

# Re-embodiment of the analyst

Karen Gubb  
University of the Witwatersrand

## Abstract

This paper focuses on comments made by patients about the body of the analyst in therapeutic exchanges. The paper begins by exploring the nature of the asymmetry between analyst and patient and its theoretical foundations in psychoanalysis. The question is then posed as to whether considering some of the specific features of the form and timing of the references to the analyst's body in light of this asymmetry may help therapists understand the dynamics of particular therapeutic dyads. Making use of the existing literature and clinical material to support the argument, the paper suggests that using the nature of the therapeutic frame as a preliminary aid to interpretation may cast light on the extent to which references to the analyst's body can be understood as resistances to the defining features of the therapeutic frame, and in so doing illuminate aspects of the transference-countertransference dynamics.