

Abstract

This dissertation explores the experiences of Gestalt Psychotherapists who are relatives of people who survived the Holocaust era. Accounts of selected Gestaltists who have direct connections to the Holocaust, an overview of psychological research about the impact on survivors and their children is outlined and the implications of the Holocaust for therapists are considered.

Adopting a Heuristic methodology, the dissertation explores the experience through self-searching, incorporating unstructured interviews with a group of co-researchers.

The findings present a description of the experience of being a Gestalt Psychotherapist from a member of the generation 'who comes after', depicting a dialogue between colleagues about the experience. A number of themes and three key qualities of the experience are presented. These qualities relate to difference, a spacious disposition and inclusivity. The limits of the findings are identified and suggestions for further research made.