
ABSTRACT

What is the expertise of clinical psychologists in Japan?: A qualitative analysis of narratives by experienced clinical psychologists.

ASAHARA, Chie

Josai University

HASHIMOTO, Takahiro

Tavistock Centre

TAKANASHI, Rieko

Kokoronokaze Clinic

WATANABE, Mika

International Christian University High School

The purpose of this study was to describe various aspects of clinical expertise and discuss the core/distinctive characteristics based on views of experienced clinical psychologists. Twenty-one experienced clinical psychologists, with 25 or more years of clinical experience aged middle fifties and over, participated in a semi-structured interview. Interviews were recorded and later transcribed and analyzed qualitatively with reference to the researchers' personal experiences. As a result, six category groups were identified: A. objects and purposes of practice, B. contents of practice (what we do), C. mental attitudes in practice (how we do it), D. professional knowledge, skills or attitudes required for practice, E. support for practice, and F. general characteristics of clinical practice or clinical psychologists. The results revealed that our professional practice was inseparable from how we are as individuals, and that our practice contained something beyond theory or technique. Hypothetical views were also proposed and discussed: 1) the core/distinctive characteristic of clinical psychologists lies in the area of C. mental attitudes, and 2) concretely it possibly is our attitude to respect clients' individuality as much as possible.

Key Words: expertise, collective identity of the profession, interview, qualitative analysis
