A point does not make trend:
The case for a psychoanalytic jurisprudence (Attention/Awareness)

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Abstract

**Purpose:** To build an argument based on cost-benefit at the private person level and with the primary care physician tasked with a supporting role, an argument that radiates through normal and abnormal thinking, and on to ‘costs’ ranging from everyday life to the likes of today’s skewed reliance on opioid based pain medications. This is about the longitudinal execution of life as driven by the three heavily comingled rationalizations of dissociation, introspection and the transference, and, not the measurement of execution which is nothing more than a discourse about a point in time. Views on execution of life are addressed by traversing the work of Richard von Krafft-Ebing, William James, Sigmund Freud, Pierre Janet, Mary Whiton Calkins, Edward Titchener, Melanie Klein, Karen Horney, Frieda Fromm-Reichmann, Harry Stack Sullivan, Michael Balint, Edith Jacobson, Carl Rogers, John Bowlby and Amos Tversky, with special consideration reserved for Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (Carroll, 1865) and Walter Mitty (Thurber, 1939). This paper and its companion “Proposed cataloging scheme of the CSAT-SAMHSA-DHHS data model (Standards)” are offered as preemptive to discussion of psychoanalytic jurisprudence as synonymous to communications in health care and as a superset to the current therapeutic jurisprudence, where this paper presents the micro view with the companion focused on the macro view. A separate paper, “Rationalizations common to Alcoholism and Ischemic Heart Disease but not to Diabetes (Reasoning)” applies the combined macro and micro views to “…risk factors [that] account for over three quarters of Ischemic heart disease: the leading cause of death worldwide” (WHO, 2009a, p. v), while alcohol independent of outer drugs is the greatest cost to society.

**Design/Methodology/Approach:** “Beginning with the teachings of ancient Greek philosophers, such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, the virtues of intellectual life over passionate life were extolled” (Goldenberg, 1999). ‘Extolled’, however, seems to be an understatement given “Psychoanalytic psychology has not won easy acceptance. Freud’s findings, from the outset, aroused much opposition. Critics objected most strongly to the ‘clinical’ discoveries, especially those regarding sexuality, made by psychoanalysts while treating their patients. (As one of Freud’s early disciples, Carl G. Jung, soon learned, criticism tended to die down if these sexual findings were de-emphasized)” (Schoenfeld, 1984, p. 2). Thus, the approach in this paper is to account for the acknowledgement of passionate life before and after Freud’s approach to sex as an integral and factual part of life, in tandem with the defusing a person’s intense narcissistic need that is masked over by escapism with in-fact and in-kind recidivism the basis. The anchor for this approach is Krafft-Ebing’s “scientific fairy tale” assessment of Freud’s reference to sexuality (Freud, 1896|1962, p. 189). To provide an idea of the focus of research in the development of this paper, there are 576 references with copyright years ranging from 1621 to 2017 and the average copyright year is 1952. A bar chart with the number of references per year precedes the first reference.

**Research limitations/Implications:** This is about the structured CSAT-SAMHSA-DHHS data model with respect to a full accounting of the theory of circumstances and ambiguity aversion, which frames the advocated psychoanalytic jurisprudence. Limitations are in the form of time and uncertainty, the dynamics that frustrate the discovery of what does and does not work, with basis in “fear as [a] primitive emotion” (Stanley, 1894). Implications are the enabling of a person’s self-directed
psychoanalysis via an exercise denoted ‘the flattening of life’ as a proxy for free associations that are guided by the structured data model that in turn is extensible to a fascinating exploration of what is implied but not necessarily discernable by time and uncertainty. The net result is the time and uncertainty neutral structured data model pathway into circumstances and ambiguity is a contrarian dualism of conscious-curious versus Freud’s implied dualism of conscious-unconscious.

**Findings:** The issue is the three rationalizations as being the basis of both the overt and covert execution of life via Freud’s reality and pleasure principles respectively. Overt execution is accomplished by resistance alternating between defense and offense mechanisms. Covert execution requires an intense narcissistic need to be the subset of resistance. A parallel issue is that therapeutic jurisprudence, in tandem with bipolar disorder, is reductionist.

**Social implications:** This paper leverages the undeniable resilience of the longitudinal event known as life, as each new day is a declining percentage of that event, versus, trend being extrapolated from a point in time – the principle weakness of the three rationalizations. This paper’s title includes three ideas, two that are written and one that is implied. (1) “A point does not make trend”, accounts for health care communications being countered by rationalizations. (2) “Attention/Awareness”, accounts for conscious and preconscious mental processes respectively. The implied – “A message may make trend”, accounts for all unconscious mental processes, which in turn allows for the reference to psychoanalytic jurisprudence.

**Originality/value:** With life the ultimate wager, the advocated psychoanalytic jurisprudence acknowledges the value of varied approaches over time to an understanding of the human mind as being key to unlocking the secrets held by inertia and structure, while accepting outlier arguments as challenges to be reconciled.

**Keywords:** progression, psychoanalytic jurisprudence, recidivism, standards, substance abuse, therapeutic jurisprudence, working memory

**Paper type:** Original writing.