



Vienna – Kohut – Self Psychology: Searching for Creativity in Times of Crisis



The 41st Annual IAPSP International Conference, October 17 – 20, 2018
Vienna, Austria, Hotel Savoyen

We invite you to Vienna, the city where a little over one hundred years ago Sigmund Freud created psychoanalysis and where so many other innovations in art, music, and literature, and in the humanistic, social, and natural sciences took place, innovations that changed the world. Vienna during that exceptionally creative time was also the birthplace of Heinz Kohut. It was there that he attended the Döblinger Gymnasium, experienced countless cultural events, underwent psychoanalysis, and studied medicine. And it was there that the groundwork was laid for his subsequent creative revisions of psychoanalysis. But Vienna during the period of Kohut's early years was also a hotbed of social and political tension, culminating in the growth of fascism and anti-Semitism and the incorporation of Austria into the German Third Reich in 1938, a traumatic event that forced Kohut to flee the city he loved and to which he was so deeply attached. In short, the Vienna of Kohut's early years was a place of both exceptional creativity and deep crisis.

As we return to Vienna, we again live in a world characterized by creativity and crisis, albeit different from the one that Kohut experienced. This conference will seek to find creative ways to respond to the crises of our contemporary world.

In the search for creativity in time of crisis, the conference will be organized around four themes: the *history* of psychoanalysis and self-psychology, set within its social, political, and cultural contexts; the *development* of Kohut's ideas and their continued importance, especially for working with contemporary adolescents who live in a radically different world from the one that Kohut experienced; the *crises* of our time to which self-psychology and related contemporary psychological theories seek to respond; and the *arts* along with other sources of *creativity* that can help us find solutions to the challenges posed by our contemporary world.

Political, economic, social, and cultural uncertainty and upheaval is omnipresent as we plan this meeting. This uncertainty and upheaval does not exist just outside our offices, but also in the background and foreground of our clinical work. The objective of our conference is to recognize these crises as challenges and opportunities for creativity both outside and inside the consulting room, in theoretical advances, in understanding the human condition, and in responding effectively and humanistically to the uncertainty and dangers of our contemporary world.

We invite you to join us in Vienna in 2018 and to develop creative responses through psychoanalysis and self-psychology to the crises that we face as clinicians and citizens of our contemporary world.



SAVE the DATE