

Considering sexualities now

This paper will offer a brief look at psychotherapy and psychoanalytic writing that re-languages the sexual since Freud's binary views of women and men (She has not/he has).

This paper will offer windows into thinking about sexuality, from the perspectives of psychoanalytic writers such as Juliet Mitchell, Jacqueline Rose, Muriel Dimen as well as practitioners/authors published in contemporary journals and book chapters.

Rather than a deep dive into sexuality and its multiple expressions, this paper will revisit some of the thinking that has developed since linguistic and cultural expression have brought sexuality out of the shadows into current diverse and complex sexual expressions.

I will present examples of writing that express or seek to describe changing notions of sexuality to address the following:

What are sexual shadows?

What did we learn from our European psychoanalytic original theorists?

The binary and the complex: changing notions of sexuality.

The shadows in my personal self evoked in clinical practice.

Bio

Suzanne Johnson, MSc. (Psychotherapy), BN.

Suzanne identified with feminist, gender and cultural theorists from youth, and throughout 30 plus years of psychotherapy practice. Suzanne values these perspectives as they open up early psychoanalytic thinking to include cultural influence, gendered experience, sexuality and identity diversity.

