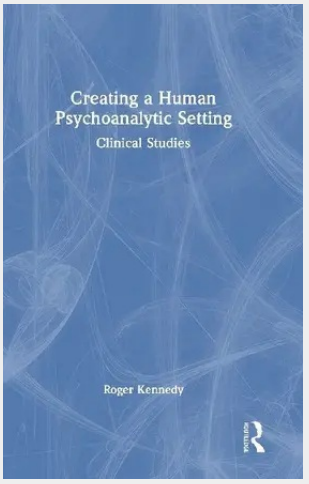
Kennedy

Creating a Human Psychoanalytic Setting

Clinical Studies



This book looks at how psychoanalytic thinking can be applied in a variety of settings and can respect the individual experience and circumstances of each patient. It focuses on the analytic encounter and the hard task around trying to create what the author calls a human analytic setting, one which respects human diversity and theoretical pluralism, pays adequate attention to the patient's emotional pain and suffering, while hopefully facilitating psychic change. Starting by looking at general features of independent psychoanalysis, the author explores institutional and political issues that can either facilitate or restrict psychoanalytic thinking and institutional life. He also explores key themes such as the nature of subjectivity, subject relations, and the nature of absence and presence, through case studies. The final chapters elaborate on the duality of the psychoanalyst's identity – one centred around the psychoanalyst's need for a home base for their confidence as practitioners and the other about the challenges facing analysts having to work in solitude for much of their working life. With a focus on the intimate relationship between what happens in the analytic setting and the analyst's own institutional influences, this is key reading for psychoanalysts and psychotherapists.

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247,80 €
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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781041162001
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-1-041-16200-1
Verlag: Routledge
Erscheinungstermin: 22.12.2025
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: 1. Auflage 2025
Produktform: Gebunden
Gewicht: 364 g
Seiten: 160
Format (B x H): 161 x 240 mm

Kundenservice Verlag Dr. Otto Schmidt KG
Neumannstraße 10, 40235 Düsseldorf | kundenservice@otto-schmidt.de | 0221-93738-997 (Inland)