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Situating Mind and Body in Culture: Dai Bingham's Psychoanalysis

Dai Bingham (1899-1996) was the first Chinese clinical psychoanalyst. He taught and practiced psychoanalysis at the Peking Union Medical College from 1935 to 1939. After the fall of Peking to the Japanese army, Dai left China and later worked for several decades at the Medical School of Duke University. During his long career in clinical psychoanalysis, Dai Bingham became a founder of a unique American psychotherapy based on cultural personality theories, and formed a well-known Dai style of psychoanalysis. Most of his work on Chinese culture and Chinese personalities was published during and after the 1940s. His works were influential in shaping the way Americans of the time thought about Chinese culture. Based on my collection of his works, many now almost impossible to find, this paper offers the first study of this important figure, focusing on the special Dai style of psychoanalysis and his contribution to the field of cultural studies.