

**Everyday  
Forensic Psychiatry  
and  
Psychodynamics**

*Personal snippets*

*Prof.dr. Karel T.I. Oei*

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## Preface I

It is not only his erudition and his practised analytical ability that allows Karel Oei time and time again to ponder topical matters in a balanced and original way. If the first snippets dealt oftentimes with forensic psychiatric subjects, now that he has left this field his focus has widened. In actual fact he never shies away from any subject, be they politicians or social matters. His focus may be on big issues or vice versa on the small issues that so easily escape our attention. But every time he succeeds in looking at these matters from various viewpoints. Remarkable matters that often have this little ‘hook’ to them, the signal for him to look for the inconsistency. How he manages to collect all the footnotes that belong to his subject is beyond me, but he always manages to substantiate his argument. And he also shows to have the philosophy that helps him to maintain the reflective level as much as possible: taking sides or emphatic positions is only done in a moderate portion of the snippets.

He not only helps us to see what he himself sees, but in many cases he also wants to propound the morality that we all have to deal with. He certainly does not do this in a didactic way, but rather in a way that shows that ethics should not be disregarded. In some cases he points out the immoral aspects of something, not by mincing words but in clear and unambiguous terms. When something needs to be said, it will be said.

It is pleasing that he invites his readers to comment, mostly on the matter under discussion, sometimes on Karel’s consideration. His considerations are generally not controversial. And so with great regularity his snippets will appear in which he often manages to write an account that we ourselves couldn’t have written. In short, Karel is an original thinker and writer, with a broad spectrum of interest and a pen that never tires. May he go on writing, may we go on reading.

Jan W. Meerdinkveldboom

## **Preface II**

Lectori Salutem: The readers hail...

It was a wise decision to take up this edition! The third collection of snippets by Professor T.I. Oei, Professor Emeritus of Forensic Psychiatry at Tilburg University. Earlier by means of the modern social medium of e-mail sent by him to the recipients of Karel@.... Sent under headlines that induce further reading. Usually repeatedly re-sent with the addition of a growing number of addenda and RE's from his loyal circle of readers. A kind of correspondence that is made accessible to a wider public in this printed form.

Our circle of readers is wide and varied. You may find colleagues and PhD students among them. Scientists and professionals from various disciplines.

Readers with an interest in Psychiatry and Justice that meet within or without the Tilburg faculty of Law. People that attend symposia and conferences of professional associations. From abroad. From more personal relationships of the author. They are all united in their interest in people and society. Geared to variable in behaviour.

This third collection once more shows a widened range of subjects. If his first collection in 2013 appeared to me to be especially considerations from his Chair, and if his second "Forensic psychiatry from day to day" with the subtitle personal snippets (2016) seemed to be intended to be our daily intermediary, this time they invite reflection, demanding attention where the media already demanded attention for other subjects. In this way these snippets correspond to the image of the reader who clips articles from his newspaper that he wants to consider at leisure at a later moment.

I myself became captivated when after my pension I joined the governing triumvirate that had to keep going a stagnated hospital for the criminally insane, until the moment the intended interim manager got the control again. I made the acquaintance of Professor T.I. Oei from Bilthoven who was in charge of the treatments portfolio. When he was appointed the hospital did not have permanently employed psychiatrists. He always managed to supply substitutes. I did have a mental health service background, but was not familiar with Forensic Psychiatry and I found in him the best mentor one could wish for. One who in his snippets until this very day inspires reflection.

It is my sincerest wish that the reader finds similar experiences.

D.W. Dondorp

## **Justification**

Some of my readers have wanted to do something: a foreword, a gloss, an epilogue, all kinds of possibilities. I cherish them all. For what people say is always to be appreciated. It is how my first snippet started, some ten years ago, at first a simple paragraph, later a more constant form. Thanks to the reader!

This collection contains mostly web log snippets that appeared in the digital mailbox of the Dutch Association for Psychoanalysis, later the Dutch Psychoanalytical Association, after the merger of the three extant psychoanalytical associations in The Netherlands.

Yes, we are pushing hard and we want psychoanalysis to be once more daily fare to many. Because it is worthwhile, as a scientific way of thinking, as an ethical awareness, as a cultural given, and as a therapeutic instrument. A dear friend and colleague of mine, now deceased, would always put his own contributions into perspective by saying: evil doesn't die so easily! It is true, if something is worthwhile, then it will spontaneously find the strength and vitality to stay the times, in whichever shape or form.

T.I. Oei

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## Behind the broad shoulders of the strong personality

*The belief in the other to compensate one's own insignificance*

T.I. Oei

Researchers of Harvard University have discovered that the relationships of beautiful people have less chance of success and Cherelle knows what that is like. "My love life is a disaster", she tells *The Mirror*. "The only thing I want is a meaningful, long-lasting relationship, but I only attract the wrong kind of men. They only want to show me off to their friends. Boys with real potential feel intimidated by my looks and often assume that I have a terrible character." Those times when Cherelle does enter into a relationship, they fail on account of insecurity and jealousy. "Men think that I do not want to stick to them and go crazy when some dude even looks at me. Beauty is a curse. Men only want to parade with me and women are jealous. I have no relationship and I have exactly one female friend."

<http://www.ad.nl/buitenland/engelse-vindt-geen-vriend-omdat-ze-te-knap-is-a35abb53>

Try and be ordinary, that is crazy enough as it is.

Extreme positions in life will not last long.

The idea that you are unique is in itself already a *Zumutung*.<sup>1</sup>

Whether or not it is done consciously, we want to stand out, to draw attention, to acquire care and love.<sup>2</sup>

That is inherent to our natural need of security and warmth.<sup>3</sup>

From its mother's womb the little child depends on its mother's opinion.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Life must be deserved, else it should be started anew.

Cf.: <http://www.telegraaf.nl/e/28156062>

<sup>2</sup> And when we are unsuccessful, then we suffer life and the moment itself. Like in a religion. Cf.: "Feyenoord is more than an incarnation of life itself", says theologian Lammert Kamphuis. "With loads of slogging and sometimes cheering, with tears in your eyes."

<sup>3</sup> And sometimes the execution of this right sounds like an empty vessel, since it lacks all empathy towards the individual victims.

<sup>4</sup> Cf.: *Wikipedia*: Winnicott considered that the "mother's technique of holding, of bathing, of feeding, everything she did for the baby, added up to the child's first idea of the mother", as well as fostering the ability to experience the body as the place wherein one securely lives. Extrapolating the concept of holding from mother to family and the outside world Winnicott saw as key to healthy development "the continuation of reliable holding in terms of the ever-widening circle of family and school and social life". D.W. Winnicott *The Child, the Family, and the Outside World* (Middlesex 1973) pp. 86-7 and p. 194; D.W. Winnicott *Winnicott on the Child* (Cambridge MA 2002) p. 238.

And whether or not consciously to a greater or lesser extent this need continues in life.<sup>5</sup>

In times of insecurity and war we always fall back on the need of protection and shelter.<sup>6,7</sup>

Certainly behind the broad shoulders of the strong personality or under the aegis of the powerful authority.<sup>8,9,10,11</sup>

Without the idea that there is something or someone providing protection and security from discomfort and violence, to many life is a quasi-impossible assignment.<sup>12,13,14,15,16</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> In religion such a quasi-inborn need –however symbolically expressed- can develop into necessity and to many into consolation. On the other hand others will turn from it –to their own irritation and disgust- in the firm conviction that such a thing is merely a form of superstition, or should even be completely dismissed.

Cf.: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39904846>

<sup>6</sup> And certainly this holds good for the right of children to security and health in life.

<sup>7</sup> Emphasizing security, transparency of policy appeals to people more than making vague, idealistic and empty promises.

<sup>8</sup> In some cases followers or fans are in a way blinded by the authority in question.

<sup>9</sup> Without the support and funds of the powerful manufacturer individuals are pretty powerless; even that is sometimes at the expense of their own credibility.

Cf. also *Wikipedia*: Nemeroff's undisclosed ties to drug makers and under-reported incomes from them have raised questions about conflict of interest. Following a congressional investigation, Nemeroff was found to be in violation of some federal and university regulations and resigned as chair of the psychiatry department at Emory University. He was also forbidden by Emory to act as an investigator or co-investigator on National Institutes of Health grants for at least two years. According to the *Annals of Neurology*, the court documents released as a result of one of the lawsuits against GSK in October 2008 indicated that GSK “and/or researchers may have suppressed or obscured suicide risk data during clinical trials” of paroxetine. Nemeroff stepped down as department chair amid revelations that he had received over \$960,000 from GSK in 2006, yet reported less than \$35,000 to Emory University. Subsequent investigators revealed payments totalling more than \$ 2.5 million from drug companies between 2000 and 2006, yet only a fraction was disclosed. In July 2012, GlaxoSmithKline pleaded guilty to criminal charges. The settlement is related to the company's illegal promotion of prescription drugs, its failure to report safety data, bribing doctors and using kickback schemes.

<sup>10</sup> In a top-down organization any so-called ‘right’ can mean little else than a form of injustice.

<sup>11</sup> Especially dominant and authoritarian leaders frequently confuse fake and half-baked actions, with the motto (of externalisation) *Mundus vult decipi, ergo decipiatur* –“The world wants to be misled, so let her be misled” (attributed to Petronius)– I would phrase it as follows, if you are willing to be cheated, get ready.

<sup>12</sup> Cf.: How will Brigitte Macron fare?

**Reaction from a colleague:**

*Thus nowadays people fill newspapers thanks to “social media”(Instagram) Source: Pamphlet by Joris Luyendijk “KUNNEN WIJ PRATEN” (Can we talk) Chapter 3. Count their followers and please the highest number, viewers or readers respectively. A certain Chelle advertises herself (cleverly) as pretty. “Beauty”= better motto. In odd use of language men might fall for this. In reality tastes fortunately differ, and there is no accounting for them. How will they both find out? In this case the man who does not immediately ‘zap off’ must beware of ‘at first sight’. I have followed her imagination in snippets. Wish her “a shoulder to cry on” and “an arm around her shoulders”.*

---

<sup>13</sup> The ideology, the conviction to be right, motivates many to make incorrect, unjustified, and perhaps politically dubious decisions. The right to justification and humanity in any form, sooner or later, will be impossible to deny.

<sup>14</sup> Security in the use of mores and customs also differs in culture to culture. Cf. Alfred Birney (e-book) *De tolk van Java* (The interpreter from Java) p. 34 of 192: ‘When he lifted the lid of the cesspool, he gazed into a dark hole. He listened quite closely, but heard nothing but the buzzing of a few flies. There was no bucket of water for washing his behind, but, alright, by now he had learned to handle that funny loo paper in Holland.’

<sup>15</sup> Deviant behaviour may also have to do with changes in cerebro.

<sup>16</sup> Acting wisely is quite different from acting under the influence.



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In the years 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 snippets written by me regularly appeared as weblog information in the digital bulletins of the NPav (the Dutch Psycho-analytic Association).

This book, *Everyday Forensic Psychiatry and Psychodynamics – Personal snippets*, contains most of the snippets of these years.

One preface is by Jan Meerdinkveldboom, child and youth psychiatrist and system therapist, the second preface is by Dick Dondorp, former Member of the Board GGZ Centrum, the epilogue is by Dr Jaap A. van Vliet.



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