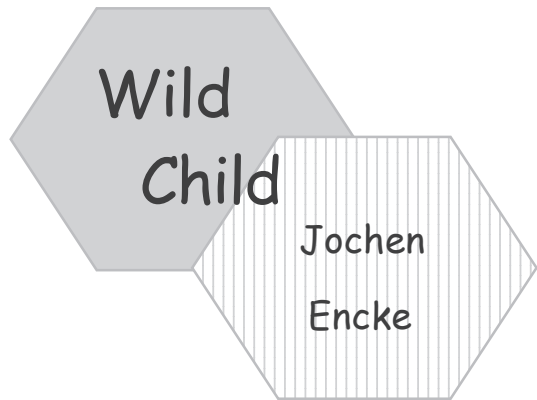


A supervisee of mine who was thinking of applying for AHPP membership, was struggling with the fact, that rather than having six clients as demanded from the application form he has been hovering around the five to six client mark for quite a while. Exasperated I heard myself saying the other week: don't be so bloody timid and accurate, just add another client...



Here some thoughts, not so much about ethics and morality, more about AHPP, our state of mind and that of those who want to join us:

I am not suggesting applicants should lie, but I am shocked how worried many are and how desperate to fit into a given structure. And how we have squeezed them very neatly into a tight system, which I predict will have become even tighter in a few years' time.

Do we help to breed a new generation of psychotherapists who have learned to adapt perfectly, who are tamed and well presentable? Do we help to breed a new generation of psychotherapists who in their worry to perform correctly have become totally sterile?

I sometimes wonder whom we serve. Do we serve society? Then our task is to help clients to integrate and adapt and become 'good' citizens. Do we serve Soul? Then at times we may have to do the opposite: help them to become wild, go against the grain, become more streetwise and daring, take a little risk here and there. Take more personal responsibility and the law not so literally.

It is even not proven whether speed cameras actually save lives. But what they definitively are doing is taking individual responsibility and personal judgement away from the driver: To go down the A40 with a speed limit of 40 mph may be ok during the day. To go down that same stretch of road in the middle of the night with the same enforced speed although there is no traffic whatsoever is simply silly.

I am worried once psychotherapists have worked their way through the system and call themselves proudly UKCP registered that they have killed off any bit of wildness and 'streetwise-ness' they may have had for the sake of getting in and fitting in.

Historically Humanistic Psychology was the wild child of psychotherapy. It has grown up — like all of us. But maybe from time to time we have to check and make sure we have not become boring old farts — nor are looking for them to join us either.