

Beyond the clinical case study: Using hermeneutic phenomenology to expand the methodological boundaries of psychoanalytic research

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Abstract

Classic psychoanalytic research has typically been characterised by traditional single clinical case studies or aggregating single-case research. Increasingly, however, psychoanalytic research is moving out of the therapy room thereby raising questions about how psychoanalytic research can achieve scientific robustness outside a clinical setting. Current debates about whether traditional psychoanalytic research is contextually relevant and scientifically justifiable have emerged largely because of the centrality of theoretical concepts which tend to be non-observable or non-quantifiable thereby raising questions around empiricalness.