

**Abstract for**

**20th WADP congress / XXXIII International Symposium of the German Academy  
for Psychoanalysis (DAP) e.V., 16.04.2024 to 20.04.2024, Marrakech, Morocco  
"Social Challenges - Shared Responsibility in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy"**

Presentation

Workshop

Male  / Female  / Diverse

Name: **Piret**

First Name: **Bertrand**

Title / Position:

Dr.

Country:

France

Presentation title:

**Western Reason and Traditional Beliefs: Origins and Clinical and  
Psychotherapeutic Consequences of a False Opposition**

Abstract text up to 15 lines in English:

The opposition between reason and belief is now taken for granted in the West. It is based on a long history, that of the rise, then extension, of the empire of Western reason, from its Greek origins to its second affirmation with the Enlightenment. This evolution is not mirrored in other cultural areas. And yet, despite increasingly elaborate critiques of it from anthropology and ethnology, historical and political criticism and psychological analysis alike, this false opposition continues to fuel problematic and even deleterious representations in both the political and clinical fields. These representations reinforce the unconscious' spontaneous resistance to otherness, or to put it another way, to the foreign. This resistance, when it concerns clinicians, psychotherapists or psychoanalysts, is fraught with consequences. The psychoanalyst's benevolent neutrality and his ability to listen without judgment or prejudice cannot be achieved through individual psychoanalytic experience alone. We'll argue that it also requires a dose of epistemological, even political criticism, and surely an openness to the teachings of anthropologists. In this talk, we'll look at some of the criticisms that can shake the current representations of reason and belief, and at the psychological and political obstacles that need to be overcome in order to achieve a genuine psychotherapeutic openness to diversity, and a new way of looking at the notion of the universal.