

The Norwegian Society and European psychoanalysis.

Tormod Knutsen

Freud (1900) referred to Mourly Vold's dream-research at the university in Oslo. The Norwegian Psychiatrist Ragnar Vogt then published a textbook in psychiatry, where Freud's psychoanalytic treatment of hysterical patients for the first time was presented for medical students and doctors (1905). In 1913 a Norwegian Psychiatrist (Strømme) went to Zürich and the famous Burghölzli-clinic. After returning to Oslo, he started the first Norwegian psychoanalytic practice.

In the twenties' psychoanalysis was rooted in Vienna, Budapest, Zürich, Berlin and London. Several Norwegian analysts educated at Berlin Psychoanalytic institute established a Norwegian psychoanalytic society (approved as a membership organization of IPA (1934)).

Psychoanalysts from the Nazified Europe managed to escape by immigrating to the free countries, mostly to England and USA, bringing their ideas with them. Wilhelm Reich and Otto Fenichel ended up Oslo in 1933/4. Their importance for the development in Norwegian psychoanalysis was to be immense and dramatic. The IPA-congress in 1949 was a disaster for Norwegian psychoanalysis: exclusion from IPA, and only after many years with heavy work ended with membership.

Today psychoanalysis is more international than ever. Norwegian analysts have for many years travelled to China to educate medical doctors and psychologists in psychoanalytic theory and clinical use.

Tormod Knutsen, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in private practice, Oslo.

Training and supervising analyst at the Norwegian Psychoanalytical Association. Supervising residents at Oslo University Hospital. Co-editor of "Psykoterapi i utvikling" (Psychotherapy in development), 2012