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Abstract

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24 legal cases of alleged sexual abuse of teenagers are described, half of them extensively. Other main subjects are: the methodology of *textual analysis*; an outline of *the psychology of lying*; fundamental errors of psychiatric and somatic assessments as well as their historical genesis; deficiencies of the forms of legal proceedings; judges' actual reasoning. Also, a psychoanalytic treatment is scrutinized.

Textual analysis consists of objective and highly specific techniques for unearthing the authentic occurrences behind the allegations, e.g., investigating the physical possibility of the crime; combining all temporal information; juxtaposing only the questions or only the answers of an interrogation; searching for parallel order relations; complete specification of each of the possible alternatives compatible with the available data.

Psychology of lying comprises, inter alia: general and specific features of lies; traits enhancing proneness to lying and skill in producing a trustworthy impression; some 50 indicators of untruth; the strong tendency of most people to focus upon invalid indicators and overlook valid ones. - One prosecutor threatened to jail the boy-friend of a 14-year-old girl, if she did not admit that her father had raped her.

Clinicians are not superior to untrained laymen in assessing trustworthiness. They may take trivial symptoms as proof of abuse, conceal indoctrination, or even commit perjury.

Acknowledged experts on somatic findings may derive absurd conclusions from genetic variants; the spot caused by the flashlight; or combination of genuine facts and wild speculation.

It is a myth that incest cases are very difficult, whence the court can only *believe* one or the other party. The Swedish legal system is important to science because judges must produce written justifications of their verdicts and punishments (there is no jury). The judgements reveal countless severely false recollections; a low capacity for combining facts; substandard reasoning; decisions based on subjective feelings. Since 1993

evidence refusal has become widespread: to prevent acquittals, judges may forbid the defence to present crucial evidence.

The psychoanalytic treatment was performed by a *famous* analyst, and was not audio-recorded *for research purpose*. It may throw much light upon recovered memory therapy. Every psychoanalytic claim is refuted. Ignoring unconscious phenomena, the analyst tries to enforce *conscious* acceptance of offensive and book-learned interpretations. He has no insight into the patient's mind, sees his own behaviour as friendly and objective, and perceives the patient's doubt in manifestly false interpretations as coarse insults.

Key words: Sexual abuse, case-studies, textual analysis, psychology of lying, indoctrinated allegation, somatic signs of abuse, psychiatric assessments, clinicians' competence, psychoanalytic theory, audio-recorded psychoanalytic treatment, judges' actual reasoning, legal proceedings

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Preface and Introductory Survey to Vol. I and II

The present report is strictly empirical, and its most central aims are as follows:

- (a) Methods for distinguishing true and false sexual allegations will be developed. Such methods must be objective and guarantee correct assessments. But they need also be transparent, so that they can be applied by individuals who have undergone no prolonged training.
- (b) A widespread idea will be thoroughly refuted: “cases of sexual abuse of children are excessively difficult: judges or jurors cannot do anything else but *believe* one or the other part. If we were not entitled to send people to prison on the basis of a subjective belief, abuse could never be prosecuted at all.”
- (c) What actually takes place in and around the courts, will be described: the kind of evidence presented *or* concealed, gathered *or* manufactured; the reasoning of judges; etc.
- (d) Prominent constituents of a historical period will be documented. If future historians would try to explain why the late 20th century was caught by an irrational craze, they will (inter alia) need the kind of data I have secured, and the kind of analyses I have performed. However, if they should start to search for the relevant data (many of which may have been lost), and to perform the relevant analyses from scratch, their endeavour might be much more difficult, and perhaps not even possible.

In my book on Freud I included 17 incest cases. Quite a few readers have criticized the fact that I concealed the identity of the experts and others involved. In retrospect, I feel this criticism is justified. And in the present volumes only the defendants, the injured parties, and their relatives are anonymous.

I must apologize for the dedication of the second volume. Many of the defendants - and foremost Elvira's father - have suffered more than the Drs. called Laurence Autonne and Emil Gendel. But measured in terms of the number of persons who have forged the evidence, “the cutting-up trial” merits the primary position.

Eight years ago Robert Emans (1988:1000) wrote: “Techniques often associated with psychological science play a prominent part in the process that results in many of the false accusations. [...] The psychological profession's inability, or unwillingness, to speak out against the misuse of unscientifically based instruments in child abuse may be a partial reason why portions of the public may question the value of psychology.” These words are as true today. The emergence, growth and victory of the incest

ideology was a very gradual process; in 1996 it can perhaps celebrate its 25-year-anniversary.

During history an innovative and a conservative position have often stood against each other. Either of them may be the more unethical one. But the former usually won, in part because of the vitality of its proponents, but even more because of the passivity of its opponents. I have taken strong impression of Gallén's (1961:203f.) paper on the religious struggle in Denmark during the 16th century. The Catholics debated formalistic questions in Latin. The Protestants celebrated divine service in each and every church in Copenhagen, with sermons in Danish, 7 times a day on weekdays and 12 times on holidays. Likewise, they produced a wealth of popular defamatory ballads.

In the 1960s it was often claimed that the majority of university teachers of psychology were opposed to psychoanalysis. Whether or not this was correct, it *was* true that the proponents fought zealously and in public for their view, while the opponents at most had the courage to utter an occasional sceptical remark in privacy.

Twenty years later the same pattern was repeated as regards the incest ideology. The latter could probably have been nipped in the bud, if a limited number of people had deemed it worthwhile.

Some purist academicians think their science is depreciated, if "too foolish" ideas are directly refuted rather than merely ignored. Hence, they may strongly oppose colleagues who devote themselves to factual or logical refutation. After a decade the very same academicians may notice that the ideas in question have incessantly been presented as the absolute truth and have never been criticized. Consequently, they may come to feel that there must be some truth in the ideas.

While the final version of my manuscript was worked out, two important persons deceased: Berl Kutchinsky and Birgit Hellbom. The former's contributions to criminology are internationally esteemed. It may not be known that he was the only witness psychologist in Denmark. And more than anyone else, he prevented the incest craze from monopolizing professional and lay opinions in Denmark. - This is not to deny that numerous innocent people were convicted. Nor have I overlooked the prolonged and extremely important fight to correct what had gone astray, by the reporters Poul Bøgh and Niels Tobiesen and the attorney Mogens Tange.

Birgit Hellbom was one of the two expert witnesses who produced the most superior writing in the entire history of witness psychology. (I shall extensively borrow from it in the second volume.) Despite her progressing illness, she read the first draft of the 10th and 11th books and the appendix, and contributed with invaluable advice.

The series of articles in *San Francisco Examiner* in April 1993 had an enormous impact on Sweden. For the first time in many years, criticism of the incest ideology was no longer completely prevented. Nonetheless, I was

never in doubt that the incest ideologists would just change their strategy to try to recapture what they had lost. Actually, they are today stronger than in 1992; but rational opposition is also stronger.

In 1985 Gill-Wettergren & Gill published their extensive documentation of a case, in which evidence was forged by a large team of medical doctors, social workers, and others. But from 1986 to 1992 not a single critical book was published in Sweden. In 1993 the silence was broken by an autobiographic novel by Ulf Gyllenhaak (*Where is Daddy?*), Lennart Hane's *Justice and Psychology*, and my own *The Non-Authentic Nature of Freud's Observations* (the last one not in Swedish). In 1994 Bo Edvardsson and his students produced a series of meticulous research reports, which were however not available through the commercial market. In 1995 the attorney Pelle Svensson thoroughly documented a series of trials where the legal system had gone astray, in *The Twilight Country*. While the present manuscript is being printed, so is *Sex, Lies and Therapists* by the reporter Lilian #Öhrström. I hope both these books will not only have many readers, but will duly impress the authorities.

Some of those persons to whose criticism and advice I am deeply indebted, want to remain anonymous. Among the others I shall express my gratitude to the professors Udo Undeutsch, Germund Hesslow and Lennart Sjöberg; Dr. Rudolf Schlaug; Bo Edvardsson (whose students of social work at the University of Örebro will after three weeks make better investigations than almost any professional social worker); the witness psychologists Nils Wiklund, Astrid Holgerson and Lena Hellblom Sjögren; the attorney Peter Haglund. As I said in a former book, Haglund has in trial after trial fought for innocent defendants, as if the fate of his own brother were at stake.

Court archives have in general been very helpful, and some of them exceedingly so.

Among libraries the following ones must be listed, all of them in Stockholm: The Royal Library, The Psychological and Educational National Library, The Library of the University of Stockholm, the Municipal Library (in particular the branch in Kista), The Library of the Swedish Film Institute.

Without the support of Karl-Georg Ahlström, this report might never have seen the light of day. I am also indebted to *The Swedish Council for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences*. The Editorial Office at Uppsala University has spent labour in excess of normal obligation. Donald Luscombe has corrected my English.

If all other chapters start with an ingresse, the preface will instead end with a motto by Hans-Jürgen Eysenck: "*People who believe absurdities will commit atrocities*".

M. S.

