

Enactment: a new area of illusion?

Abstract

In our practice, we have been led to reflect on enactments that have enabled analytical processes to be initiated.

Two vignettes will illustrate our point: a young woman suffering from early deficiencies and trauma, and a self-called gender fluid adolescent. The enactments, perhaps mirroring the patients' tendency to act, have allowed the creation of an area of illusion that had not been possible until now. Enactment not only indicates a more direct passage of communication from unconscious to unconscious but also enables an intuitive response of the analyst to the patients: she does not reflect back to her patients the coldness of a depressed and/or rigid mother and opens the field of new possibilities.

The enactment would then be a new royal road to the unconscious and it is the analyst's capacity of reverie that would favour the passage from an infra-representational register to a representational register, notably the access to dreams. The borderline functionings that favour the enactments should lead us to treat the latter as clinical material that is repeated before being recalled. The enactment enables, in our opinion, a new area of illusion for the analytic couple and opens new research perspectives.