

# **Dialysis through Telephone**

## **The True and Only Polle Syndrome**

**Thomas Lennert and Brita Bredel**

**Children's Hospital**

**Free University Berlin**

**39th Annual Conference EWOPA-renal child. May 22-24, 2008, London,**

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## Hospital Practice

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### **MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME BY PROXY THE HINTERLAND OF CHILD ABUSE**

ROY MEADOW

*Department of Pædiatrics and Child Health,  
Seacroft Hospital, Leeds*

**Summary** Some patients consistently produce false stories and fabricate evidence, so causing themselves needless hospital investigations and operations. Here are described parents who, by falsification, caused their children innumerable harmful hospital procedures—a sort of Munchausen syndrome by proxy.

THE LANCET, AUGUST 27, 1977

### MUNCHAUSEN FAMILY

... To find a name for this syndrome we sought the family history of Hieronymous Karl Frederick von Münchhausen (1720-97). He married Jacobine von Dunten in 1744, but we can find no reference to any children of this marriage. Jacobine died in 1790 and Münchhausen married the 17-year-old Bernhardine Brun in 1794. In 1795 Bernhardine gave birth to Polle, who died one year later. As Bernhardine spent her wedding night dancing with another, the paternity of Polle must be suspect. We suggest cases similar to those reported by Dr Meadow should be known as the Polle syndrome—a child of a Munchausen whose life expectancy is liable to be short.

Bristol Royal Hospital for  
Sick Children,  
Bristol 2.

DAVID BURMAN  
DAVID STEVENS



# **Munchausen by Proxy or Polle Syndrome: Which Term Is Correct?**

**Roy Meadow, MA, BM, FRCP, and Thomas Lennert, MD**

*From the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, St. James's University Hospital, Leeds, England, and Kinderklinik und Poliklinik, Freie Universitat Berlin, Berlin*

**Pediatrics 1984, 74; 4, 554-556**

# Profession of the “Victims”

Physician	4	Nurse	1
Psycholog. /Psychotherapist			3
Speech Ther.	2	Social Worker	1
Teacher	1	Sociologist	1
German Lit.	1	Publisher	1
Prof. (agricult)	1	Court Official	1
Pharmaceut.	1	Housewife	1

# Profession of the “Mother”

**Physician: 10 x**

**Physical Therapist: 2 x**

**Dental Technician: 1 x**

**No data: 6 x**

## **Fate of the “Father”**

**Death (Car accident) 13 x**

**Death (Accident. Poisoning) 1 x**

## **Fate of the „Mother“**

**Death (Cancer) 4 x**



# Fate of the “Child”

**Death: 7 x**

**Hospital: 7 x**

**Healthy: 2 x**

**No data: 3 x**

**Adopted: 5 x**

# **Katharina Harsanyi**

**20.8.81 – 29.1.87**

**died painfully as the result of her  
maltreatment at the age of three  
by her foster parents.**

**Barbara Heitzmann**

**Copied and translated from „Wiesbadener Kurier „, 31.7.87**

# **S u m m a r y I**

- 3. First telephone contact „accidentally“**
- 2. Over weeks intensive telephone conversation and visits of the „Mother“, never the „Child“**
- 3. Illness and death of the „Child“**
- 4. Sudden loss of any contact**

# **S u m m a r y I I**

- 5. Period of sorrow, disappointment, anger and depression on the „Victims“ side.**
- 5. Fruitless police contacts**
- 7. Learning the truth**
- 8. Help and consolation by other „Victims“**

**Gabriele Goettle**

# Deutsche Sitten

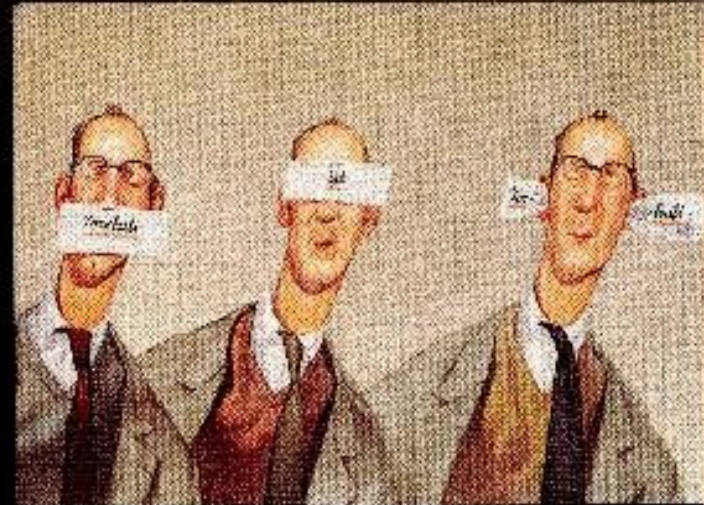
Erkundungen in Ost und West

Mit Fotografien  
von Elisabeth Kmölniger



**Eichborn**

1991



**Gabriele Goettle**  
**Deutsche Bräuche**

Ermittlungen  
in Ost und West  
Fischer



1994

13

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
TAM 2007

FILMFEST HÖRNER 2007  
BEST NARRATIVE FILM

Prädikat: Besonders wertvoll  
„Eine virtuose Grottwanderung, psychologisch stimmig,  
präzise inszeniert, spannend und überraschend.“ FAZ

Wie weit gehst Du,  
wenn Du einsam bist?

VALERIE KOCH ESTHER SCHWEINS  
REGIE FELIX RANDAU

# DIE ANRUFERIN

IMP NARRATIVE & DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL TÜRKEY 2007  
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