

Presence & Absence



Brussels in-person and online
5th – 7th October 2023

8th EUROPEAN
PSYCHOANALYTIC
CONFERENCE FOR
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



Presence and Absence

Psychoanalytic theories of the emergence of the mind are based on a dichotomy of presence and absence of the (m)other. The ability to represent the object as a whole object and the capacity for experiencing oneself as a separate individual, with ambivalent properties, is required for a person to be able to be alive and in touch – with himself and potentially with the other – in the *presence* of the other.

Psychoanalysis also underlines the importance of frustration (the *absence* of pleasure and gratification) for the development of thought. We know that unbearable absence and intolerable frustration, affect the growing mind in potentially catastrophic ways.

A good enough-balance between the *presence* of the benevolent, interested object **and** *absence* of this gratifying object (optimal frustration) – will over time foster the potential capacity to both be present with another and handle the other's absence – while keeping the other in mind.

How are these concepts discussed in different psychoanalytical perspectives? How are the themes of presence and absence elaborated in the clinical setting? And how does the digital era affect our understanding and experiences of presence and absence?

On behalf of the European Psychoanalytical Federation
Martin Teising, Mercedes Puchol, Charlotta Björklind

European Psychoanalytic Conference for University Students – EPCUS provides the unique opportunity to approach the psychoanalytic way of thinking by listening to prominent psychoanalysts, by meeting colleagues and forming networks, thus gaining perspectives into various aspects of personal development in a distinct atmosphere of learning, exchange and enthusiasm.



Presentations

Maria Yassa: Why is Irma sleeping? On the analyst's counter-transference and reverie

Michael Günter: The Presence of Trauma and the Experience of Horror in the Therapeutic Relationship

Katy Bogliatto: Presence and Absence: caesuras in medically assisted procreation

Patrick Miller: What comes to be presented on a backdrop of absence

Laura Ezquerra: A psychoanalytic view of the erotic and the obscene

Alexander Uskov: The presence and the absence of the good object

Charlotta Björklind: Forms of presence and absence in a digital age

Bernd Pütz: Reflections on Remote Analysis, the Psychoanalytic Frame and the Consequences of the Corona Pandemic



This conference is of interest for university students and recent graduates, especially in medicine, psychology and other cultural or language sciences.

All presentations will be in English.

The fee of 30€ is the same for in-person participants at EPF House in Brussels and online participants.

Venue The House of the European Psychoanalytical Federation in Brussels, Belgium

Date Thursday 5th till Saturday 7th of October 2023

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The information about conference registration and payment is available on www.epf-fep.eu