

FREEDOM IN FREE ASSOCIATION IRED (IPA Dictionary) Panel

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Abstract Content (EN)

One of the latest entries in the IPA Inter-Regional Encyclopedic Dictionary (IRED) is "Free Association," written from a pluralistic, multi-theoretical perspective, delving into its depth. It traces the concept's evolution from its ancient roots and Freud's ideas to its contemporary complexity, making it applicable to psychoanalytic work with diverse patients worldwide. The panellists—interregional contributors to its creation—will reflect on this outcome, emphasising the connection with 'freedom'. **The Co-Chair for Europe** will highlight the 'fundamental' nature of Free Association, not only as the basic rule of the psychoanalytic method, but also as its paradoxical and oxymoronic nature reflects the essence of psychoanalysis. **The North American Co-Chair** asks, "How Free is free association?": from Freud's free exploration of psychic conflict, including resistance and defence, to contemporary studies of impediments to freedom, considering self, object and intersubjective perspectives. **The Co-Chair for Latin America** elaborates on the 'limits on freedom to expand the concept' beyond its theoretical-clinical specificity, versus the conceptual expansion, transformation and mutation, giving rise to related but different concepts of 'corporeal free association', enactments, figurability. **The Inter-Regional Chair** reflects on, and brings examples of, multiple meanings of 'free association and its constraints', in the scientific-macrosocial-political-organizational contexts.