

## Editorial

*Trauma and Memory* is now in its third year. An important challenge has been overcome: the publication of a European journal capable of establishing a dialogue between different schools of thought on crucial issues such as remembrance, trauma, memories and identity.

Created unobtrusively against the backdrop of more than a decade of experience linked to teaching surrounding the *Shoah* and research on psychic trauma, the idea involving the creation of an interdisciplinary journal, with a strong psychoanalytic and social imprint, progressively brought together colleagues from various disciplines, dissatisfied with rigid and often arbitrary sub-categories, and united by a growing need for an area of freedom open to a critical reflection on different scientific and cultural approaches.

In this perspective, *Trauma and Memory* presented itself as a workshop for debate and reflection among psychoanalysts and social psychologists, historians and philosophers, theologians, sociologists and social scientists on topics that, over recent decades, have increasingly assumed importance, giving life to scientific and cultural initiatives organised in cooperation with institutions that have supported the publication of the journal. In particular, on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Primo Levi, an international conference on his work was held from March 27<sup>th</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>. This was a tribute we owed to one of the XX<sup>th</sup> century's greatest Italian authors, a witness of the tragedy of the *Shoah* and the author of significant contributions for a psychological and social understanding of life in the *Lager*. The conference was held in two very different locations: at the *Casa delle Letterature* in Rome and in the Prime Minister's multi-functional Hall. The first is specifically dedicated to the study and comparative research of the treasures of world literature; the second is a political and institutional centre, with the symbolic participation of the President of the Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, with a message sent to the Opening Session. A number of the papers presented at the conference have been published by the journal in updated versions.<sup>1</sup>

Thanks to collaboration with *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane* ("Psychotherapy, Humanities, and Social Sciences"), an important Italian psychoanalytic quarterly journal, a project aimed at a critical re-visitation of the history of the psychoanalytic movement and the origins of psychoanalysis in Italy has started.

One important moment in the life of this journal was the organisation of a course for professors about the didactics of the *Shoah*, reserving a great deal of time to the topic of

---

<sup>1</sup> The approval process for publication followed a dual procedure, implemented first by the Conference's referees and then by the journal's referees.

individual and collective trauma. The initiative organized within the framework of the Master's Degree, with support from the *Teatro di Roma*<sup>2</sup>, had a significant moment with the commemoration of the book burning in Germany, on May 9, 1933. This was an event organized in collaboration with the *Teatro di Roma* and one that was extensively reported on in the city. Throughout the evening of May 9<sup>th</sup>, alternating between music and comments, in a setting linking the theatre with the city, participants came onto the stage and read passages from the books that were burned. Other important moments in the development of the journal's activities included the May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 one-day meeting entitled "Having care of care in welfare's first year", promoted by the *Roma Tre* University's Laboratory of Clinical Psychology and Applied Psychoanalysis, the Association of the Psychoanalysis of Educational Relations, *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis and Education, Trauma and Memory*, as well as the International Conference on "Psychoanalysis, Institutions and Universities" held on April 8-9<sup>h</sup>, 2014 at the *Casa delle Letterature*. The conference, organised in collaboration with the Italian Association of Psychoanalysis (AIPsi), started with welcoming remarks from Stefano Bolognini, president of the *International Psychoanalytic Association* (IPA), with papers presented by D. Meghnagi (IPA, *Roma Tre* University) J. Canestri (IPA), P. Cotrufo (Naples University), Ch. Hanly (IPA, Univ. of Montreal), P. Barbetta (University of Bergamo), G. Lo Verso (COIRAG, University of Palermo) and I. Testoni (University of Padua). The seminar was a moment of reflection on the challenges of teaching psychoanalysis in the university. Initiatives that involved our journal included a collaboration in the celebrations held for the tenth edition of the International Masters on Holocaust Studies at *Roma Tre* University. This Master, created in 2005-06, has contributed to the training about one hundred scholars and provided refresher courses for hundreds of secondary school professors and students.

In this first issue of 2015, we present a study by Raul Calzoni on the cinema's role in bearing witness ("Visualising Trauma. Peter Weiss, Alexander Kluge and Claude Lanzmann Representing the Shoah"), and Marianna Bolko & Berthold Rotchild's critical re-visitation of the *International Psychoanalytic Association's* (IPA) congress in Rome in 1969 ("A 'flea in one's ear'. An account of the Counter-Congress of the *International Psychoanalytic Association* of 1969 in Rome"). This issue is enriched by the review essay of Anna Schober, in the Book Reviews section, on a book by Marion M. Oliner, and by informative reviews by Marinella Linardos and Paolo Migone about recent issues of, respectively, the journals *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis* and *Psicoterapie e Scienze Umane*.

David Meghnagi, Ph.D.  
Editor-in-Chief, *Trauma and Memory*

---

<sup>2</sup> Among those who actively supported this event, I wish to thank Luciano Violante, Speaker Emeritus of Italy's Chamber of Representatives.