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Intercultural Gaps in Art Therapy Supervision in Schools and Their Impact on the Therapy and on the Professional Development of the Therapist: The Case of Arab Therapists Supervised by Jewish Supervisor

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Art therapy supervision plays a crucial role for both the therapists and their patients. However, cultural differences between the therapist and her supervisor and between the supervisor and the patients may make it difficult for the therapist to get effective supervision. Previous literature dealing with intercultural gaps in the context of art therapy focused mainly on the cultural gaps between the therapist and the patients, while the intercultural gaps between the supervisor and the therapist and between the supervisor and the patients were not well studied. The objective of the present study is to examine the cultural gaps between the therapist and her supervisor and between the supervisor and the patients, and to learn how these gaps affect the therapy. Nine Arab art therapists who supervised by Jewish supervisor were interviewed. The results show that the intercultural gaps between the supervisor and the patients and their society make it difficult for the supervisor to understand the cultural environment in which the therapy takes place, and detracts from the quality of the supervision. The intercultural gaps between the supervisor and the therapist also influence the quality of the supervision, since they make it hard for the therapists to express themselves fully in the supervision sessions. The advantages of the intercultural gaps, the therapists' ways of coping, and recommendations are discussed in the article.

Keywords: art therapy, Arab community in Israel, cultural differences, supervision.

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