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Book Reviews

[La práctica del Psicoanálisis. Evolución y actualidad: by Juan Pablo Jiménez and Josefina Figueroa Cox, Providencia, Santiago, Chile, Avendia Andrés Bello 1587-1591, 2019, 231 pp., \\$19.80, ISBN: 978-956-220-418-7](#)

[Susana Fischbein](#)

This book is the most valuable product of a collective effort by Chilean psychoanalysts who have been participating in an experience that began more than 30 years ago at the Salvador Corporation in Santiago, Chile – an institution founded and continually inspired by Juan Pablo Jiménez. The institution was created as part of a training programme for student practitioners of psychology and psychiatry residents at a university hospital in Santiago, which later continued as a postgraduate training programme at the University of Chile's Psychiatry Department.

One of the book's multiple virtues is its break from classical, well-established methods of clinical practice and its openness to modalities that best respond to current conflicts and the most frequent types of present-day consultation. Drawing on teaching experience closely tied to clinical practice, the authors of each chapter examine the relation between theory and practice from different epistemological perspectives, including the traditional conceptual contributions of Freud, Klein, Ferenczi, Bion, Winnicott and Sandler, among others, but also calling upon the more recent perspectives of psychodynamic, intersubjective and interactionist researchers, psychoanalysts and psychotherapists, mostly influenced by British and American psychoanalytic literature. These professionals follow the criteria established by evidence-based practice. As Jiménez puts it, the book condenses “everything we have done and thought over all these years” (15).

Each chapter reflects the position of the different groups of authors and their approach to the issues in which they specialize. In Chapter 1, “*Psychoanalysis Behind the Scenes: Psychotherapeutic Practice Modified by Experience*”, Figueroa and Seeger revisit the path that led them to create the group. They were responding to the need for specialized programmes for therapists focused on “training in and management of focal techniques and ‘brief interventions’”. Their purpose was to

modify the modalities of care which – imbued with the teaching of long-term therapies – did not match either the interests of therapists in training or the needs of those consulting. Their aim was to organize a formal postgraduate programme in psychoanalytic focal psychotherapy. They moved out of the hospital for political reasons and founded the Salvador Corporation, whose instructors were, at first, psychoanalysts from the Chilean Psychoanalytic Association (APCH-IPA). As the psychoanalytic psychotherapists trained at the institution advanced to remarkable levels, they were included as instructors and were granted full member standing in the Corporation.