

JOHN MULLER

* DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARDEE

Teaching Freud in Translation: The Case of Katherina

The case of Katherina will be used to illustrate some problems in the teaching of Freud. These have mainly to do with separating content from process. The Strachey translation fosters this separation primarily by converting Freud's use of the present tense into the past tense. As a result the text of Freud loses much of its quality of addressivity, and the new translation in the Adam Phillips series restores this dimension. When we read the new translation, we see how Freud's voice becomes enlivened as an utterance and we also see how Freud's text enacts the very point he is making about the role of retroaction in trauma.

John Muller is Director of Training at the Austen Riggs Center where he has taught postdoctoral Fellows for almost thirty years. He has published on semiotics, psychoanalysis, Lacanian theory, sublimation, and psychosis. He is a member of the faculty at the Berkshire Psychoanalytic Institute and the Erikson Institute for Education and Research and is Clinical Instructor in Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.