

EPF Committee on Ageing - Old Age: Finiteness, Losses and Development. This workshop concludes our series on the ageing process. Having examined “Midlife” and “The Early Phase of Ageing” the last two years, we now turn our attention to old age. All colleagues and candidates are welcome.

C. S. Schrader¹, E. Hinze²

¹ DPV, Frankfurter Psychoanalytisches Institut, Frankfurt am Main, Hesse, Germany

² DPV, Karl-Abraham-Institut, Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Chair of Workshop

Dipl. Psych. Christiane S. Schrader,
Frankfurter Psychoanalytisches Institut

Content

Old Age: Finiteness, Losses and Development

From a gerontological perspective, the transition to old age is generally considered to occur between the ages of 80 and 85. For many elderly people, this transition is accompanied by a paradoxical experience known as the well-being paradox. This means that people feel more comfortable and satisfied than in earlier stages of old age. We will examine why this is the case and what potentials for development remain, as well as the significance and ways of coping with losses, processes of decline, physical changes and illnesses, and, of course, finitude and death. The question of what challenges to neutrality can arise in the treatment will also be considered: Would we offer our arm to a patient with walking difficulties? What if the patient or we as analysts become seriously ill? The preservation of well-understood neutrality will be demonstrated using two treatments of elderly patients over 80.

In the group work, the interests of the participants are taken into account from the outset. An introductory presentation (Christiane Schrader, Germany, Chair) and two case presentations (by Eike Hinze, Germany, member of the committee) will stimulate the discussion. Participants' clinical experiences are of course also welcome.