principles to work with a parents' and children's group, nurses' reflective practice group, school setting and individual psychoanalytic psychotherapy to children who are immobile, not speaking or eating. These principles can be used with other less ill children in psychiatric units and family therapy session.

**Keywords:**

Principle of Infant Observation, application of Infant Observation, child psychotherapy

**Biographical details:**

Jeanne Magagna, PhD, was Head of Psychotherapy Services at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London for 24 years. She received qualifications as a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, Family Psychotherapist, and Adult Psychotherapist at London's Tavistock Clinic, where she now teaches as a part-time lecturer. For most of her career, she has worked as a specialist consultant in inpatient and outpatient services with children and adolescents who deal with problems such as psychotic anxieties, self-harm, suicidal ideation, depression, and eating disorders. She teaches, and formerly was coordinator of training, at the Centro Studi Martha Harris Tavistock Model Child psychotherapy training program in Italy. She has edited several books, including *The Silent Child: Communication without Words* (Routledge, 2019) and wrote, *A Psychotherapeutic Understanding of Eating Disorders in Children and Young People* (Routledge, 2021).

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