

The Dynamics of Influence

Abstracts

Interactive Pressures: the Choreography of the Session.

Michael Feldman

One of the basic elements of our understanding of the analytic process involves the way the analyst's words and actions have an influence of the patient's psyche. We have also come to understand how the patient's projections influenced the analyst's psyche. Less attention seems to have been paid to the continuous dynamic interaction between two these two vital processes. In this paper I want to examine some of the ways these two complimentary processes interact at a conscious and unconscious level, which I am calling the choreography of the session.

An Exploration of how the Past Influences the Present in the Treatment of an Infant.

Mary Short

This paper describes the work with a replacement child, born four years after the death of her brother. The mother was deeply depressed and the work centred around helping the mother and infant to play together. The analyst used her metaphoric function to hypothesise what the infant might be trying to communicate in her play, which in turn helped illuminate the mothers internal world.

The Anxiety of Influence: Clinical Thinking in Retrospect.

Rosemary Davies

With a nod to Harold Blum's text *The Anxiety of influence* (1973), I am reminded of Sandler's idea of the influence of the analyst's private preconscious theory on his/her practice, and the anxiety expressed in

The conviction that what is actually done in the analytic consulting room is not 'kosher', that colleagues would criticize it if they knew about it, comes from the reality that any analyst worth his salt will adapt to specific patients on the basis of his interaction with those patients... He may be very comfortable with this as long as it is private rather than public... (Sandler 1983)

In elaborating something of my own clinical thinking, I draw on Breen's idea of 'bi-ocularity' (2016) as I consider our anxiety regarding our private clinical theory