

# **Words, interpretation and setting: Changing forms of the talking cure**

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## **Abstract**

This paper describes the relationship between the psychoanalytic setting and the work of analysis that takes place within that setting. Traditionally psychoanalytic theory has positioned the setting as the reassuring, unobtrusive and comfortable space that allows the work of analysis to unfold. Recent research and theoretical writing suggests that there has always been a complex relationship between the setting and the analytic work it supports and allows. This paper suggests that new ways of thinking about what effects change in psychoanalytic psychotherapy transforms talk and setting into a shifting dynamic relationship, with each contributing to the other as a vehicle for forward movement in treatment.