

Dr. Anita I. Bell was a psychoanalyst whose research and practice focused on early child development. She was Senior Supervising Psychiatrist, Child Development Center, New York City and Associate in Pediatric Psychiatry, Lenox Hill Hospital, New York City.

Later in life she was engaged in sleep research at Yale University seeking physiological evidence for psychological insights her psychoanalytical research had uncovered.

In the 1960's she resigned from the New York Psychoanalytical Society/ Institute disputing traditional Freudian precepts of the phases of early child development. Specifically, she felt that the Freudian model evidenced a culturally male biased perspective that focused on the phallic phase of development and ignored a pre- phallic phase evidenced by discoveries she had made. She believed that castration anxieties in males initially found their locus in the child's discovery of his body and its functions and particularly in confusions of ascending (disappearing) testicles and the "loss" of feces at the time of elimination. She became colloquially known, among her peers, as " Bell (e) of the Balls " As such, she was an early Feminist, often fond of saying: " It's BALLS,! not Bats! "