

Inhibition – Disinhibition

It is not new, to talk past (almost) any outer censorship unhamperedly. But the range and mobilizing power provided by the networking of over 1.3 bil. members on twitter potentiates the impact of the exercised words on the platform. We experience how millions of people react approvingly or disapprovingly in a matter of seconds and how they continue acting on these responds in showing concrete (speech) acts of hatred and violence apart from their gadgets. Increasingly radicalization, populism and terror dominate the daily news coverage and find their way into culture industry, e.g. into videogames and TV-series. These focus on shock and portrayals of extreme physical and psychical violence, and also just for these reasons enjoy great popularity.

Freud's term of the masses appears like a description of this psychic state: characterized by a regressive pressure, under which affect control and the capacity to think as well as creativity are inhibited and the willingness for aggressive and destructive action is disinhibited. Inhibition as an expression of a functional restriction of the Ego (as Freud considered it) seems to be omitted resp. displaced.

This phenomenon can also be observed among current trends of eating habits, fitness and recreation. They are supposed to liberate, relieve and ransom and yet by bans as well as commandments cannot cast off the spirit of a neoliberal self-optimization and come along as definitely compulsive. The search for frenzy, flow and ecstasy, as well as stability, balance and serenity occurs through a potpourri of ascetic and hedonistic practices. Restraints are thus overcome and new ones imposed.

In addition, a fierce struggle arises in the field of language regarding (il-)legitimate expressions in the discourse involving gender, ethnical affiliation and cultural-religious practices. With the pejorative of "politically correct" speech spontaneous expressions of words are allegedly tabooed. Also, the currently much discussed "cultural appropriation" challenges the boundaries of the say-and doable.

The 60th issue of the JOURNAL FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS is therefore dedicated to the terms INHIBITION – DISINHIBITION, which seem to characterize the societal developments as well as the (sub-)clinical phenomena in present times. Is there a correlation between inhibition and disinhibition as a *return of the repressed*, as the psychoanalytical theory of neurosis postulates for the symptom-formation or do they mark aspects, which ought to be described separately from a cultural analytical point of view? We would like to invite to explore these concepts from different perspectives, whether by drive theory, clinical experience, societal, or cultural analysis.

We look forward to numerous submissions for this special issue. Please send your abstract (not more than 2000 characters incl. blanks) until March 31th 2018 to:

journal@psychoanalyse-zuerich.ch

Closing date for the manuscripts will be December 31, 2018.

We are at disposal for any questions!

Zürich, December 2017

The editorial staff of the *Journal für Psychoanalyse* Zürich

<http://www.psychoanalyse-journal.ch>