

**SIGMUND FREUD VORLESUNG 2008**

**Jessica Benjamin: Injury and Acknowledgement**

**A Psychoanalytic Perspective on Overcoming Victimhood in Psychotherapeutic Treatment**

**6. Mai 2008, 18.00 Uhr**

Billrothhaus der Gesellschaft der Ärzte in Wien

**INJURY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**A Psychoanalytic Perspective on Overcoming Victimhood in Psychotherapeutic Treatment.**

This talk addressed the way in which acknowledgment acts as a force in overcoming and healing trauma, both social and personal. It explored this theme in regard to psychoanalysis and to reconciliation processes in which there is an effort to overcome mutual injury through mutual acknowledgment. The relational school of psychoanalysis has been especially involved in rethinking the treatment and healing of trauma. In the theorizing of relational analysis, the crucial distinction is between a "third," the position based on the stance of the recognizing witness, and the breakdown of recognition into complementary opposition of doer and done-to.

**Jessica Benjamin** is a practicing psychoanalyst in New York City, and is part of University's Postdoctoral Psychology Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. She is a founder of the international association for relational psychoanalysis and psychotherapy as well as of the Stephen Mitchell Center for Relational Studies in New York. She is known for her effort to explain the classical aspects of psychoanalysis using object relations, infancy research, relational psychoanalysis, and feminist thought. She has made significant contributions to the concept of intersubjectivity in psychoanalysis. Benjamin's current writing is on the theme of the intersubjective third, emphasizing the process of recognition and the acknowledgment of trauma. She is currently organizing a series of workshops to create a practical demonstration of the process of mutual acknowledgment between Palestinian and Israelis who work in mental health in their respective communities. She has published three books: *The Bonds of Love: Psychoanalysis, Feminism and the Problem of Domination* (1988), *Like Subjects and Love Objects: Essays on Recognition, Identification and Difference* (1995), *Shadow of the Other: Intersubjectivity and Gender in Psychoanalysis* (1997)  
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