

## Journals

### *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*

[“Psychotherapy and the Human Sciences”]

[www.psicoterapiaescienzeumane.it/english.htm](http://www.psicoterapiaescienzeumane.it/english.htm)

ISSN 0394-2864 - eISSN 1972-5043

#### **Table of Contents and Abstracts of year 2021, Volume 55**

(see also web page [www.psicoterapiaescienzeumane.it/2021.htm](http://www.psicoterapiaescienzeumane.it/2021.htm))

All articles can be downloaded from the publisher’s web site  
([www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario.aspx?IDRivista=34&lingua=en](http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario.aspx?IDRivista=34&lingua=en))  
and from the PEP Web ([www.pep-web.org/toc.php?journal=psu](http://www.pep-web.org/toc.php?journal=psu))

Edited by *Paolo Migone*\*

#### **Issue no. 1, 2021, Volume 55**

Pier Francesco Galli, *Editorial*

Dorothy E. Holmes, *Culturally imposed trauma: The sleeping dog has awakened. Will psychoanalysis take heed?*

**Abstract.** Psychoanalysis has given scant attention to cultural trauma. Three contributions to this deficiency are considered: (a) the continuing identification with our psychoanalytic forefathers’ silence regarding cultural trauma; (b) the authoritarian practices in psychoanalytic institutions that keep us overly focused on standard intrapsychic formulations to the near exclusion of cultural trauma; (c) the fact that work with cultural trauma is difficult. To do this work requires us to “buck the system”. If we do so, we expose ourselves to toxic phenomena in a world still rife with cultural trauma. Psychoanalysts should be encouraged to face and analyze cultural traumas.

Griffin Hansbury, *The masculine Vaginal: Working with queer men’s embodiment at the transgender edge*

**Abstract.** Turning away from the conspicuous phenomena of transgender experience, with an eye toward locating and illuminating the transgender edge in cisgender, this paper explores the relationship between men and the Vaginal, both material and fantasized. Positing the Vaginal as a counterpart to the Phallic allows a delinkage of vaginal psychic and embodied states from the strictly female so that, like the Phallic, they can be accessed by people of all genders and sexes. This concept goes beyond the conceptual to the fleshy, embodied experience of many transgender men, who live in whole, partial, and/or temporary “female” bodies. It can also be applied to the physio-psychic reality of many cisgender men. Included is a discussion of a case in which a gay cisgender male patient experiences and fantasizes his anus as a vagina.

---

\* Via Palestro 14, 43123 Parma PR, Italy, tel. 0521-960595, e-mail <[migone@unipr.it](mailto:migone@unipr.it)>.

Interventions:

Sergio Benvenuto, *Tiresias' propaganda*

**Abstract.** Griffin Hansbury's theory of a "masculine Vaginal" is seen as pleonastic in the context of psychoanalytic theory in general; for Freud, in fact, male and female are not fundamental characters of human sexuality, but "constructions". Hansbury's clinical case is discussed in the scope of a general theory of masochism, revisiting the notion of feminine masochism. It is ultimately shown that queer theory's ideological libertarian intent ends up accepting precisely that very logic of gender that it seeks to transgress and overcome.

Jack Drescher, *Metaphors and metapsychology*

**Abstract.** Griffin Hansbury's treatment of his patient follows a theoretical framework which differs from that of the discussant. Despite Hansbury's criticism of gender binaries, he expands Freud's (1922) theory of a "body ego" by introducing a new binary concept, the «capital-V Vaginal» as a «symbolic counterpart to the [capital-P] Phallic» (Hansbury, 2017 p. 20, p. 1010 of the original edition). Hansbury tries to drag into the 21<sup>st</sup> century a 19<sup>th</sup> century theory with roots in antiquated assumptions about gender. Greenberg & Mitchell (1983) refer to this theoretical approach as "accommodation", when writers and theorists don't challenge questionable assumptions of an original theory but add new concepts to expand upon it. An example of accommodationist approaches in rethinking homosexuality is discussed. Nevertheless, Hansbury's receptivity to talking about his patients' sexual body parts and functions creates a space to talk about other difficult subjects. In doing so, he demonstrates a mix of both conservative and radical trends in psychoanalytic theory and practice.

Guido Giovanardi & Vittorio Lingiardi, *The transgender edge and new meanings for psychoanalysis*

**Abstract.** Griffin Hansbury's paper "The masculine Vaginal: Working with queer men's embodiment at the transgender edge" is seen as an original contribution, able to stimulate psychoanalysis to reflect and to produce a language at the gender's borders of male identities. The proposal of a "masculine Vaginal" – as an "embodied" reinvention of concepts that were already known to psychoanalysis (in authors such as Judith Butler, Jessica Benjamin, or Ken Corbett) – may widen the available symbolizations in the clinical work with male patients (cisgender and transgender, homosexuals and heterosexuals). Such widening field of symbolizations may also be a useful tool in the clinical and cultural work both on the "fluid"/queer side and on the "rigid" side (in the sense of a masculinity that today some define as "toxic") of male identifications.

Avgi Saketopoulou, *Thinking psychoanalytically, thinking better: Reflections on transgender*

**Abstract.** This article dispels the myth that gender is a non-psychoanalytic concept imposed on psychoanalysts by other disciplines (e.g., sociology) and/or activists, and argues for de-dramatizing the discourse around transgender so that we may work and think collectively about complex genders and their varied embodiments. Such thinking would involve identifying why the category of trans embodiment has produced such a crisis in our field – to look, that is, internally rather than externally for the sources of this crisis. It is proposed that this crisis has, in part, arisen because transgender has confronted analysts with the limitations of our established theories about the body, the category of action, and, in some schools of analytic thinking, about the enduring primacy of phylogenetic fantasy. Psychoanalysts are urged to engage this crisis productively by re-thinking, that is, by thinking better, this topic.

Cesare Romano, *Writing the case history of the Rat Man (1909): Freud between Jung and Adler*

**Abstract.** Through a re-reading of Freud's Rat Man's case of 1909, two theses are advanced. The first one asserts that, when drawing up this clinical case, Freud was influenced not only by Jung,

according to Mannoni (1969), but also by claims Adler maintained in two lectures he read at the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society: in the first one he presented an erotophobic patient whose childhood had many similarities with that of Freud's patient; the second one concerned the aggressive drive in life and in neurosis. Some aspects of these lectures are surfacing in Freud's writing. The second thesis argues that Freud was not able to keep the promise he had put forward in his Introduction to the clinical case to develop his first observations on the subject, published in 1896 (the paper *Further Remarks on the Neuro-Psychoses of Defence*), because in the meantime he had given up his traumatic theory that was the kernel of his sexual etiology of neuroses. Hence sexual trauma lost his relevance in the Rat Man's neurosis, and childhood sexual experiences became irrelevant in the case history like the many sexual infantile experiences of Adler's patient were meaningless for his neurosis.

Alberto Angelini, *Otto Fenichel: Ideas between two continents*

**Abstract.** Otto Fenichel in Europe published several papers in which he was advocating a meeting between Marxism and psychoanalysis. Using Marxist concepts, he founded psychoanalysis on rationality and science, and wanted to use psychoanalysis in order to explain the subjective aspects of historical phenomena. On the theoretical level, both Fenichel and Wilhelm Reich were suggesting ideas that had been already proposed by Russian psychologists and psychoanalysts, particularly by Lev S. Vygotskij and especially Alexandr R. Lurija. Fenichel was fearing the influence of irrationalist and anti-Enlightenment ideas on psychoanalysis, ideas that persist today. He criticized Melanie Klein, Karen Horney, Erich Fromm, and ego psychology. When Fenichel moved to the USA, similarly to other *émigrés* of the same ideological background he was not well accepted by the American psychoanalytic community. While he maintained his cultural interests, in his critical dialogue with ego psychologists and other American colleagues he became known mostly for his clinical and technical contributions.

## Traces

Pier Francesco Galli, *Stories and people*

**Abstract.** Some excerpts of a seminar held on May 30, 1992, at the psychotherapy school *Il Ruolo Terapeutico* of Milan (Italy), published in 1996 with the title *La persona e la tecnica. Appunti sulla pratica clinica e la costruzione della teoria psicoanalitica* [The Person and the Technique: Notes on the Technique and the Construction of Psychoanalytic Theory], are reprinted (Revised and expanded edition: Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2002). In these pages there are some considerations on the problem of historical reconstruction in psychoanalysis. It is emphasized the importance of not relying only on official, documented history, but of knowing also the emotional vicissitudes and the life of the protagonists of theory construction. The emotional history, transmitted through verbal and informal channels, is a constitutive element of the definition itself of the psychoanalytic discipline.

## Clinical Cases

*Comments on the case of Atride* [no. 3/2020]:

Corinna Reggianini

Gabriele Rocca

Adriana Grotta

Marco Piccinelli

## Book Reviews

*Book Review Essay*

Riccardo Marco Scognamiglio & Simone Matteo Russo, *Adolescenti Digitalmente Modificati (ADM). Competenza somatica e nuovi setting terapeutici*. [Digitally Modified Teenagers. Somatic Competence and New Therapeutic Settings] Sesto San Giovanni (Milan): Mimesis, 2018 (Euro Pozzi)

### *Book Reviews*

Jaak Panksepp & Kenneth L. Davis, *I fondamenti emotivi della personalità. Un approccio neurobiologico ed evoluzionistico*. Preface by Mark Solms. Preface to the Italian edition by Massimo Ammaniti & Nino Dazzi. Milan: Raffaello Cortina, 2020 (original edition: *The Emotional Foundations of Personality: A Neurobiological and Evolutionary Approach*. New York: Norton, 2018) (Silvia Marchesini)

### *Book Notices*

Otto F. Kernberg, *Odio, rabbia, violenza e narcisismo*. Edited and introduced by Michael Ermann. Rome: Astrolabio, 2020 (original edition: *Hass, Wut, Gewalt und Narzissmus*. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2016) (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Giacomo Gatti, *Il ruolo della psichiatria dinamica e della psicoterapia nella riabilitazione psichiatrica*. [The Role of Dynamic Psychiatry and Psychotherapy in Psychiatric Rehabilitation] Preface by Filippo Maria Ferro. Afterword by Mario Giordano. Rome: Armando, 2020 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Fabio Madeddu, *I mille volti di Narciso. Fragilità e arroganza tra normalità e patologia*. [The Thousand Faces of Narcissus. Fragility and Arrogance between Normality and Pathology] Milan: Raffaello Cortina, 2020 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Paolo Milone, *L'arte di legare le persone*. [The Art of Tying People] Turin: Einaudi, 2021 (Pietro Pellegrini)

### *Books Received*

## **Journals**

*The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 2020, Volume 101, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Giulio Fabri Poncemi & Francesca Tondi)

Giulio Fabri Poncemi & Francesca Tondi, *Comment on The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*

*Current Opinion in Psychology*, 2021, Year 7, Volume 37 (Paolo Migone)

*Cognitive and Behavioral Practice*, 2020, Volume 27, no. 4 (Paolo Migone)

## **2021 Program of the “International Seminars of *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*”**

### **Information for subscribers and readers**

## **Issue no. 2, 2021, Volume 55**

Morris N. Eagle, *Toward a unified psychoanalytic theory: Foundations in a revised and expanded ego psychology*

**Abstract.** A corrected, revised and expanded ego psychology constitutes the strongest foundation for a unified psychoanalytic theory of mind that is capable of integrating different psychoanalytic schools and also of assimilating and integrating relevant findings from non-psychoanalytic disciplines. The areas in which current ego psychology needs a correction and a revision include the acknowledgment of the role of object relations as a matrix of the development of ego functions, the relative autonomy of object relations from drives, an adequate account of the nature of interpersonal understanding, and an adequate theory of affects with a recognition of their motivational primacy. The implications of a revised and expanded ego psychology are discussed also for the conceptions of psychopathology and approach to treatment. Finally, and importantly, it is shown that even from the perspective of Freudian theory the main goal of treatment as expressed in the motto *Wo Es war, soll Ich werden* – «Where id was, there shall ego be» (Sigmund Freud, *New Introductory Lectures On Psycho-Analysis* [1932]. *Standard Edition*, XXII, p. 80) – is at least as much the expansion and enrichment of “the I”, that is, of subjective experience, as the acquisition of insight and self-knowledge.

Riccardo Marco Scognamiglio, *The digital unconscious: The challenge of a clinical practice without subjects*

**Abstract.** We had just got used to thinking about our time in terms of “liquid modernity” (Bauman, 2000) and of “hypermodernity” (Lipovetsky, 2004), when the birth of the *Internet 2.0* – in 2004 as well – projected us to a whole new era, radically resetting biopsychosocial patterns. New technologies deprive reality of its consistency, replacing it with social media’s virtual reality. In the world of *Facebook*, *Instagram*, and *WhatsApp*, the dimension of the unconscious is drifting more and more to a polarity far removed from symbolic coordinates, towards a body uninhabited by subjectivity and possessed by the occult mechanisms of the Web’s reward addiction. How is this dawn of the “post-human” (Braidotti, 2013) changing clinical psychology? Do digitally modified adolescents (and not only adolescents) challenge us to rethink clinical categories and treatment rationales?

Gianni Francesetti, *The perspective of field theory in psychopathology and in contemporary Gestalt therapy*

**Abstract.** Since the 1930s, Gestalt therapy developed from psychoanalysis integrating various influences: Gestalt psychology and the holistic perspective, phenomenology and American pragmatism, the artistic avant-garde of Berlin and later of New York, and social and political activism. Two of the core aspects of this approach are the concept of self as emerging process and the field perspective. In this view, the experiences of both therapist and patient are influenced by the intrinsic tensions of the therapeutic situation, i.e., by the intentionalities of the field that tend to complete the assimilation process of what has not been fully experienced. Psychopathology emerges in the therapeutic encounter as an absence, i.e., as a difficulty in being fully present. The therapeutic process implies an emotional as well as corporeal participation on the part of the therapist, who allows for the emergence of what in the field pushes to take shape and be integrated. A clinical vignette is used in order to exemplify three paradigms that can describe the therapeutic change (the mono-personal, the bi-personal, and the field theory paradigms), and a detailed clinical case is discussed according to the field theory paradigm.

Andrea Angelozzi, *The displacement hypothesis in suicide: Person and situation in psychopathology*

**Abstract.** The failure of displacement to other suicide methods by reducing some opportunities is examined, particularly regarding the detoxification of domestic gas in England and the obstacles to jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco. Failure of displacement seems to characterize also other behaviors such as gambling, addictions, and crime. The displacement hypothesis is linked to the fundamental error of attribution that privileges the attention given to dispositional over situational aspects. Biases related to this attribution error are examined, such as the lack of stability and coherence of dispositional aspects in time and in different situations, the lack of coherence between attitudes and behaviors, and the errors that dispositional approaches induce in the prediction of behaviors with the variation of the situations. These biases question the traditional concept of personality and its role in symptom formation and behavioral prediction, and the traditional psychological models according to which behaviors are always a consequence of personal attitudes. The role of situational aspects, especially of the so-called “channels”, has important preventive and therapeutic implications.

Discussion:

Maurizio Pompili, *Suicide prevention and access to lethal methods*

**Abstract.** A literature review supports the notion that suicide rates are linked to the availability of lethal means. In terms of public health, prevention is therefore linked to the restriction of readily available means of suicide. If the means of suicide were less available, then suicidal persons would be less able to make lethal impulsive suicide attempts. For example, there is

evidence of the effectiveness of installing a safety net at bridges which are notoriously hot spots for suicides. Evidence shows that removing safety barriers may lead to an increase in suicides from the site, and their reinstallation eliminates suicides with no apparent substitution of other sites. Other efforts to reduce pesticide suicide focus on removing the most toxic pesticides from sale, restricting access to pesticides by using locked storage boxes, improving access to emergency treatment and health care, educating about help-seeking, and providing crisis support in rural areas. Studies reported the usefulness of removing the charcoal from open shelves, so that customers need to ask a shop assistant to obtain charcoal for purchase; programs aimed at restricting charcoal in supermarkets and convenience stores have preliminarily led to reducing charcoal-burning suicides. It is easier to swallow a significant amount of pills directly from the bottle than to swallow the pills one by one from the blister; therefore, the introduction of blisters led to a great reduction in deaths due to paracetamol overdose and decreased suicide attempts by this method. Other similar approaches are believed to significantly contribute to suicide prevention.

Luciano Mecacci, *Etkind's Eros of the Impossible and the historiography of Russian psychoanalysis*  
**Abstract.** A turning point in the research on the history of psychoanalysis in Russia was represented by Aleksandr Etkind's book *Eros of the Impossible*, published in Russian in 1993, soon translated into various languages, and revised in 2016 (version on which the Italian translation, appeared in 2020, was conducted). Unlike previous scholars, Etkind was able to access the Soviet archives that had been opened to scholars in the late 1980s and could reconstruct the social and political context that, before and after the Bolshevik Revolution, had favored the development of psychoanalysis in Russia. The book extensively illustrated the close relationship between psychoanalysis, literature and philosophy in Russia in the first two decades of the twentieth century, a theme that had been neglected by Western studies limited to the history of the diffusion of psychoanalysis essentially from a theoretical viewpoint.

## Traces

Paolo Migone, *On-line psychotherapy* (1999)

**Abstract.** A new version of an article on on-line psychotherapy written in the 1990s, and published in issue no. 4/2003 of the Italian journal *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*, is presented. The debates on on-line psychotherapy and psychoanalysis that we have witnessed since 2020, following the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, show widespread misunderstandings of theory of technique; these misunderstandings may lead to technical errors *also in "normal", off-line psychotherapy*. In fact, many psychotherapists have looked at on-line therapy with suspicion, without understanding that it is nothing but one of the many applications of a general theory of psychotherapy and that can be useful in various situations. These debates therefore have a sociological, not a theoretical interest, also because the theoretical and clinical problems of distance therapy had already been addressed in depth in the early 1950s with regard to "telephone analysis", that was even more advanced since it did not include the video. This article was written way back, more than twenty years ago, when there were many prejudices against on-line psychotherapy, and in Italy the National Board of Psychology (CNOP) originally had even banned Internet psychotherapy.

## Clinical Cases

Elisa De Vita, *Stella and Alessandra*

*Comments on the case of Stella and Alessandra:*

Ugo Corino

Maria Cristina Calle

## Book Reviews

Aleksandr Etkind, *Eros dell'impossibile. Storia della psicoanalisi in Russia*. Pisa: ETS, 2020 (original edition: 1993; new and expanded edition: 2016; English translation: *Eros of the Impossible. The History of Psychoanalysis in Russia*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1997) (Vittorio Lingiardi)

Roberta Passione, *La forza delle idee. Silvano Arieti: una biografia, 1914-1981*. [The Power of Ideas. Silvano Arieti: A Biography] Sesto San Giovanni (Milan): Mimesis, 2020 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Maurizio Balsamo, *André Green*. Milan: Feltrinelli, 2019 (Luca Dominianni)

Joanna Moncrieff, *Le pillole più amare. La storia inquietante dei farmaci antipsicotici*. Rome: Fioriti, 2020 (original edition: *The Bitterest Pills: The Troubling Story of Antipsychotic Drugs*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) (Pietro Pellegrini)

### Forgotten Books

Karl Abraham, *Opere [Papers] [1907-1925]*. Two volumes. Edited by Johannes Cremerius. Turin: Boringhieri, 1973, 1987 (Antonella Mancini)

### Book Notices

Russell Bonduriansky & Troy Day, *L'eredità estesa. Una nuova visione dell'ereditarietà e dell'evoluzione*. Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2020 (original edition: *Extended Heredity: A New Understanding of Inheritance and Evolution*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2018) (Paolo Migone)

Renato Foschi, *Storia della psicologia e della mente*. [History of Psychology and of the Mind] Milan: Mondadori, 2020 (Mario Mattioda)

Dana Birksted-Breen, *Il lavoro della psicoanalisi. La sessualità, il tempo e la mente dello psicoanalista*. Sesto San Giovanni (MI): Mimesis, 2019 (original edition: *The Work of Psychoanalysis*. London: Routledge, 2016) (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Giorgio Rezzonico & Saverio Ruberti (a cura di), *Attualità e prospettive dell'attaccamento. Dalla teoria alla pratica clinica*. [Current Perspectives on Attachment: From Theory to Clinical Practice] Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2021 (Silvia Marchesini)

Pietro Roberto Goisis, *Nella stanza dei sogni. Un analista e i suoi pazienti*. [In the Dream Room: An Analyst and his Patients] Brescia: Enrico Damiani Editore, 2020 (Adelina Detcheva)

Leslie S. Greenberg, Norika T. Malberg & Michael A. Tompkins, *Working with Emotion in Psychodynamic, Cognitive Behavior, and Emotion-Focused Psychotherapy*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 2019 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Manfred Lütz & Otto F. Kernberg, *Dottor Kernberg, a cosa serve la psicoterapia? Riflessioni e ricordi di un grande clinico*. Milan: Raffaello Cortina, 2021 (original edition: *Was hilft Psychotherapie, Herr Kernberg? Erfahrungen eines berühmten Psychotherapeuten*. Freiburg i.B.: Herder Verlag, 2020) (Giulio Fabri Poncemi)

### Books Received

## Journals

*Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 2020, Volume 68, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Jutta Beltz & Luisella Canepa)

Jutta Beltz & Luisella Canepa, *Comment on the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*

*The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 2020, Volume 89, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Andrea Castiello d'Antonio, *Comment on The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*

*Psychoanalysis Today*, 2020, 5, no. 12; 2021, 6, no. 13 (Paolo Migone)

*Canadian Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 2020, Volume 28, no. 2 (Paolo Migone)

*Frontiere della psicoanalisi*, 2020, Year 1, no. 1 (Marianna Bolko)

*The International Journal of Controversial Discussions*, 2020, Year 1, no. 2 (Paolo Migone)

## 2021 Program: "International Seminars of Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane"

## Information for subscribers and readers

### Issue no. 3, 2021, Volume 55

Fredric T. Perlman, *Psychoanalytic chronicles: The critical debate on training analysis within the American Psychoanalytic Association. With interventions by* Richard Almond, Emanuel Berman, Lance M. Dodes, Ralph E. Fishkin, Henry J. Friedman, Robert M. Galatzer-Levy, Jane S. Hall, Otto F. Kernberg, Luba Kessler, Douglas Kirsner, Henry Zvi Lothane, Paul W. Mosher, Kerry Kelly Novick, Frederic T. Perlman, Mark F. Poster, Warren R. Procci, Bob L. Pyles, Arnold D. Richards, Michael Robbins, Mitchell Wilson

**Abstract.** After an editorial note, the critical literature addressing the problems of the training analysis system is reviewed, followed by an overview of recent conflicts within the *American Psychoanalytic Association* (APsaA) provoked by efforts to reform or abolish it. Among the critical issues addressed in this review are conflicts about the long-standing requirement that training analysts be certified by the *Board of Professional Standards* (BoPS), a major conflict between BoPS and APsaA's Board of Directors that gave rise to a major lawsuit, the "six-point plan" advanced by the Board of Directors, a survey of APsaA members designed to assess members attitude toward the training analysis system, and three proposals to reform the Standards Document of APsaA's *Institute Requirements and Review Committee* (IRRC). These proposals, reproduced in this paper, include the so-called "PPP proposal" (shorthand for the names of its three authors, Fredric T. Perlman, Warren R. Procci, and Robert L. Pyles), the proposal of Mark F. Poster and Michael Robbins, and the proposal of Luba Kessler, Kerry Kelly Novick, and Lance M. Dodes. All three proposals cite the need for democratic governance within APsaA and its approved institutes. The last portion of this document features comments offered by important participants in this history of debate, including Richard Almond, Emanuel Berman, Lance M. Dodes, Ralph E. Fishkin, Henry J. Friedman, Robert M. Galatzer-Levy, Jane S. Hall, Otto F. Kernberg, Luba Kessler, Douglas Kirsner, Henry Zvi Lothane, Paul W. Mosher, Kerry Kelly Novick, Frederic T. Perlman, Mark F. Poster, Warren R. Procci, Robert L. Pyles, Arnold D. Richards, Michael Robbins, Mitchell Wilson.

Marco Conci, *Psychoanalytic ego psychology. A European perspective*

**Abstract.** The best way to reconstruct the history of psychoanalytic ideas is to begin not from the study of theories but of the various authors and their contexts. Important contributions to the study of the ego came in Europe already from Ferenczi and Fenichel, well before than Hartmann founded ego psychology that became mainstream in North America. In Europe, before World War Two, significant contributions to what here is called "psychoanalytic ego psychology" (contrasted to Hartmann's "Ego Psychology") came from Anna Freud, Paul Federn and Gustav Bally, and after World War Two from Alexander Mitscherlich, Paul Parin and Johannes Cremerius in the German speaking community, and from Joseph Sandler in England. We should talk of "ego psychologies", then, in the same way as we talk of the various object relations theories. Psychoanalytic ego psychology – as it was described in the guiding principles Fenichel wrote about in the 1930s – still informs the clinical work of many psychoanalysts even if they are not fully aware of it, especially in Germany. For example, it represents the basic ingredient of the empirically verifiable "psychoanalytic therapy" detailed by Helmut Thomä and Horst Kächele.

Antonio Di Ciaccia, *Countertransference in Lacan*

**Abstract.** Lacan in the psychoanalytic treatment contrasts countertransference to the function of "the analyst's desire". After addressing this issue in Freud, Lacan turns to the advocates of the "totalistic" conception of countertransference (i.e., understood as the full range of the emotional states of the analyst in front of the patient, and not only as "the analyst's transference") and shows that countertransference works by putting the analyst's desire into play. It is not a question of the analyst's desire but of a function: the function that allows for the symbolic elaboration in order to grasp, beyond the dyadic – and therefore imaginary – relationship, the real at stake in the patient's experience. Lacan's intention will then be to point out which are the key aspects for the emergence of this function in an analysand so that he can become a psychoanalyst. This transformation takes



place on two axes, both produced by the working through in analysis of the future analyst and that will be the basis for working as such. They are the axis of unconscious knowledge and the axis of what the analysand is and must be in the treatment with his patients.

Sándor Ferenczi, *Three previously untranslated papers*

**Abstract.** Since the mid-1980s, Sándor Ferenczi's (1873-1933) theories have stirred up a lot of interest also in Italy and motivated the publication of both his scientific papers (of psychoanalytic as well as non-psychoanalytic topics) and his letters. However, a lot of material of both theoretical and historical interest still remains to be translated. Among the many instances of important material that has not been translated into Italian we can mention the third volume of the Freud-Ferenczi letters and the correspondence between Ferenczi and Ernest Jones, and many minor but quite interesting papers. Three of these documents are translated here into Italian for the first time: two short articles and a newly discovered letter.

### Traces

Johannes Cremerius, *Training analysis and power: The transformation of a method of training and learning into an instrument of power in institutionalized psychoanalysis* (1988)

**Abstract.** Psychoanalytic training with its principal aspect, training analysis, has become an instrument of power politics within the psychoanalytic movement. The purpose of power politics justifies the means: training analysis is turned into a ritual of subjugation and used as a means of indoctrination. This thesis is backed up with material coming from sources which are hard to find or hidden in different contexts. The historical process of transforming training analysis into an instrument of power for organized psychoanalysis is described. Freud, who first was involved in this development, later shared his criticism of training analysis with his daughter Anna, who wrote about this problem in 1938. Too late, however, to be able to influence the anti-psychoanalytic aspects of training analysis. After the description of the present situation, criticisms of training analysis based on many years of experience as a training analyst within the psychoanalytic institution are suggested. The task of promoting independent candidates which is assigned to training analysis is not performed; on the contrary, it brings forth proselytes, devoted analysts and members who are uncritical of the institution. Finally, some suggestions on how we can solve this problem are presented.

### Clinical Cases

*Comments on the case of Stella and Alessandra* [n. 2/2021]:

Gabriele Brancaleoni  
Grazia Zambelli  
Silvia Trevisani  
Elisa De Vita

### Book Reviews

Rita Bruschi & Gregorio De Paola, *Giuseppe Conte. Il carattere di una politica*. [Giuseppe Conte. The Character of a Type of Politics] Pisa: ETS, 2021 (Antonella Mancini)

Eugenio Borgna, *In dialogo con la solitudine*. [Talking with Solitude] Turin: Einaudi, 2021 (Luca Dominianni)

Luigi Pavan, *Ma il tempo esiste? Note sulla temporalità interiore*. [But Does Time Exist? Notes on Inner Temporality] Milan: Apogeo, 2021 (Andrea Angelozzi)

#### Book Notices

Emanuel Berman, *Il training impossibile. Un punto di vista relazionale sulla formazione degli psicoanalisti*. Note on the Italian Edition by Gianni Guasto. Preface by Carlo Bonomi. Roè Volciano (Brescia): Arpa, 2019 (original edition: *Impossible Training: A Relational View of Psychoanalytic Education*. Hillsdale, NJ: Analytic Press, 2004) (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Mitchell Wilson, *The Analyst's Desire. The Ethical Foundation of Clinical Practice*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Rosa Romano Toscani, *Sigmund Freud. L'origine dell'angoscia*. [Sigmund Freud. The Origin of Anxiety] Preface by Filippo Maria Ferro. Presentation by Cristiano Rocchi. Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2021 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

#### *Books Received*

#### **Journals**

*Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 2020, Vol. 56, nos. 2/3 & 4; 2021, Vol. 57, nos. 1 & 2 (Paolo Migone)

Paolo Migone, *Comment on Contemporary Psychoanalysis*

*Revue Française de Psychanalyse*, 2020, Volume 84, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 (Mauro Fornaro)

Mauro Fornaro, *Comment on the Revue Française de Psychanalyse*

*Clinical Psychology & Psychotherapy*, 2021, Vol. 28, no. 2 (Paolo Migone)

*British Journal of Psychology*, 2012, Volume 112, no. 3 (Paolo Migone)

*Funzione Gamma*, 2021, Year 23, no. 48 (Paolo Migone)

*Zeroseiup Magazine*, 2021, Year VII, no. 3 (Silvia Marchesini)

*Segnature*, 2017, Vol. 5, no. 15; 2018, Vol. 6, no. 16; 2019, Vol. 7, nos. 17 & 18; 2020, Vol. 8, nos. 19 & 20; 2021, Vol. 9, nos. 21 & 22 (Paolo Migone)

#### **2021 Program of the “International Seminars of Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane”**

#### **Information for subscribers and readers**

#### **Issue no. 4, 2021, Volume 55**

Howard B. Levine, *Trauma, process and representation*

**Abstract.** The concept of trauma in psychoanalysis has suffered from overuse and inconsistent use. A review of Freud's writings beginning with the *Project* of 1895 indicates that from the perspective of the impact upon psychic processes, Freud held a more consistent view of the concept that, if recognized, can help avoid the often fruitless etiological debates of internal *versus* external cause, intrinsic (drive) *versus* extrinsic (reality) factors, etc. What is more helpful from a clinical perspective is to view the challenges that trauma-inducing circumstances might pose for an individual, consider each individual's subjective mode of experiencing and responding to those challenges and take into account the supports offered by the specific familial, social or cultural surround. Each set of experiences that will be qualified as “trauma” that any of us undergoes will to some extent be understood and integrated into our particular subjectivities according to our unique, subjective organizations of self, understandings of and position in the world.

Interventions:

Gabriele Cassullo, *The originary trauma*

**Abstract.** Why psychoanalysts came to conceive what Howard Levine (2021) calls a “problematic either-or extremity” between conflict theories and developmental trauma theories? It is hypothesized that at the roots of the polarity between these two different clinical attitudes there is an “originary trauma”, a trauma that can never reach a full and effective figurability: a trauma that *cannot be represented*. Such a trauma constituted the caesura that on the one hand has produced a progress on the intellectual level (in the history of psychoanalysis, the birth of the psychoanalytic theory of unconscious fantasy), but, on the other hand, at the price of creating the lack of development of an *affective capacity*, not only of a cognitive capacity, of listening the traumaticity within the patient's communications.

Davide Cavagna, *Beyond representation? Some metapsychological remarks*

**Abstract.** After an epistemological reflection on the necessity of a metapsychology for psychoanalysis, it is pointed out that Howard B. Levine's (2021) representational hypothesis on the problem of trauma leads to rethinking its economic dimension in particular; this is

especially true in the light of Freud's last theoretical developments around the concept of trauma and of the technical difficulties of a treatment based only on historical reconstruction. To the extent that trauma is linked to processes of psychic unbinding, it is important to develop a technique apt to repair and reconstruct the symbolic capacities of the patient's ego because of the severity of its structural impairment. Such a reflection implies fundamental questions on the validity of those approaches which, whether they emphasize the representational component or the affective one, are limited to pursuing only hermeneutic or cathartic purposes.

Susan G. Lazar, *The place for psychodynamic therapy and obstacles to its provision*

**Abstract.** Psychodynamic therapy has been shown to provide specific benefits for patients with personality disorders, chronic depressive and anxiety disorders, and chronic complex disorders. The intensity (i.e., weekly frequency) and duration of psychodynamic therapy have independent positive effects. Obstacles to the provision of psychodynamic therapy include a bias privileging brief treatments, especially cognitive-behavior therapy (CBT), seen as a gold standard of treatment despite difficulties with the design and validity of its supporting research and the ability to generalize from it. There are also difficulties with the diagnostic methods of the illnesses studied. Another obstacle to the provision of psychodynamic therapy lies in insurance company protocols, for example in the United States, that violate the *Mental Health Parity Act* and focus on conserving insurers' costs rather than the provision of optimum treatment to patients.

Andrea Angelozzi, *Problems of prediction in psychiatry*

**Abstract.** Some problems related to prediction in psychiatry are examined. The available data show, in a similar way to the social sciences, wide limitations in predictive capacity, especially with regard to suicide, violence and other behaviors. The difficulties arising from the difficulty of deriving the future from aspects of the person's history, the lack of coherence between personality dimensions and behavior, and the privilege given to psychopathological instruments focused on the individual case, compared to actuarial instruments with testistic and statistical evaluations, are examined. The numerous cognitive biases that distort predictions are also highlighted, in particular the *fundamental attribution error*, which prioritizes personality variables over situational variables. But other biases have an important distortive action, from *representativeness* to *availability*, from statistical errors to *framing* or *priming*. It emerges a psychiatry still very tied in practices to common sense and folk psychology, with the richness but also the many errors that characterize it. Finally, a small ability for prediction, as recognized by popular psychology and psychiatry, exists, but linked more to situational constraints than to models of personality and psychopathology, and, in any case, poorly reliable for clinical prediction in psychiatry.

## Traces

Pier Francesco Galli, *Preconscious and creativity* (1999)

**Abstract.** Pier Francesco Galli's introduction to the book *Preconcio e creatività* [Preconscious and Creativity] (Turin: Einaudi, 1999) is reprinted. This book contains seven contributions written between 1939 and 1979, namely: a paper read by David Rapaport on June 10, 1942, at the *Menninger Foundation* (later included in *The Collected Papers of David Rapaport*, edited by Merton M. Gill in 1967 and translated into Italian in 1977 with an introduction by Enzo Codignola and Pier Francesco Galli), three papers by Ernst Kris (two of 1939 and 1949, respectively, later included in his 1952 book *Psychoanalytic Explorations in Art*, translated into Italian by Elvio Fachinelli in 1967 with a preface by Ernst H. Gombrich, and one of 1956, included in his *Selected Papers* of 1975, translated into Italian in 1977), and three papers by Peter B. Neubauer, Harold P. Blum e Pinchas Noy of 1978, 1979, and 1976, respectively. Among other things, the complexity of the concept of insight, that may have multiple meanings, is emphasized. This concept has been investigated by various authors, also outside psychoanalysis, who have contributed to the construction of psychoanalytic knowledge, that in itself is an interminable process.

## Clinical Cases

Adriana Grotta, *The case of Sandro*  
*Comments on the case of Sandro:*  
Rudy Oldeschulte  
Simonetta Verdecchia

## Book Reviews

Domenico Vasapollo & Luca Cimino, *La responsabilità professionale dello psichiatra tra esigenze di cura e istanze sociali. Linee Guida alla valutazione del danno biologico di natura psichica (DSM-5)*. [Professional Responsibility of the Psychiatrist Between Needs for Care and Social Problems. Guidelines for the Assessment of Biological Harm of Psychological Nature (DSM-5)] Milan: Giuffrè Francis Lefebvre, 2021 (Euro Pozzi)

Nick Putman & Brian Martindale (editors), *Open Dialogue for Psychosis. Organising Mental Health Services to Prioritize Dialogue, Relationship and Meaning*. London: Routledge, 2021 (Francesca Tondi)

Michael Garrett, *Psicoterapia delle psicosi. Integrare le prospettive cognitiva e dinamica*. Milan: Raffaello Cortina, 2021 (original edition: *Psychotherapy for Psychosis: Integrating Cognitive-Behavioral and Psychodynamic Treatment*. New York: Guilford, 2019) (Paolo Migone)

Daniel J. Carlat, *L'intervista psichiatrica*. Presentation by Emilio Sacchetti. Padua: Piccin, 2020 (original edition: *The Psychiatric Interview*. Fourth Edition. Riverwoods, IL: Wolters Kluwer, 2017) (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

### Forgotten Books

David Riesman, Nathan Glazer & Reuel Denney, *La folla solitaria*. Bologna: Il Mulino, 1956 (original edition: *The Lonely Crowd. A Study of the Changing American Character*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1950) (Antonella Mancini)

*Appendix: Table of contents of the book*

### Book Notices

Margot Waddell & Sebastian Kraemer (editors), *The Tavistock Century. 2020 Vision*. Preface by Margot Waddell. Foreword by Anton Obholzer. Bicester, UK: Phoenix, 2021 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Marilia Aisenstein, *Viaggio nella psicoanalisi. Come la cura ci restituisce alla vita*. Preface by Robert Michels. Sesto San Giovanni (Milan): Mimesis, 2020 (original edition: *An Analytic Journey: From the Art of Archery to the Art of Psychoanalysis*. London: Karnac, 2017) (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Anna Maria Nicolò, *Rotture evolutive. Psicoanalisi dei breakdown e delle soluzioni difensive*. [Crises during Development: Psychoanalysis of Developmental Breakdowns and of Their Defensive Solutions] Milan: Raffaello Cortina, 2021 (Silvia Marchesini)

### Books Received

## Journals

*Psyche. Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse und ihre Anwendungen*, 2020, Volume 74, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9/10, 11 & 12 (Silvano Massa)

Silvano Massa, *Comment on Psyche*

*Psychiatry: Interpersonal and Biological Processes*, 2021, Volume 84, no. 3 (Marco Conci)

*The American Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 2021, Vol. 81, no. 3 (Paolo Migone)

*Psychoanalysis, Self and Context*, 2021, Volume 16, no. 3 (Paolo Migone)

## Contents and Indexes of Year 2020, Volume 54

## 2022 Program of the “International Seminars of Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane”

## Referees and proofreaders of year 2021

## Information for subscribers and readers