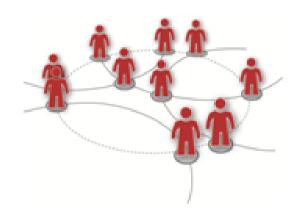


How I use systemic medicine and family therapy in my practice



Dr. med. Birgit Hickey

General Practitioner with Focus on Systemic Medicine and Systemic Family Therapy

With systemic medicine and systemic family therapy solutions can be found, for instance, for the following issues:

- Illnesses and various symptoms
- Problems with partners and children
- Difficulties at one's place of work

Introduction

The causes of diseases and symptoms and other problems cannot always be discovered and treated by means of conventional medical diagnosis and therapy.

Psychotherapy, physiotherapy and other methods also have their limits...

At this point the systemic family approach can be helpful in order to recognise connections to the destinies of others which may unconsciously trigger and maintain problems (with one's health, in one's family or at work)

Introduction

These connections may have to do with the following factors which are often intertwined:

- One's own history
- One's family (background and/or present-day form)
- The background of one's partner
- One's professional environment

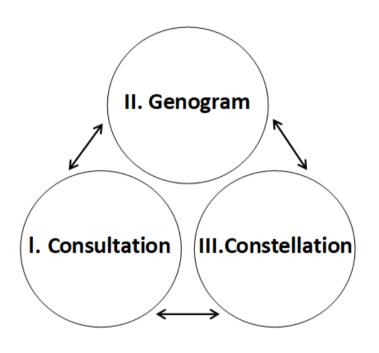
The systemic work in my practice is embedded in a holistic process which I have developed over several years. It consists of at least three sections:

Procedures

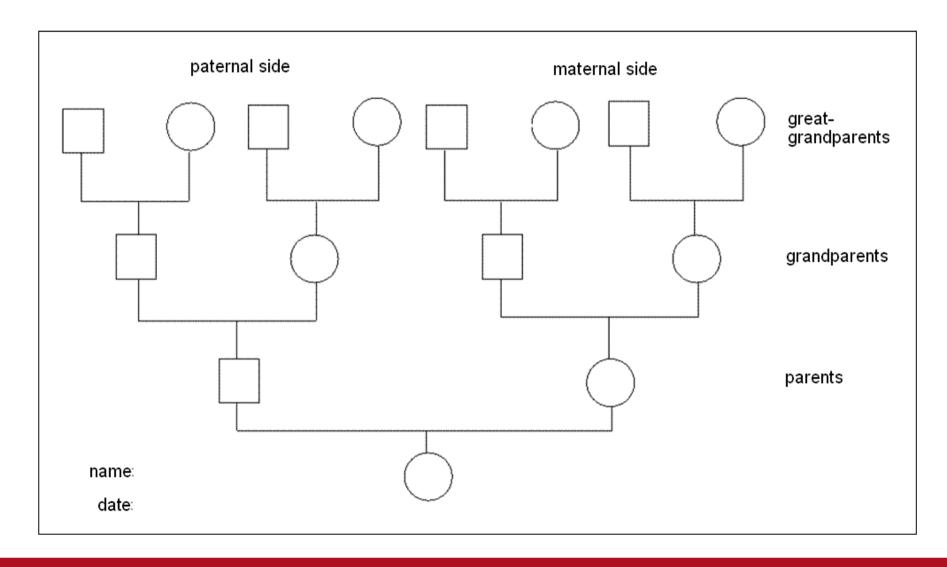
- I. Initial consultation
- II. Working with **genograms**Drawing up a genogram

 Analysis of a genogram
- III. Systemic constellations
 - in groups
 - with symbols
 - structural constellationse.g. with symptoms, diseases, organs

Further consultation (if necessary)



The template for a genogram



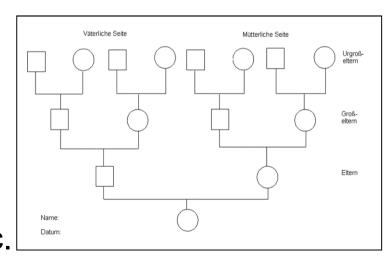
Making a genogram

The genogram is the visualisation of the family history and its case history in the form of a tree.

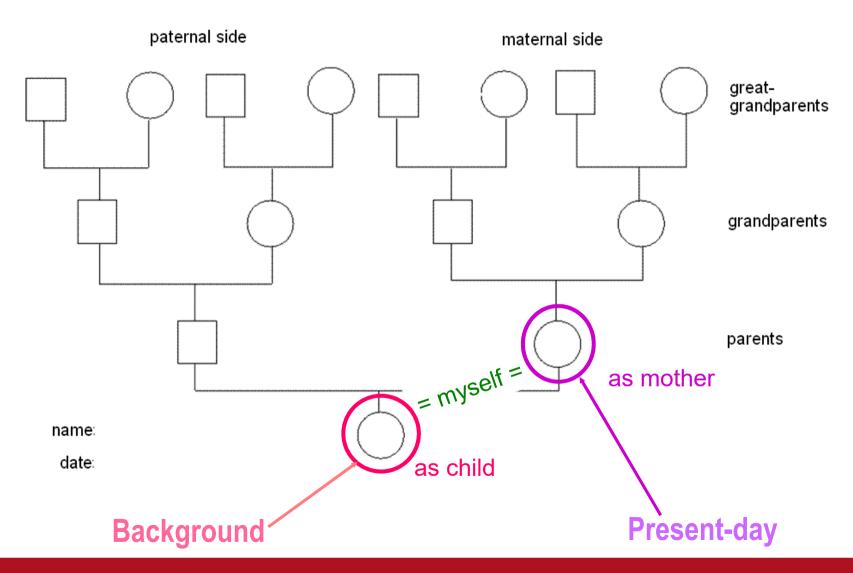
Here the relevant data going back three to four generations of the family is arranged chronologically. In particular, the relationships and the destinies of the family members are displayed.

Particular attention is paid to:

- Living and deceased members
- All blood relations
- All those who have played a role in the system, e.g. former partners of the parents or grandparents, etc.



Background and present-day system



Questions about family biography

1. Why should symptoms appear just now?

Is there a correspondence between the age of a patient and that of an earlier family member?

2. Why just here?

What is the position of the patient in the family, 1st, 2nd, 3rd child, representing a particular earlier family member?

3. Why in just this particular manner?

What aspect of an unlived life is still having an effect on a later family member and triggering symptoms?

(according to V.v.Weizsäcker, R. Adamaszek)

The unlived life is the main thing

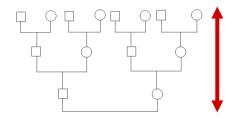
This can be represented by any of the following factors which were true for some earlier family member with which the current patient unconsciously identifies herself / himself:

- premature death or serious disease
- stunted growth or lack of opportunity
- separation / divorce
- secret or hidden relationships
- loss of homeland / exile
- etc.

Representation others from the family

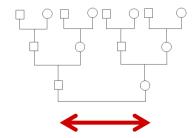
Representation typically takes place in the following way:

vertically = *inter*generationally



and/or

- horizontally = intragenerationally



Representing others from the family

On a **vertical** level across generations (transgenerational) one can make the following generalisations:

The **1st child** represents members on the level of the grandparents

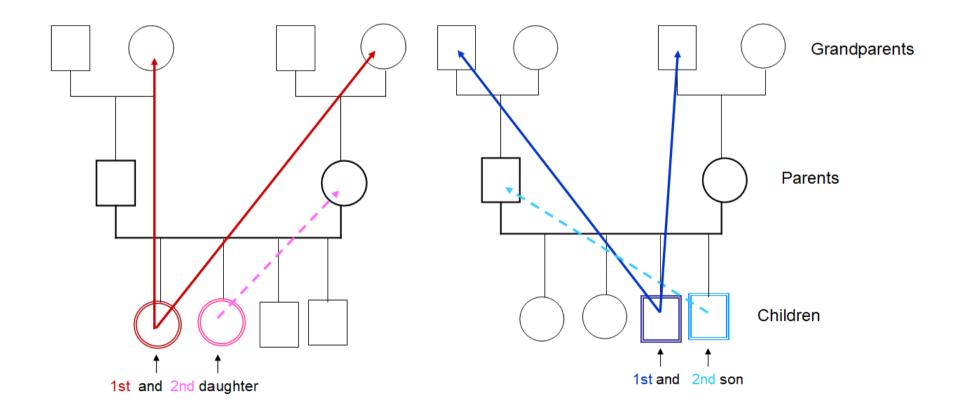
The **2nd** child represents members on the level of the parents

The **3rd** child represents the parents in their family of origin

An only child represents all these levels

Examples of representation (1st and 2nd child)

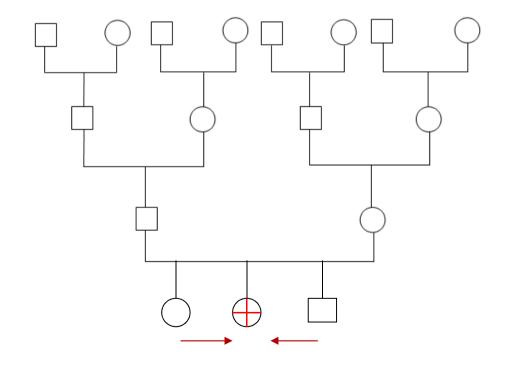
(simplified)



Representing others from the family

On a **horizontal** level, e.g. sisters and brothers, are also represented – particularly their unlived lives.

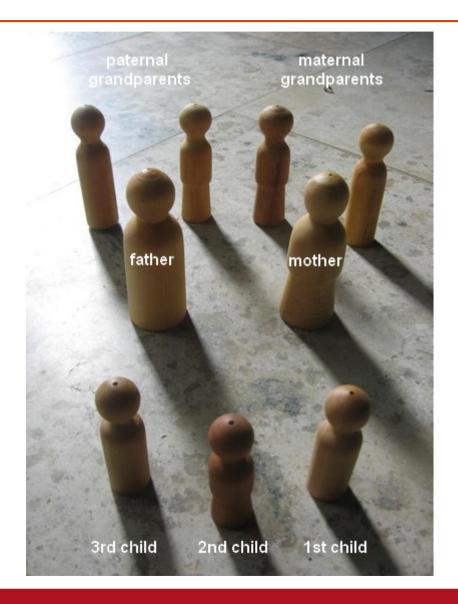
The symptoms are slightly different depending on whether the sibling is older or younger and is of the same sex or not



Constellations

Basic principle:

To bring an unconscious, internal picture into the open (externalisation) by a spatial representation of the family members. This helps to recognize a situation and feel connections in a different and most of the time more understanding - way. By changing the external and thus internal picture there is an increased chance of reaching a genuine and lasting solution to problems.



Applications of this approach

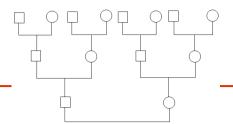
- Pain and persistent / chronic complaints, in particular back pain, migraine, asthma, allergies, gynacological problems.
- Physical symptoms for which no organic causes can be found – despite intensive diagnosis, for instance, heart beat irregularities, intestinal problems, skin conditions.
- Psychosomatic problems which are difficult to treat with psychotherapy, for example, disturbances in eating or sleeping, anxiety, depression, addiction.

Further applications of this approach

- Themes which have to do with auto agression or problems of delimitation, for instance, autoimmune processes, tumours.
- Problems to do with family situations such as partnership problems, unwanted childlessness, peculiar behaviour/symptoms with children, conflicts between generations and in patchwork families.
- Difficulties in schools and in one's professioal life for instance, difficulties in learning and making decisions, bullying, burnout syndrom.

Advantages of systemic work

- With the help of systemic work patients often realise that their problems and burdens are "inherited" from previous members of the family – particularly from those who weren't able to live their lives to the full.
- By means of systemic work (consultations, analysis of the genogram and constellations) they increase their chance to free themselves from their unconscius connections to the unlived lives of previous family members and so dramatically improve their current situation.
- With that, present-day family members can live fulfilled lives in a positive and healthy way.





I hope this short presentation of systemic family therapy and systemic medicine, which I have been practising since 1999, was of some help to you.

If you have any further questions or if you would like to make an appointment you are very welcome to contact me.

Just to let you know, in case you don't speak German we could do the systemic work in English as well.

My book

You might be interested – or you might know people who are interested – in my book:

"Wie die Familie unser Leben bestimmt – Genogramm und systemische Aufstellungen"

(How the family shapes our lives – Genogramme and systemic constellations)



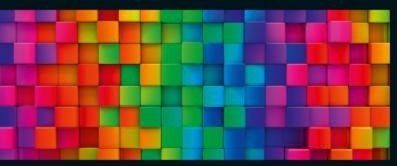


anches größere Problem erweist sich bei genauerer Betrachtung als Lebensthema, und gelegentlich reicht dieses sogar über das eigene Leben hinaus in die Vergangenheit. In einem solchen Fall können Genogrammen solche transgenerationalen Zusammenhänge aufdecken.

Die familienbiografische Genogrammanalyse bietet ein lösungsfokussiertes Instrument, das sich besonders für vermeintlich therapieresistente Probleme eignet. Das Genogramm liefert nachvollziehbare Daten und Fakten in standardisierter und übersichtlicher Form. Auf deren Grundlage können Hypothesen zur Entstehung des Problems und zu Zusammenhängen im System gebildet werden, die sich dann in Aufstellungen ebenso überprüfen lassen wie mögliche Lösungen.

Unerklärliche Symptome, Kontaktabbrüche in der Familie, Probleme in der Partnerschaft, mit Kindern, den Eltern oder auch im Beruf können auf diese Weise z. B. mit Traumata oder Verlusten in Verbindung gebracht werden, die im Familiensystem aufgetreten sind. Einmal erkannt, können sie dann zielgerichtet therapeutisch bearbeitet werden.

"Ein stringentes, umfassendes und anregendes Buch. Die Kombination der Genogrammanalyse und der Aufstellungsarbeit ist wirklich eine sinnvolle und wirksame Synthese und Vorgangsweise." Gunthard Weber SYSTEMAUFSTELLUNGEN



Birgit Hickey
Wie die Familie
unser Leben bestimmt –
Genogramm
und systemische
Aufstellungen



www.carl-auer.de



Birgit Hickey Genogramm und systemische Aufstellungen



Hauptthemen meines Buches

I. Das Vorgespräch

II. Das Genogramm

Die Genogramm*erstellung* Familienbiografische Genogramm*analyse*

III. Systemische Aufstellungen

IV. Familienbiografische Betrachtung einzelner Themenbereiche

Paarprobleme

Unerfüllter Kinderwunsch

Patchworkfamilien

Unbekannte Eltern(-Teile) und Adoptivfamilien

Symptome in Stellvertretung

Kontaktabbrüche

Berufliche Probleme

Kriegsfolgen und Heimatverlust

Traumata



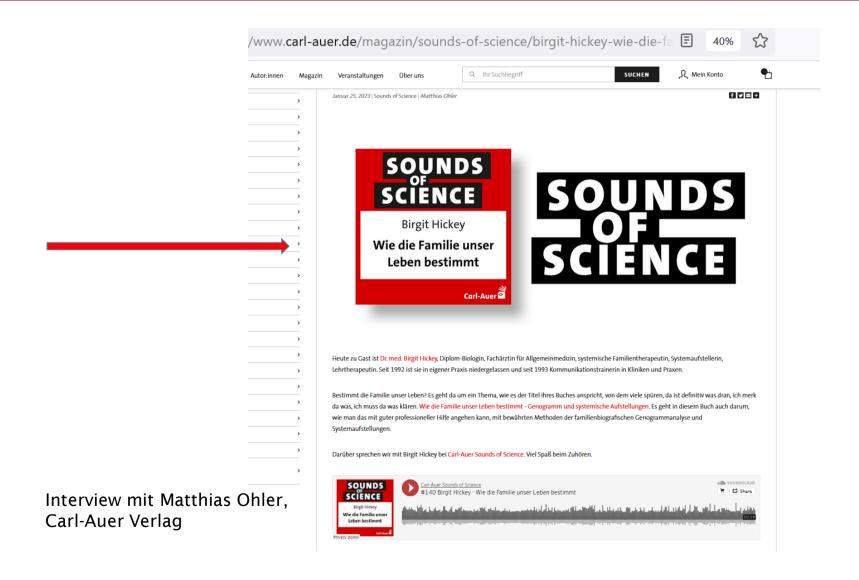
V. Ausblick Epigenetik: Ein mitwirkender Faktor? Die positive Aussicht

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Audio - Interview zum Buch (50 min.)



My practice in Münster

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Consulting room

These are my premises in Münster where I practice systemic family therapy

Good luck and all the best for your health and life situation!

