

PSYCHOANALYSIS

2009

Psychoanalysis faces a growing challenge from the neurosciences and other biologically oriented theories of mental functioning, but in France it still carries substantial social and cultural weight. The profession of psychoanalysis is not legally regulated in France, nor is the title of psychoanalyst legally protected. The practice of psychoanalysis is not recognized by the French medical association or by the national health insurance system, except when it is performed by a psychoanalytically oriented psychiatrist.

The practice of psychoanalysis depends on absolute confidentiality—that is, on strict observance of each patient's privacy. Psychoanalysts must exhibit maturity, excellent listening skills, and the capacity for intense concentration.

Field: Humanities and social sciences.
Also see the following profiles: *Psychology, Medicine, Philosophy*

ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES

At the university and in the profession

There is no university degree that confers the legal or customary right to practice psychoanalysis or psychotherapy. Because successful psychoanalytic interpretation requires a very high level of general knowledge, particularly in the humanities, specialized psychoanalytic training does not begin until the student has completed a master's degree.

Various psychoanalytic institutes, many affiliated with the Psychoanalytic Society of Paris, provide professional training. The program has three principal components:

- Completion of a personal analysis
- Clinical supervision by an experienced colleague
- Continuing education through participation in seminars, lectures, and writing. Training typically extends over a period of 5 to 10 years.

Professional practice

Psychoanalysts do their work in private offices and in institutional settings. Some prefer to operate in both contexts. Institutions that employ psychoanalysts include combined psychological, medical, and pedagogical centers; centers for preventive medicine and mental hygiene; and various specialized-care centers devoted to treating addiction and substance abuse, cancer patients, and seniors, among others.

Types of care

The classic psychoanalytic cure is the most rigorous clinical application of the psychoanalytic method and tradition, but it is not appropriate or feasible in all situations.

Analytic psychotherapy is tailored to the needs and characteristics of each patient. Almost always it occurs face to face. Psychoanalysis of children and adolescents draws on other modes of investigation. Family psychotherapy is conducted with all or several members of the same family. There are other therapeutic approaches in the analytical tradition, as well, such as transactional analysis. All require a solid base of analytical training.

Useful Web sites

- Psychoanalytic Society of Paris
<http://www.spp.asso.fr>
- Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis
<http://www.ecole-lacanienne.net>
- SNP (Syndicat National des Psychologues, national union of psychologists)
<http://www.psychologues.org>
- ANVIE (national association for interdisciplinary business applications of scientific research in the humanities and social sciences)
<http://www.cnrs.fr/cw/fr/nomi/prix/Anvie96/anvie95.html>
- CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, national center for scientific research), department of humanities and social sciences
<http://www.cnrs.fr>
- AEJCPP (European association for research in psychopathology and psychoanalysis)
<http://aejcpp.free.fr/>
- Francophone psychoanalysis portal:
<http://www.psychanalyse-en-ligne.org/>
<http://www.oedipe.org/fr/accueil>

Keywords

adolescence – adult – affect – analysis – anthropology – art – childhood – clinic – cognitive processes – cognitive sciences – consciousness – culture – cure – dreams – education – emotion – family – Freud – gerontology – health – hospital – humanities and social sciences – interpretation – investigation – Lacan – literature – mental health – neurology – neurosis – pathology – philosophy – psychoanalysis of art – psychiatry – psychology – psychopathology – psychotherapy – reflexes – slip of the tongue – subconscious – support for disturbed, maladapted, and marginalized individuals – suppression – transfer – unconscious