

Inferiority and compensation from Adler's times up to the present day: a cultural perspective

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Summary. This paper proposes a cultural reflection about this question: how the Adlerian model of psychic dynamism - that is based on compensatory dynamics that occur between inferiority and superiority and, with respect to the concept of limit, between possible and impossible - could represent an actual explanatory hypothesis and could be more meaningful to understand the nature of both some social phenomena and inter-and intra-individual dynamics, with respect to the Freudian model, that is based on the conflict pleasure/frustration and norm / transgression? We would suggest that some socio-cultural changes, that have occurred in the last century, may have contributed to make the Adlerian model more effective for the comprehension of actual reality, with special references to the different influences that the two psychodynamic movements have taken in this historical period.

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