

## Editorial

We have overcome a difficult challenge, and *Trauma and Memory* is now in its fourth year, with nine issues in which the problems posed by psychic trauma and grief processing as well as identity reconstruction are analyzed from different viewpoints in an interdisciplinary perspective<sup>1</sup>.

In the course of these years, *Trauma and Memory* has contributed to three important initiatives. The first was an international conference in memory of Primo Levi that was held in Rome in April 2012. The second was the conference sponsored by the International Masters on Holocaust Studies organised by Roma Tre University, that provided an important opportunity for an in-depth analysis of the author's work; this event, hosted in April that same year, involved an in-depth study of relations between psychoanalysis and university institutions.<sup>2</sup>

A third event has been organised in cooperation with the Level II International Masters on the Didactics of the Shoah at Roma Tre University and will consist of a conference on the work of Enzo Bonaventura, an Italian Jewish scholar who played an important role in the development of psychological and psychoanalytic schools of thought in Italy and in Israel (Guarneri, 2012, 2016). This conference will be held at Tel Aviv University on June 1, 2016.<sup>3</sup> Bonaventura graduated from Florence University in 1913 together with Francesco De Sarlo, and he became his whose assistant. A doctor and a philosopher, De Sarlo laid the foundations for the university's psychology department. In this department, which he later directed, Bonaventura carried out important experimental research on the perception of time spans and space. In his work as a researcher, Bonaventura integrated instruments collected by De Sarlo, integrating them with new ones he had created, among them the double-lens tachistoscope. This instrument was used by Bonaventura and his students, among them Renata Calabresi, (who emigrated to the United States following the 1938 racist laws), in research on attention, on the learning curve and on the perception of time. In 1929 Bonaventura wrote a book on this subject entitled *Il problema psicologico del tempo* [*The Psychological Problems of Time*], his most famous book in the field of experimental psychology. Urged by De Sarlo, in 1926 he taught an entire course on Freud's work.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Trauma and Memory. European Review of Psychoanalysis and Social Science*. ISSN 2282-0043. Registered at the Court of Rome on 8/2012, n. 305/2012. Vol. 1 (1, 2), 2013; Vol. 2 (1, 2, 3), 2014; Vol. 3 (1, 2, 3), 2015.

<sup>2</sup> "Psychoanalysis, Universities, Institutions". An international conference organised by the Department of Clinical Psychology and Applied Psychoanalysis at Roma Tre University in cooperation with *Trauma and Memory* and Europa Ricerca. Casa delle Letterature, April 8-9, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> "Enzo Bonaventura (Pisa 1891 - Jerusalem, 1948). A pioneer in the field of psychoanalysis and psychological research in Israel". International Conference organised by the International Masters on Holocaust Studies at Roma Tre University; under the auspices of the Italian Embassy in Israel and support provided by Tel Aviv University, the Sigmund Freud Center of the Hebrew University, Europa Ricerca and *Trauma and Memory*. June 1, 2016, School of Psychology, Tel Aviv University.

The first scholar to teach an entire course in Italy on Freud's work just before he was expelled from the university, Bonaventura also published a formidable summary of Freud's ideas that is still now read with pleasure (Bonaventura, 1938). A reprint of the Italian edition (edited by David Meghnagi), will soon be published by Marsilio publisher of Venice. The Hebrew edition in PDF format will be edited by the Library of Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Bonaventura was an extremely important figure in Italian Zionism. He worked to help Jewish refugees in search of sanctuary in Italy and played an active role in the life of the Jewish community in Florence of which he was an advisor for years.

Expelled from the university following the 1938 racial laws, Bonaventura moved to Jerusalem, where for ten years he worked on setting up a Department of Psychology at Hebrew University, contributing to the development of the country's educational system.

Among all his colleagues in powerful academic positions, Bonaventura found no one interested in his possible return to the university world when he returned to Italy after the war for a sabbatical year. In spite of the prestige and fame he had acquired, the idea of Bonaventura possibly returning to his old university was just an "inconvenience"; a complication to be avoided in competitions that were necessarily to be won by others. For those deciding the fate of the future of Italian universities following post-war reconstruction, the tragedies experienced by Italian professors expelled from them, and still alive having survived the Holocaust, was a secondary issue (Meghnagi, 2012, 2015).

This issue contains an essay by Yochai Ataria on the problems caused by psychic trauma, a testimonial by Paolo Giuganino and an article by Pier Francesco Galli (reprinted, as always, from the journal *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*) about the history of psychoanalysis in Italy; in the section "Journals" we publish the Table of Contents and Abstracts of issues nos. 3 and 4, 2015, of the journal *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*.

David Meghnagi, Ph.D.

Editor-in-Chief, *Trauma and Memory*

## References

- Bonaventura E. (1929). *Il problema psicologico del tempo*. Milan: Istituto Editoriale Scientifico.
- Bonaventura E. (1938). *La psicoanalisi*. Milan: Mondadori. New edition with a Preface by David Meghnagi: Venice: Marsilio, 2016, in press.
- Gori-Savellini S., editor (1990). *Enzo Bonaventura (1891-1948). Una singolare vicenda culturale dalla psicologia sperimentale alla psicoanalisi e alla psicologia applicata* (Proceedings of the Florence Meeting). Florence: Giunti.
- Guarneri P. (2012). *Senza cattedra. L'Istituto di psicologia dell'Università di Firenze tra idealismo e fascismo*. Florence: Florence University Press.
- Guarnieri P. (2016). *The Zionist Network and Enzo Bonaventura: from Florence to Jerusalem*. In: EAD, *Italian psychology and Jewish Emigration under Fascism: from Florence to Jerusalem and New York*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp.133-154.
- Luccio R. (1990). Un secolo di psicologia sperimentale in Italia. In: Hearst E., editor, *Cento anni di psicologia sperimentale*. Vol. 3. Bologna: Il Mulino, 1990, pp. 301-329.
- Meghnagi D. (1992). *Il Padre e la Legge. Freud e l'Ebraismo*. Venezia: Marsilio, 2015.
- Meghnagi D. (2012). La malattia come "premonizione". *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*, 46, 2: 209-224. DOI: 10.3280/PU2012-002003.