

Psychoanalysis at Universities

Challenges, Concepts and Developments in Education, Training and Research

An International Conference at the University of Vienna, September 6-8, 2024

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Paper Presentation

Johanna Muckenhuber (AUT)

**Integrating Bourdieu's theory and concept of the habitus into psychoanalytic practice:
The impact of sociological university research.**

***Saturday, September 7 / 14.30 – 16.00 / Parallel Session 3
University of Vienna, Währinger Straße 29, 1090 Vienna***

Abstract:

In our psychoanalytic practice, we focus on individuals' current suffering, their life history, their developmental aspirations, on the current therapeutic relationship and on the connections between people's life history and their relational patterns. If we assume that our clients' embeddedness in social relationships and their position in society have an impact on their psychological state, it seems sensible for our therapeutic practice to consider the close interweaving between biographical and social mechanisms and individual dispositions. We should also ask how society, with its norms and discourses, is inscribed in people's thinking and feeling. With his theory of the habitus, the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu provides a concept and terminology that allows these mechanisms as well as transgenerational transformations to be conceptualized and analyzed. By habitus, he understands embodied preference structures that unfold their effects as forgotten history in the present (Bourdieu, 1987). The concept has been further developed and has been the subject of many empirical studies across a broad range of scientific disciplines at universities in recent decades. Nevertheless, it has barely been integrated into psychoanalytical research and theory. The aim of this presentation therefore is to demonstrate how integrating Bourdieu's concept of habitus with psychoanalytical theories can serve as a hermeneutic tool for understanding clients within their socio-structural and cultural background. The presentation will include a discussion of case vignettes to explore how insights from academic research in related disciplines can be incorporated and thereby enrich our psychoanalytic practice.

Biographical details:

Johanne Muckengruber, MMag. Dr., Priv.-Doz., is an Associate Professor at the FH Joanneum (Graz). She studied Psychology and Sociology at the Universities of Vienna, Graz and Paris X as well as at the Institute of Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna. She habilitated in social medicine at the Medical University of Graz and taught as a professor at the Universities of Graz and Minnesota. As a psychotherapist she is trained in the psychodynamic method „Katathym Imaginative Psychotherapie (KIP)“.

E-mail: johanna.muckenhuber@fh-joanneum.at