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# Anna Freud Vorlesung 2025

**David Tuckett**

## AN INADVERTENT BETRAYAL? Rebuilding psychoanalysis through knowing what psychoanalysts do

Sigmund Freud's invention of psychoanalysis was an astonishing achievement. But it seems possible his breath-taking approach has been normalised and underestimated or even perhaps inadvertently betrayed in current psychoanalytic practice. A potential reason is the siloed pluralism that characterises today's psychoanalysis. It has confounded deep understanding and development by depriving us of a common language and procedure and so common data. This has made it hard to evaluate what we do, to train psychoanalysts well and to judge innovations.

A 20-years team-project of mainly European analysts produced a practical framework of 11 questions that differentiate the central clinical issues so as to allow psychoanalysts to think about some crucial specifics of everyday sessions. The new framework enables us to look again at Freud's 1923 definition of psychoanalysis as a "procedure", "method" and "body of theory" and it also suggests that this is only partially implemented in contemporary psychoanalytic cultures.

**David Tuckett, M.A., M.Sc.**, is currently Director of the UCL Centre for the Study of Decision-Making Uncertainty and Fellow of the Institute of Psychoanalysis (London). He trained in Economics, Medical Sociology and Psychoanalysis and held positions at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School and Cambridge University. His research work attempts to integrate insights of psychoanalysis, sociology, cognitive psychology and economics.

**Donnerstag, 13. November 2025,  
20:15 – 22:00 Uhr**

**Medizinische Universität Wien, Klinik für  
Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie, Hörsaal B1,  
Borschkegasse 4A, 1090 Wien**

Präsenz in englischer Sprache,  
keine Anmeldung erforderlich