

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

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

Abstract:

In this paper, an experienced psychoanalyst shares some of her experiences with infant observation. Referring to case material, she outlines the ways in which Infant Observation has enriched her ability to imagine the possible scenario in the early relationships of my patients and I was able to relate the here and now of the therapeutic relationship to the many images she had of early mother-child experiences. At the same time, she was able to pick up and contain primitive aggression, anxieties or deep pain and interpret what she as the “mother-father-therapist” was experiencing with her patients. The presentation and discussion of case material from an Infant Observation and a psychotherapeutic process with a 26 years old patient will be in the centre of the paper.

Keywords:

Infant Observation, psychoanalytic psychotherapy with adults, transference, countertransference, understanding early (primitive) emotions

Biographical details:

Kitty Schmidt-Löw-Beer, Dr. med., works as a psychoanalyst in private practice. She serves also as a training analyst (WPV/IPA), group psychoanalyst, training group psychoanalyst (ÖAGG) and as a staff member of the Psychoanalytic Institute of Eastern Europe (PIEE). She worked for many years at the Clinic for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy at the Medical University of Vienna.

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