Psychotherapy à la française: The status of psychoanalysis in contemporary France as compared to the United States

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Background

- Psychoanalysis is much more widely used as a psychotherapy in France than in the U.S.
  - Psychoanalysis vs. CBT

- **Initial question:** Why is psychoanalysis more widely accepted in the field of French psychology than it is in American psychology?

- Can culture play a role in how we view science and what we believe constitutes evidence?
Psychoanalysis in contemporary France

- Role within psychiatric hospitals
- Debates between psychoanalysts and cognitive-behaviorists:
  - Can a patient’s progress be quantified?
  - Diagnosis and treatment of ADHD in both countries
  - Treatment of autism in France
- Political debates on gay marriage
Conclusions

• Why is psychoanalysis more widely accepted in the field of French psychology than it is in American psychology?
  • The importance of philosophy in French culture
  • French identity/resistance to Anglo-Saxon influences and globalization

• Can culture play a role in how we view science and what we believe constitutes evidence?
  • “Tous les discours doivent se tenir.” –Dr. Serge Kannas