



**SLOVENSKO DRUŠTVO  
ZA PSIHOANALITIČNO  
PSIHOTERAPIJO**

**The International Seminar**

**March 16<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**M hotel, Ljubljana, Slovenia**

**The Concept of Projective  
Identification in Theory and  
Clinical Practice**



Salvador Dalí. Galatea of the Spheres

Invited psychoanalyst:

***Kitty Schmidt*** (Wien, Austria)

Other presenters:

**Pavel Koltaj, Igor Okorn, Saša Rojc, Bojan Varjačić Rajko, Lilija Varjačić Rajko** (Ljubljana, Slovenia), **Suzana Pertot** (Trieste, Italy)

Dear friends and colleagues!

On behalf of the Slovenian Society for Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy (SDPP), a member of the European Federation for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, I am happy to invite you to the 8<sup>th</sup> Open International Seminar on the topic:

**The Concept of Projective Identification in Theory and Clinical Practice**

During our therapeutic and psychoanalytic work we often deal with processes that are not reachable with words. Sometimes what is being said doesn't correspond with the emotional atmosphere of the session and evokes intense feelings in the therapist. We believe that analyst responds to the unconscious communication of the patient. Projective identification is one of such unconscious ways of communication. When the patient has difficulties to accept himself, he unconsciously projects the unwanted or desired parts of himself and attributes them to others.

In our analytic work it is important that we stay receptive for our patients' projections. It makes our analytic experience multidimensional – we feel the patient's emotional inner world by adjusting to his mind. We experience his feelings as our own while the patient himself doesn't feel them at the moment. Such analyst's unconscious response is so intense that it narrows down the analyst's mind and there is no analytic space left to digest and understand what had been projected. We can say that projective identification serves for communication and impedes it at the same time. The essence of our therapeutic work is to keep balance between becoming a patient's object and keeping the observing analytical position of »the third« which enables further communication with the patient. We transmit our understanding of the on-going process to the patient by returning him the projected parts of his self in symbolized form and thereby facilitate the process of the integration of his self.

The concept of projective identification as an unconscious fantasy of controlling the object was first mentioned and described by Melanie Klein in 1946. A Kleinian psychoanalyst Wilfred Bion was the first who underlined the communicative function of the projective identification together with it's function of evacuation of the unwanted parts of the self. Psychoanalysts who continue the Kleinian tradition in Britain have contributed a lot to the development of this concept (H. Rosenfeld, H. Segal, R. Britton, B. Joseph, I. Sodre, M. Feldman etc.). This concept

gained broader meaning in other psychoanalytic schools in Britain (J. Sandler) and in the rest of the Europe (H. Hinz, J. Canestri, J-M. Quinodoz), as well as in the United States (T. Ogden, A. Malin, J. Grotstein) and Latin America (L. Meyer, G. Jarast, M. Massi).

Our special guest – Austrian psychoanalyst **Kitty Schmidt** – is going to present her interactive model of projective identification in the form of a workshop in a large group.

**Kitty Schmidt (Catherine Schmidt-Löw-Beer)**, Ph.D is a psychiatrist, a training psychoanalyst of Wien Psychoanalytic Society (WPV) and IPA, as well as of Austrian Association for Group Psychotherapy. She's a professor at Wien Medical University and a member of baby observation group in Wien.

Kitty Schmidt already visited Ljubljana in 2015 and presented her clinical material which showed us how to use the experience of baby observation method in our understanding of emotionally disturbed patients. Projective identification can be observed either in mother-baby relationships or in interaction with severely disturbed patients and in ordinary life as well. This time with the help of Kitty Schmidt we will be able to learn about projective identification by experiencing it in a group.

After the lunch our **working group of psychoanalysts and psychotherapists** – which has studied the fate of the concept of projective identification for several years – is going to present some theoretical ideas from different analytical perspectives and share with you clinical vignettes to vividly illustrate these phenomena. Discussions in small groups will follow.

Workshop lead by Kitty Schmidt will be held in English. Presentations will be in Slovenian and translated into English. Small group discussions will be in Slovenian and English respectively.

**You are warmly welcome!**

*Lilija Varjačič Rajko,  
SDPP president.*

## PROGRAM

09.00 - 09.20	Registration
09.20 - 09.30	Welcoming words
09.30 - 10.45	<b>Workshop on Projective Identification (Kitty Schmidt)</b>
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 - 12.30	<b>Workshop on Projective Identification (Kitty Schmidt)</b>
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch break
<b>14.00 - 15.30</b>	<b>The Concept of Projective Identification in Theory and Clinical Practice – Presentation:</b>
14.00 - 14.15	The original concept of M. Klein and its development in the work of W. Bion (Igor Okorn);
14.15 - 14.30	The development of the concept of projective identification in post-kleinian psychoanalysis (Lilija Varjačič Rajko);
14.30 - 14.45	Clinical vignette (Suzana Pertot);
14.45 - 15.00	Actualization of Projective identification and role-responsiveness by J. Sandler (Bojan Varjačič Rajko);
15.00 - 15.15	On projective identification by T. Ogden (Pavel Koltaj);
15.15 - 15.30	Clinical vignette (Saša Rojc).
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 - 17.00	Discussion in small groups
17.00 - 17.30	Plenary discussion and closure of the seminar

**Registration fee:** 80 € until 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 and 100 € for later registration.

Registration fee includes attendance in all scientific activities and coffee breaks.

The seminar will be held at the seminar halls in M-hotel in Ljubljana (4, Derčeva street). You can use self-service lunch at the M-hotel restaurant for 15 EUR. More information about M-hotel: <https://www.m-hotel.si/>

E-mail for registration forms: [psihoanalitiki.ipa@gmail.com](mailto:psihoanalitiki.ipa@gmail.com)

Website of SDPP: [www.psihoanalitiki-ipa.si](http://www.psihoanalitiki-ipa.si)