



ISPSO 34th Annual Meeting, Copenhagen 3rd - 9th July 2017: Dreams always take place: Spaces, Places, Rooms, and Furniture, inside and around us

**PARALLEL PAPERS IV**  
**SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 1345-1500**  
**ROOM III - 7.0.18**

**Ross A. Lazar**

Like a Phoenix from the Ashes – or  
"Sack Cloth and Ashes"?

*The Reconstitution of psychoanalytic  
Institutions in Germany and its  
Consequences*

In this essay, I attempt to formulate some thoughts about the future of psychoanalysis and its institutions in Germany. In order to do this, I have employed my varied experience as a supervisor and consultant to many such psychoanalytic institutes over the past several years. The themes discussed include the history of psychoanalysis in post-war Germany, the structure of German psychoanalytic institutes, and their group culture in regard to group and organizational dynamics, political and economic

aspects and some brief thoughts about the future, taking into account recent developments in the light of the planned changes in the laws governing psychotherapy.

Further, I attempt to analyze and comment on the following subjects:

- Coming to terms with the past
- How to begin after the "zero hour"
- The form of organization of psychoanalytic institutes in Germany
- Missing patients, missing candidates
- Constructive debate and hurting peoples' feelings
- The lack of "detoxification" and "recycling" of the poisonous remains of psychoanalytic processes, and... last but not least...
- The future of psychoanalytic institutions in Germany

I end the work with an example of a typical primary task used in conducting large groups in the institutes in which I worked and also include an anonymized table listing the individual interventions, their duration and frequency. These should give the reader something of an idea of my way of working as well as an overview of the dimensions of those activities.

---

**Ross A. Lazar**, B.A. (Honours - Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor), M.A.T., Harvard Univ. Graduate School of Education  
Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist for Children, Adolescents and Adults  
Couples and Family Therapist  
Consultant, Supervisor and Coach for Individuals, Groups and Institutions in private practice