

The Psychoanalyst in the World

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Abstract Content (EN)

This panel will discuss the analyst's relation to socio-political issues. Claims that psychoanalysts should adopt a position of neutrality in relation to major human catastrophes arises, it will be suggested, from a confusion of the psychoanalyst's relation to such events with the relation to a patient in the clinical setting. The argument presented will situate psychoanalysis within an epistemological framework that gives centrality to its being 'a body of knowledge of mind and human culture'. When engaging with cultural and socio-political issues the analyst is not, so to speak, 'analysing' but using psychoanalytic knowledge to contribute to an interdisciplinary conversation.

Further, It will be suggested that a psychoanalyst, like anyone else, has duties as a citizen. Calls for neutrality reneges on that duty, positioning the psychoanalyst as a bystander in the face of world atrocities.