



A Serendipitous Encounter

In the year 2004 the city of New Orleans welcomed the International Psychoanalytic Association's international conference. Helmut Thomä and me, we were invited to present our work on our specimen patient Amalia X with the catchy title: Comparative psychoanalysis on the basis of a new form of treatment report.

At least our presentation caught the interest of Joe Schachter. This led to a charming lunch in an elegant place the outcome of which was the initiation of a productive working alliance.

Helmut - always eager to deep his connection to his North-american colleagues - was excited when he learned that the Schachters were somehow acquainted with Adolf Grünberg due to neighbourhood in Pittsburgh. Joe and he had enough overlapping and enough controversial points of view to maintain shared intellectual space which led to our invitation to Joe to co-edit our English version of volume three of the Ulm trilogy.

A different kind of collaboration developed step by step between Judy, Joe and me. Our first paper in 2007 set the pace for kinky adventures in controversial issues in the theory of treatment; Psychoanalysis-PLUS was our first coup; many others followed. Ten years later we pulled them all together and composed NODAL POINTS in 2017.

This collaborative work was based on a chemistry that yet has to be deciphered; my wife Beate and me - we always felt much at home in the diverse environments that Judy and Joe inhabited. When they came to Ulm it was a special honour to host them. We are full of gratitude; meeting you both has our life truly enriched.

Beate & Horst