

The Psychoanalytic Observation of Children
Origins and Recent Developments -- Training and Research
Its Significance for Psychotherapy and other Fields of Psychosocial Work
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Psychoanalytic Observation from Two Different Perspectives with Differing Outcomes: A Comparison between Hans Zulliger and Fritz Redl

Saturday, April 20, 4:30 p.m. / Kleiner Festsaal / Parallel session B1

Abstract:

Two well-renowned child psychoanalysts and eminent contributors to the field of child therapy, Hans Zulliger in Switzerland (1893–1965) and Fritz Redl in the USA (1902–1988), collected and published a multitude of case studies based on detailed psychoanalytic and pedagogical observations. Their fields of practical experiences were mainly educational: Zulliger worked during his whole life as a school teacher (and child guidance counsellor), Fritz Redl served as director of residential treatment facilities for emotionally severely neglected and aggressive children. Therefore, they concentrated their observations not only on different behavioral and character traits of their children, but they were also challenged to find (different) solutions for the specific situations they observed. How this shaped their observational attention and led to differing theoretical knowledge will be outlined on the basis of concrete examples.

Keywords:

Hans Zulliger, Fritz Redl, case study, relation between the observation of children and the development of theory, history of Psychoanalysis, history of education

Biographical details:

Reinhard Fatke is Professor Emeritus of Educational Science at the University of Zurich. After his training as high school teacher and postgraduate studies at Columbia University and the University of Michigan (where he worked with Fritz Redl), he completed his doctorate and habilitation at the University of Tuebingen. Thereafter, he served as Professor of Applied Social Science at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) before he became professor in Zurich. His main fields of research are theory and history of psychoanalytic education, expressive behavior of children (esp. storytelling, fantasy, friendship, collecting), participation, deviance, and suicide. He edited numerous writings of Hans Zulliger and Fritz Redl.

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