

Neville Singh.... It was the late T.F. Main who in 1970, encouraged Neville Singh to come up to Edinburgh to work and study at the Young People's Unit. At the time the YPU functioned as a modified therapeutic community significantly influenced by psychoanalytic concepts of human development and psychic functioning. While there, Neville learnt, among other therapeutic endeavours, how to live with, work with, and learn from the experience of projective identification through working closely with (disturbed) adolescents and their parents.

Years later, he was able to make use of this valuable clinical experience when he encountered projective identification and its vicissitudes while providing staff support for the organisation as a whole across NHS Lothian 's Primary Care Trust. Through his many years experience in this particular aspect of human relations work he observed that this perplexing psychological phenomenon largely contributed to staff group and teams becoming very stuck and if the (PI) process could be addressed appropriately and educatively ie constantly promoting reality testing then staff morale and effectiveness may be improved. From this perspective, staff support and supervision constitute the conditions and space for thinking.

Observations on the concept of projective identification, using selected text to reflect a personal reading of

**Thomas Ogden's  
"The Analytic  
Management and  
Interpretation of  
Projective Identification"  
(1982/1993)**

by

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Occasional Paper  
Number 3

**SIHR**

March 2005

Scottish Institute of Human  
Relations