

Israeli Dance movement therapists' (DMTs) difficulties in constructing a professional identity

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This article discusses the professional identity of dance movement therapists (DMTs) in Israel. DMT was established as a profession during the 1950's based on the perception that body and mind are one inseparable system. This current study utilized a qualitative methodology, and used grounded theory methodology; it included 13 semi-structured interviews with Israeli DMTs. In this article we wish to focus on two findings which are linked to the integration of professional identity of DMTs: (1) the difficulty to create a professional identity which is unique to DMTs, and (2) choosing verbal rather than movement supervision, as the main way to deal with difficulties in the therapeutic interaction. From the themes that were constructed from the interviews one can learn about the complexity of DMTs' professional identity, and its integration. This article is based on research findings which examined DMTs' experience of difficulties in the therapeutic interaction and their ways of dealing with this experience.

Keywords: Professional identity; Supervision; Dance movement therapy (DMT); Grounded theory

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