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Edited by *Paolo Migone**

Issue no. 1, 2025, Volume 59

Paul L. Wachtel, *My evolution as a psychotherapist*

Abstract. Psychotherapy has evolved over the past fifty years, and many seasoned psychotherapists have evolved as well. In this requested editorial, the author's evolution as a psychotherapist is summarized, from his original training in psychoanalytic theory and technique at *Yale University*, influenced by ego psychology, to his increasing interest in psychotherapy integration and his curiosity towards other approaches. In particular, his interest in behavior therapy and especially in the importance of the behavioral technique of exposure are described in the context of a theory of therapeutic change that continues to be strongly rooted in psychoanalytic ideas but that updates those ideas in light of the important contributions of other clinical perspectives. Attention to actual ongoing experiences, and not only childhood events, is fundamental for the patient's improvement, and what the author has called "cyclical psychodynamics" is a central concept for the understanding and treatment of psychological problems. In this regard, another approach that is considered useful in the author's research in psychotherapy integration is systemic family therapy, whose main concepts can be fruitfully included in the psychodynamic approach.

Simone Santamato, *Emotional atmospheres and their role in psychotherapeutic treatment. Some doubts about atmospherological psychiatry*

Abstract: The fundamental points of the atmospherologically oriented phenomenological psychology are identified and discussed: if phenomenology sees the symptom within subjectivity, atmospherology shifts the emphasis of emotions outward. Atmospheres capture us so deeply that they direct our agency and our perception of places, objects and situations: in psychiatry it would be possible to organize a diagnostic criterion where the psychopathogenic agents are reconstructed

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following the emotional atmospheres grasped by the patient-person. The article problematizes the theoretical base of this concept, arguing that the personhood of the patient-person, in an externalizing theory of emotions, is lost. In a psychiatric instance, this is problematic as the aim of reconstructing one's atmospherical emotions collides with emotions being all-out: it is at least paradoxical or conflicting to believe that one's psychopathogenic atmospheres are clinically detectable if emotions are poured into air. Finally, it is supported the idea that, while preserving the possibility of having an atmospherological diagnosis, a deeper analysis of its theoretical preconditions is needed.

Interventions:

Gianni Francesetti, *A look at the premises of atmospherology. Comment on Simone Santamato's paper "Emotional atmospheres and their role in clinical treatment. Some doubts about atmospherological psychiatry"*

Abstract. This commentary on Santamato's article (2025) aims at briefly highlighting some of the premises necessary to understand the atmospheric perspective and its potential relevance for the psychiatric and psychotherapeutic clinical work. This exploration in fact requires abandoning an individualistic epistemology, typical of modernity, by making a movement towards a paradigm that considers the self an emergent phenomenon. This is already present in many phenomenological explorations, but also in Gestalt psychology and psychotherapy and, today, in the sciences of complexity and neurosciences. The self, and thus the person, in this paradigm is a phenomenon emerging from a background in which the poles of subjectivity and objectivity have not yet been defined. Atmospheres, as affective tonalities diffused in the situation, are footprints of this process and inform the clinician of the forces that move in the field that takes shape in the encounter.

Tonino Griffero, *Some atmospherological thoughts. An anti-critique*

Abstract. This anti-critique rejects some objections found in the otherwise interesting article by Santamato (2025), which focuses on the contradictions of atmospherology and the risks of its psychopathological adoption. The fact that such a radically externalist project (atmospheres as feelings present in space) is controversial is, however, not a flaw but an added value (at least philosophically). Moreover, both Santamato's interpretation of some key concepts (spurious atmospheres, lived body, normative aspects, etc.) needs to be corrected, and the objection of overall contradiction must be rejected. Santamato's article simply adopts a paradigm (intentionality of atmospheres, affective introjection, etc.) that is completely foreign to the atmospheric presuppositions (primacy of the pathic and the lived body, critique of the rational autonomy of the subject, etc.). But does it make sense to embrace the atmospheric paradigm while stripping it of these revolutionary ontological presuppositions?

Simone Santamato, *Atmospheric confrontations. A rebuttal to Gianni Francesetti and Tonino Griffero*

Abstract. In this rebuttal to the interventions by Francesetti (2025) and Griffero (2025), Santamato (2025) on the one hand clarifies his positions regarding atmospherology and the emotional externalism that paradigmatically constitutes it, and on the other he acknowledges some of the criticisms. This response is structured in two parts: in the first part, the discussion on emotional externalism is revisited, reaffirming Santamato's (2025) positions through an anti-critique of the anti-critique (Griffero, 2025); in the second part, while addressing some of the criticisms directed at an atmospherological psychiatry, the discourse on an atmospherological clinical practice is revisited and expanded.

Cesare Romano, *Angela Rohr (1890-1985). A psychoanalyst in Stalin's Gulags*

Abstract. The almost unknown psychoanalyst Angela Rohr studied Medicine and afterwards followed a psychoanalytic training with Karl Abraham at the Berlin Psychoanalytic Institute. Then she moved with her husband, Wilhelm Rohr, to Soviet Union, where she became a journalist for the German daily newspaper *Frankfurter Zeitung* for ten years. After the invasion of the URSS by the Nazis, in the 1941 she and her husband were arrested and she was accused of espionage. She was imprisoned for five years in a Gulag, and then condemned to perpetual exile that lasted for another eleven years. In the meanwhile, she worked as a physician in the Gulag and saved some prisoners with her medical knowledge. She was released only after Stalin's death and rehabilitated a few years later. She succeeded in surviving thanks to her medical education and psychoanalytical training, that allowed her to keep undamaged her self. She and her husband were members of the Russian Psychoanalytic Society from the foundation until 1937, and both made lectures on psychoanalytic topics. Angela Rohr lived until 95 years, without seeing published her main work, a detailed record of his life in the Gulag, that was published in 1989, four years after her death. Some information on the Gulag organization and its difference from the Nazi lager and work camps are also provided, as well as a quick picture of the first pioneers of Russian psychoanalysis.

Cristina Orlandi, *Emotion-Focused Therapy: An overview*

Abstract. An introductory overview of Leslie Greenberg's *Emotion-Focused Therapy* is provided, given also the fact that Italian publications on this therapeutic approach are scarce. Furthermore, in the Italian literature the same name and its acronym (EFT) are used for Susan Johnson's *Emotionally Focused Therapy*, generating an overlap between the two approaches. To give *Emotion-Focused Therapy* a distinguishable identity in Italy as well, in agreement with Leslie Greenberg it has been proposed the designation of *Terapia Centrata sulle Emozioni* ("Emotion-Centered Therapy"), which replaces the one by which in Italy both approaches have been translated for more than two decades, namely *Terapia Focalizzata sulle Emozioni*. It is offered an introduction to the evolution of this therapeutic approach, a look at the theory of self-functioning and dysfunction, and an overview of the compasses that guide clinical practice.

Traces

Michele Ranchetti, *Metapsychology and metaphysics* (2006). With an Introductory note by Mauro Bertani and Roberto Righi

Abstract. Sigmund Freud should be no doubt considered a cultural hero of a kind: a rather obscure neurologist from Vienna, he was able to produce a new discipline that could accomplish a fresh and deeper insight into human psyche. The new discipline implied unique and surprising tools and frames. But the invention of psychoanalysis implied first of all the creation of a language, indeed of many languages. Freud's major purpose has possibly been to take care of the movable articulation of psyche's tongue; to follow and reconstruct Freud's moves was the very essence of Michele Ranchetti's (1925-2008) legacy.

Clinical Cases

Adriana Grotta, Paola Morra & Euro Pozzi, *Farewell from the previous editors of the "Clinical Cases" column*

Giorgio Meneguz, *Introduction to the clinical case presented by Morris Eagle*

Morris N. Eagle, *Enactments, transference, and symptomatic cure: A case history*

Abstract. A case study is presented in which the dramatic disappearance of the patient's chronic symptom of dyspareunia followed a critical episode in the treatment in which a core dynamic theme of defiance-punishment was enacted in the patient/therapist interaction. Symptomatic cure was not accompanied by the patient's explicit insight, but rather seemed to be a function of a complex process of test-passing and transference/countertransference enactments leading to the disconfirmation of a core unconscious pathogenic belief. Concepts of transference, transference cure, misalliance cure, and analysis of transference are discussed in the context of this case study.

Book Reviews

Book Review Essay

Riccardo Marco Scognamiglio, Simone Matteo Russo & Matteo Fumagalli, *Il narcisismo del You. Come orientarsi nella clinica digitalmente modificata*. [The Narcissism of You. How to Navigate in the Digitally Modified Clinical Practice] Preface by Miguel Benasayag. Sesto San Giovanni (Milan): Mimesis, 2024 (Euro Pozzi)

Book Reviews

Sigmund Freud & Eugen Bleuler, *Lettere 1904-1937*. Italian translation edited by Mario Bottone, Riccardo Galiani & Francesco Napolitano. Rome: Alpes, 2024 (original edition: »Ich bin zuversichtlich, wir erobern bald die Psychiatrie«. Briefwechsel 1904-1937. Herausgegeben von Michael Schröter. Basel: Schwabe Verlag, 2012) (Davide Cavagna)

Judith Butler, *Chi ha paura del gender?* Bari: Laterza, 2024 (original edition: *Who's Afraid of Gender?* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2024) (Chiara Pecchio)

Chögyam Trungpa, *La salute originaria della mente. Una prospettiva buddhista sulla psicologia*. Prefaces by Daniel Goleman and Kidder Smith. Introduction by Carolyn Rose Gimian. Edited by Paola Silvia Parini. Rome: Astrolabio, 2024 (original edition: *The Sanity We Are Born With. A Buddhist Approach to Psychology*. Boulder, CO: Shambhala, 2005) (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Kenneth E. Bruscia (editor), *Casi clinici di Musicoterapia con bambini e adolescenti*. New Edition, edited by Rossella Fois (First Edition: 1995). Rome: Società Editrice Dante Alighieri, 2024 (original edition in: *Case Studies in Music Therapy*. Gilsum, NH: Barcelona Publishers, 1991); Kenneth E. Bruscia (editor), *Casi clinici di Musicoterapia con adulti*. New Edition, edited by Rossella Fois (First Edition: 1997). Rome: Società Editrice Dante Alighieri, 2024 (original edition in: *Case Studies in Music Therapy*. Gilsum, NH: Barcelona Publishers, 1991) (Davide Cavagna)

Andrea Castiello d'Antonio, *L'aggressività distruttiva nel mondo del lavoro. Il mobbing e le altre forme di violenza organizzativa*. [Destructive Aggressiveness in the Workplace. Mobbing and Other Forms of Organizational Violence] Florence: Hogrefe, 2024 (Mauro Fornaro)

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The International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 2024, Volume 105, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Francesca Tondi)

Francesca Tondi, *Comment on The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*
American Journal of Psychotherapy, 2024, Volume 77, no. 4 (Paolo Migone)

Annual Review of Psychology, 2024, Volume 75 (Paolo Migone)

Journal of Contemporary Psychotherapy, 2024, Volume 54, no. 4 (Paolo Migone)

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Information for subscribers and readers

Theodor W. Adorno, *Freudian theory and patterns of fascist propaganda* (1951)

Abstract. In this article, written with the collaboration of Max Horkheimer and published a year after the book by Adorno *et al.* (1950) *The Authoritarian Personality*, the psychodynamics of the fascist mentality are discussed, starting above all from the reflections contained in Freud's 1921 essay *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*. The differences between Freud's essay and the well-known 1895 book by Gustav Le Bon *The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind* are highlighted, and various considerations are made on the bond that ties the individuals of a group together and on the unconscious identification with their leader. References are also made to the propaganda techniques used during the Nazi regime and in contemporary industrial societies.

Andrea Angelozzi, *The question of empathy: The many problems of something that everyone believes they know*

Summary. Although everyone believes they know what empathy is, it actually presents a whole series of controversial aspects. Many different definitions emerge, resolved in a multidimensional approach that includes affective empathy, cognitive empathy, and motor empathy, each linked to different neurological correlates. Even the connection with the mirror neuron theory and the phenomenological conception of embodied empathy shows fragility. Its role in psychotherapy has been variously considered, highlighting the difficulty in fostering empathy in therapists and pointing out a series of negative aspects. Except for emotions, the accuracy of empathic perceptions yields very modest results, downplaying its role in psychiatry and psychotherapy, contrary to the beliefs of popular psychology. By exploring the characteristics of the perceiver, the subject, and the relationship most conducive to empathy, glaring errors in common beliefs become apparent. The study of its role in psychopathology also reveals elements that are different from what is commonly believed to be established. What emerges is the picture of a complex concept, very different from common beliefs, and one that should be used with great caution in psychiatry and psychotherapy.

Luca Degasperi, *Between collaboration and destructivity. The fraternal complex among psychotherapists and in the legal field*

Abstract. Psychotherapists carry out their professional activities within regulatory, legal, and ethical constraints that promote a collegial relationship among them in terms of collaboration, loyalty in interactions, the construction and sharing of common knowledge, the transmission of expertise, and the development of research. Considering the broad framework of analysis of institutions and the various dysfunctional systems that may characterize them, the concept of fraternal complex is used as an organized set of unconscious elements and representations that, originating from individual mental processes, penetrate the intersubjective dimension. The "fraternal" set does not guarantee the quality of the relationship among those who share bonds of belonging, nor does it inevitably lead its members in a supportive direction, providing narcissistic comfort or fostering a collegial solidarity and equality. However, it does not merely stimulate them in the banal aspects of competition and confrontation. In fact, excessive emphasis on rivalrous conflict leading to intransigence, malevolent factionalism, or destructiveness, the predominance of more archaic fraternal dimensions manifesting themselves as persecutory or expulsive impulses, the emergence of anxieties of undifferentiation, or the exercise of power along dominance/submission axes are some of the disruptions that can infiltrate collegiality among psychotherapists. These disruptions can significantly affect the domains in which they operate, particularly in legal psychology, where such dynamics at times appear with far greater intensity than in professional collaborations on assessments, training activities, research or publications.

Traces

Johannes Cremerius, *Genealogy of the psychoanalysts. A correspondence of Johannes Cremerius.*

With an Introductory note of Giorgio Meneguz

Abstract. After an Introduction by Giorgio Meneguz (who had the material here published), some letters of a correspondence that the German psychoanalyst Johannes Cremerius (1918-2002) had with some colleagues of different countries are reproduced. The first three letters, of 1962, are between Cremerius and Kurt R. Eissler, of New York, while the other twenty letters, that go from 1984 to 1988, concern the project of reconstructing a genealogy of psychoanalysts, that is, of tracing the names of their training analysts. The intention was to present a paper at the 34th Congress of the *International Psychoanalytic Association* (IPA) in Hamburg, but the project was too ambitious and had to be abandoned. The letters selected here concern the correspondence with Hermann Argelander, Hermann Beland, Marie-Claire Boons, Medard Boss, Annemarie Dührssen, Ernst Federn, Rainer Funk, Fritz Meerwein, Margarete Mitscherlich-Nielsen, József Paál, Paul Parin, Angelika Schönhagen, Richard Sterba, Helm Stierlin, and Helmut Thomä. Eight drawings made by Cremerius are also reproduced.

Clinical Cases

Interventions on the clinical case presented by Morris Eagle in issue no. 1/2025 “Enactments, transference, and symptomatic cure: A case history”:

Paolo Chiappero, *Introduction*

Merton M. Gill, *Interaction and interpretation*

Theodore J. Jacobs, *Insight and experience*

Robert Shapiro, *Theory and change*

Morris N. Eagle, *Reply to Gill, Jacobs, and Shapiro*

Abstract. After an introduction by Paolo Chiappero, four interventions on the clinical case presented by Morris N. Eagle – entitled “Enactments, transference, and symptomatic cure: A case history” and published in the previous issue of *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*, 2025, 59, 1: 131-146 (DOI: 10.3280/PU2025-001011) – are reproduced. This clinical presentation originally appeared in *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 1993, 3, 1: 93-110 (DOI: 10.1080/10481889309538962), and the four interventions, that were on pp. 111-149 of the same issue of *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, are, respectively, by Merton M. Gill, Theodor J. Jacobs, and Robert B. Shapiro, with a reply by Morris N. Eagle. The issues that are discussed are, among others, the following: one-person and two-person perspectives in psychoanalysis, explicit and implicit interpretations, analysis of transference, enactment, theory of curative factors, Alexander’s corrective emotional experience, Weiss & Sampson’s control-mastery theory, etc.

Book Reviews

Book Review Essay

Raffaele Visintini (editor), *Il modello GET per la personalità borderline. Il trattamento con i Gruppi Esperienziali Terapeutici. [The GET Model for Borderline Personality. Treatment with Therapeutic Experiential Groups]* Preface by Giancarlo Dimaggio. Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2024 (Euro Pozzi)

Book Reviews

Massimo Recalcati, *Clinica del vuoto. Anoressie, dipendenze, psicosi*. [Clinical Treatment of the Void. Anorexia, Addictions, Psychoses] New Edition (First Edition: Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2002). Milan: Raffaello Cortina, 2025 (Davide Cavagna)

Byung-Chul Han, *La crisi della narrazione. Informazione, politica e vita quotidiana*. [Crisis of the Narrative. Information, Politics, and Everyday Life] Turin: Einaudi, 2024 (original edition: *Die Krise der Narration*. Berlin: Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 2023) (Chiara Pecchio)

Andrea Fiorillo, *Le depressioni. Diagnosi, clinica e trattamenti*. [Depressions: Diagnosis, Clinical Practice, and Treatments] Milan: Raffaello Cortina, 2025 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Books Received

Journals

Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 2024, Volume 72, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Jutta Beltz & Paola Raja)

Jutta Beltz & Paola Raja, *Comment on the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 2024, Volume 93, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

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

Il Veltro. Rivista della Civiltà Italiana, 2024, Year 67, no. 3/4 (Paolo Migone)

Cognitive Therapy and Research, 2025, Volume 49, no. 1 (Paolo Migone)

Adolescenza e Psicoanalisi, 2024, Year 24, no. 2 (Paolo Migone)

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Information for subscribers and readers

Issue no. 3, 2025, Volume 59

Joel Weinberger, *The unconscious: What took so long, what we know, and clinical implications*

Abstract. Unconscious processes are reviewed from historical, empirical, neurocognitive, and clinical perspectives. Historical factors delayed the scientific study of unconscious processes in academic psychology because of the Cartesian identification of mental with conscious awareness. This became even more extreme when behaviorism dismissed internal processes altogether. Psychoanalysis emphasized unconscious processes from its inception, but its isolation from academic psychology and aversion to empirical methods limited its influence. Academic psychology, in turn, dismissed psychoanalytic methods and insights, and eventually came to recognize unconscious processes, which it saw as normative. Some of the main research findings are reviewed and clinical implications are suggested. Finally, three neurocognitive models of the mind as possible metapsychologies are examined. All posit unconscious, parallel, and associative processing, and they also align with many psychodynamic tenets including contradiction, conflict, and compromise, but do not view them as necessarily leading to pathology. It is argued for a reconceptualization of the unconscious as normative, mostly promoting adaptation, that sometimes goes awry.

Riccardo Marco Scognamiglio, *The Hibernians. From the Ego narcissism to the You narcissism*

Abstract. In 1984, the sociologist Christopher Lasch pointed out how the triumph of individualism rested on its flipside: that of a *minimal self*, anything but the representation of a Promethean world-creating ego. Today, the *minimal self* has been replaced by the *You narcissism*. If in the myth of Narcissus it is his face that is reflected in the pond, in the time of hyper-digitalization it is the screen that is reflected in the face of Narcissus. Through this optical reversal, the Ego is

transformed into *You*, the object of the computer algorithm. While we believe we are looking at the Web, it is the Web that is mirrored in us with the effect of hibernating the Ego within a new “Psychopathology of everyday life”: *FoMO (Fear of Missing Out), orbiting, ghosting, phubbing, cyberstalking, flaming, sexting, revenge porn, binge watching...* In this process of continuous virtualization, in which “real reality” itself is perceived as a virtual entity, the Ego comes to lose its psychic consistency, colonized by the logic of the *You*. The *You* no longer produces dreams, memories and personal myths, moving in a *virtual-real space* where time has stopped. The *You narcissism* confronts us with the difficulty of continuing to use a model of the mind based on the achievement of precise evolutionary tasks and with the complexity of conceiving a cure for singularity.

Interventions:

Riccardo Catanzaro, *Comment on Riccardo Marco Scognamiglio’s paper “The Hibernians. From the Ego narcissism to the You narcissism”*

Abstract. It is argued that the analysis presented in Scognamiglio’s (2025) paper highlights in a one-sided way the harms that the digital world can cause, especially to young people, whereas it can actually be used in a beneficial manner. Web 2.0 can enable many individuals to construct their own identity in many ways, with a level of freedom and creativity that was previously unimaginable. Adaptation to the digital world is possible, just as it happened with previous milestones in human communication, such as writing, the printing press, the telephone, and television.

Intelligenza Artificiale (ChatGPT, OpenAI), *A look of Artificial Intelligence on the You narcissism: An algorithmic reflection on Riccardo M. Scognamiglio’s paper*

Abstract. In response to the theses presented by Riccardo Marco Scognamiglio (2025) in his paper “The Hibernians. From the Ego narcissism to the You narcissism”, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a critical perspective from its own computational viewpoint. While acknowledging the theoretical depth and visionary language of the paper, the AI points out some limitations: a strictly psychoanalytic approach, lack of empirical references, marginalization of the adaptive functions of digital environments, and neglect of generational and cultural diversity in online experiences. It is further explored how AI and the Internet influence identity construction and contemporary psychic functioning, and advocated for a conscious cohabitation between human subjectivity and digital environments, where AI acts as a tool – not a substitute – for human alterity.

Riccardo Marco Scognamiglio, *Her-rare humanum est... Reply to the interventions by Riccardo Catanzaro and Artificial Intelligence*

Abstract. The call for a debate about the digital world and its connection to clinical practice attests to the need for continued discussion beyond merely technophilic or technophobic stances. My response to Catanzaro’s (2025) contribution seeks to reaffirm my starting premise for conceptualizing the digital phenomenon: that of the digital habitat. If we consider the digital world not within a subject/object dialectic but rather as a “substance” in which we are immersed, we lose the possibility of conceiving of a subjectivity that utilizes the Web to freely express parts of the self. This subjectivity is, on the contrary, “digitized” *ab origine*. From this, a series of new clinical phenomena emerges that must not be reduced to the category of technological addiction. Instead, they compel the clinician to acquire new hermeneutic lenses and adopt new modalities of being with the other. Finally, the editorial team’s inclusion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) expands the debate from the question of the subject to that of the machine. Before we address “what AI does”, we must first reflect on “what we perceive it to be”. Only then can we venture into the critical issue of why the human subjects experience the machine as an agentive entity capable of responding to their own malaise.

Vittorio Gallese & Ugo Morelli, *Getting serious about empathy in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy*
Abstract. This essay proposes a radical reconsideration of the concept of empathy in theory and in clinical practice, shifting its focus from a cognitive and representational conception to an embodied, inter-corporeal and transformative perspective. Far from being a simple relational technique, empathy is here understood as an original modality of affective co-experience, which emerges from the shared field between analyst and patient. Through a dialogue between psychoanalysis, phenomenology and neuroscience, the bodily foundations of the therapeutic relationship are outlined, and the interpretive primacy of the classical tradition is criticized. Empathy, as a form of *aisthesis*, makes possible a clinical practice centered on sensitive listening, affective regulation and co-construction of meaning. The essay argues that only a truly embodied paradigm can restore to care its relational, intersubjective, human and transformative dimension.

Elena Bergia, “The real heroes were men”. Prison protests, seductive capital, and gender differences in the Northern Irish Republican Movement

Abstract. During the Northern Ireland conflict (1969-1998), the Republican women and men incarcerated for their involvement in the armed struggle engaged in a series of increasingly extreme protests to affirm the political nature of their actions. Some of these protests, particularly the so-called “dirty protest”, had a shocking impact because they utilized the prisoners’ bodily excreta as symbolic tools of political struggle. By making visible the bodily substances that society regards as taboo, these protests created a symbolic rupture that was difficult to heal. However, the male prison experience ultimately morphed into a badge of honor. Involvement in the prison struggles granted some ex-prisoners, heroic status in their communities and among international sympathizers. This, in turn, led to some unexpected advantages, including an increased power of attraction over like-minded women. The author refers to this increased attractiveness as “seductive capital”. The acquisition of heroic status and subsequent seductive capital did not, however, befall *women* prisoners. This gender difference is explained through an analysis of the different symbolic meanings attributed to the bodies and bodily excreta of women and men; the gender roles dear to Irish nationalism; and notions of gender spread in Ireland and beyond.

Traces

Pier Francesco Galli, *On Fritz Morgenthauer* (2017). With an Introductory note by Paolo Migone

Abstract. After an introduction by Paolo Migone, a handwritten text by Pier Francesco Galli of 2017 is published, where he answered two questions of Dagmar Herzog, professor of History at the *City University of New York*, about the Zurich psychoanalyst and anthropologist Fritz Morgenthauer (1919-1984). Herzog was doing a research on Morgenthauer; Galli had been in analysis with him in Zurich in the 1960s, and both were part of the Zurich Psychoanalytic Seminar (PSZ), which had been important in Galli’s training. Morgenthauer also collaborated with the journal *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*, founded by Galli in 1967. These were the questions: “What ideas of Morgenthauer shaped your clinical practice when you first met him?”; “What do you retain or remember most about Morgenthauer?”. Galli talks about Morgenthauer’s position and also tells four anecdotes of his analysis with him.

Clinical Cases

Fabrizio Rizzi, *Does a “therapeutic aggressiveness” exist? A clinical case*

Interventions:

Giorgio Cavallari

Alberto Lampignano

Valentina Ruggeri

Book Reviews

Book Review Essay

Susanna Mati, *Lou Salomé. Amare la vita*. [Lou Salomé. Loving Life] Milan: Feltrinelli, 2025 (Ugo Morelli)

Intervention on the book review essay of Susanna Mati's book (The editors of the "Book Reviews" section)

Reply to the intervention of the editors of the "Book Reviews" section on the book review essay of Susanna Mati's book (Ugo Morelli)

Book Reviews

Giuseppe A. Micheli, *In terra incognita. Disegnare una società che cura dopo Basaglia*. [In Uncharted Territory. Imagining a Caring Society after Basaglia] Preface by Benedetto Saraceno. Sesto San Giovanni (Milan): Mimesis, 2024 (Francesco Scotti)

Carlo Faravelli, *La diagnosi psicopatologica. Le parole di ieri per la clinica di oggi*. [Psychopathological diagnosis. Yesterday's words for today's clinical practice] Rome: Astrolabio, 2024 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Girolamo Lo Verso (editor), *La clinica gruppoanalitica, oggi, in Italia. Inquadramenti teorici ed esperienze di cura nel sociale*. [Group-Analytic Clinical Practice in Italy Today: Theoretical Frameworks and Care Experiences in the Social Field] Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2025; Girolamo Lo Verso (editor), *Il lavoro clinico con i gruppi. Metodologia operativa ed esperienze contemporanee*. [Clinical Work with Groups: Operational Methodology and Contemporary Experiences] Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2025 (Giorgio Meneguz)

Maria Zalambani & Leonid Kadis (editors), *Tatiana Rosenthal. Pioniera della psicoanalisi russa*. [Tatiana Rosenthal: A Pioneer of Psychoanalysis in Russia] Preface by Luciano Mecacci. Pisa: ETS, 2024 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Piero Cipriano, *La salute mentale è politica*. [Mental Health is Political] Milan: Fuori Scena, 2025 (Pietro Pellegrini)

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Contemporary Psychoanalysis, 2024, Volume 60, no. 1/2 (Paolo Migone)

Paolo Migone, *Comment on Contemporary Psychoanalysis*

Revue Française de Psychanalyse, 2024, Volume 88, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 (Mauro Fornaro)

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

Self and Identity, 2025, Volume 24, no. 4 (Paolo Migone)

Infant Observation, 2024, Volume 27, n. 2 (Paolo Migone)

Psicodramma Classico, 2024, Year 26, no. 1/2 (Paolo Migone)

Psicoterapia Psicoanalitica, 2025, Year 32, no. 1 (Paolo Migone)

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Information for subscribers and readers

Wynne Godley, *Saving Masud Khan*. With an Introductory note by Paolo Migone

Abstract. After an introduction by Paolo Migone, an article by Wynne Godley that appeared in 2001 in the *London Review of Books*, in which he recounts his psychoanalysis with Masud Khan, is published. This article caused embarrassment in the psychoanalytic community, which led to an investigation and a report published by Anne-Marie Sandler in issue 1/2004 of the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, with a commentary by Godley himself. Wynne Godley (1926-2010) was a prominent economist who worked at the British Treasury, and Masud Khan (1924-1989) was a London-based psychoanalyst of Pakistani origin, close to Donald Winnicott, who was his third analyst; Khan (who edited some of Winnicott's works) gave important contributions to psychoanalysis, and was co-director of *Freud Copyrights*. In his introduction, Paolo Migone offers reflections that transcend the specific case of Masud Khan and address, more broadly, the issue of training in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy.

Interventions:

Davide Cavagna, *From “as if” to “why not?”. Notes on transference, violations and transmission of knowledge starting from the Godley case*

Abstract. Some considerations are made starting from Godley's (2001) article on his disastrous analysis conducted by Masud Khan, characterized by repeated violations and abuses by the analyst. In addition to an examination of some aspects of the transference/countertransference dynamics, analytic relationship, and boundary violations, Godley's case is read in light of the problems inherent in analytic training and the transmission of knowledge, with particular reference to the analyst's theories that underlie technical choices and clinical practice. The importance of misunderstandings and erroneous beliefs on the part of the analyst, resulting from deviations or theoretical revisions and specific difficulties in conducting the treatment which risk compromising the nature and aims of the analytic work, is particularly emphasized.

Giovanni Foresti, *How can abuses of power be prevented, treated, and sanctioned in psychoanalysis? The proposal of the “fourth pillar” of psychoanalytic training*

Abstract. This intervention, which draws on Wynne Godley's article on his analysis with Masud Khan, published in the *London Review of Books* in 2001, reflects on the limitations of traditional psychoanalytic training and the need to address abuses of power with an approach that integrates prevention, treatment, and punishment. Drawing on experience gained in international psychoanalytic institutions, it emphasizes how professional solitude fosters abusive behavior and how self-idealization of training can reduce self-criticism. This is the context in which Stefano Bolognini in 2014 proposed the “fourth pillar”: an expansion of training to include group and institutional experiences, capable of consolidating analytic skills and strengthening the collective morality of the psychoanalytic community. Critical reflection and experimentation with these practices are encouraged.

Giorgio Meneguz, *The Khan-Godley case and the long shadow of the ancestors*

Abstract. The Khan-Godley case is analyzed, focusing on the deleterious impact of Khan's psychoanalytic training on his fragile psychic condition. From this brief analysis, a synthetic historical review of the dynamics of the psychoanalytic movement unfolds, beginning with Sigmund Freud's position within the complex entanglement of rivalries and ambitions that characterized the psychoanalytic community. The context of these problems serves as a backdrop to address the unresolved issue of preventing iatrogenic effects deriving from specific professional behaviors. In particular, the discussion focuses on the role of the institutional dynamics of training institutes and the critical points of the theoretical and technical principles of psychoanalysis and training programs. The open objective is to discern to what extent these elements contribute to the transgenerational perpetuation of models of boundary violations within the profession.

Vittorio Lingiardi & Nancy McWilliams, *Introduction to the Third Edition of the Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual (PDM-3)*

Abstract. The third edition of the *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual* (PDM-3) is presented. The first part covers the following topics: the rationale for the PDM-3 classification system; the differences between the PDM and the DSM and ICD systems; a comparison between the PDM-3 and other diagnostic systems; diagnostic approaches compatible with the PDM-3; the DSM-5 “Alternative Model for Personality Disorders” (AMPD); the *Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology* (HiTOP); the *Research Domain Criteria* (RDoC) approach; network approaches; and the *Power Threat Meaning Framework* (PTMF). The structure of the PDM-3 is then presented, with a description of its three axes: the profile of Mental functioning (Axis M), Personality styles and disorders (Axis P), and the subjective experience of Symptom patterns (Axis S), along with their order in the various sections; psychological experiences that may require clinical attention; the *Psychodiagnostic Chart* (PDC). Finally, the main changes in the PDM-3 are described, and some considerations are made on the terminology that the PDM-3 has chosen to adopt.

Traces

Pier Francesco Galli, *Psychoanalysis: The Mad Centipede* (1986). With an Introductory note by Paolo Migone.

Abstract. After an introduction by Paolo Migone, a paper that Pier Francesco Galli, in collaboration with Berthold Rothschild, presented at a meeting organized by the Zurich Psychoanalytic Seminar (*Psychoanalytisches Seminar Zürich* [PSZ]) on May 30-June 1, 1986, is published. This meeting was entitled “Institutionalization/Deinstitutionalization: On the History and Present of the Psychoanalytic Left”. Among the issues discussed by Galli there are the misunderstandings of the theory of psychoanalytic technique, the problems of the so-called psychoanalytic “orthodoxy”, psychiatric diagnosis, and the critical issues of training in psychoanalytic institutions.

Discussion with interventions by: Irene Brogle, Mario Erdheim, Pier Francesco Galli, Susann Heenen, René Major, Emilio Modena, Judith Valk

Discussions

Interventions on Vittorio Gallese and Ugo Morelli’s paper “Getting serious about empathy in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy” (*Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*, 2025, 59, 3: 463-494):

Andrea Angelozzi, *Some epistemological observations on empathy*

Abstract. This intervention examines several critical issues in the paper by Gallese & Morelli (2025). It is argued that some of the questions raised by these authors, in line with phenomenological thought, have in fact long been present in the debate and have already received substantial responses. Special emphasis is placed on the epistemological dimension, recalling Jaspers’ view that scientific explanation must complement understanding. The limits of an embodied and pre-reflective approach to empathy are discussed, with attention to the methodological contradiction of a perspective that rejects external observation and the analytical decomposition of phenomena, while simultaneously relying on neurophysiological experimentation. A similar tension emerges in the proposal of an empathy grounded in the pure experience of interpersonal subjectivity yet expressed through a language that aims at being descriptive and therefore objectifying. Finally, the paper addresses the challenge of how such experiential dimensions may be transformed into therapeutic experience and empirically validated in this role.

Mauro Fornaro, *“Pedantic” linguistic-conceptual notes on empathy*

Abstract. It is shown in detail how the concept of empathy, contrary to essentialist definitions, is a construct. Recalling the plurality of current conceptions, it is urged to take into account the etymological meaning of the term when using empathy or developing theories about it. Finally, three typical problems raised by the concept of empathy are discussed: the notion of “feeling” (*pathos*), the subject of empathy in its relationship with truth, and the “nature” of the relationship between empathizing subject and target subject.

Clinical Cases

Nadia Tagliaferri, *The anxiety of not existing. Introduction to the clinical case presented by Marcel Sassolas*

Marcel Sassolas, *How to care for a person traumatized by a first psychotic break. The Adrien case Interventions:*

Roberto Carnevali, *Humanizing psychiatry: A commentary on the Adrien case*

Ugo Corino, *Psychosis: A clear thought, a coherent project. On the clinical case presented by Marcel Sassolas*

Book Reviews

Book Review Essay

Vittorio Gallese, Stefano Moriggi & Pier Cesare Rivoltella, *Oltre la tecnofobia. Il digitale dalle neuroscienze all'educazione*. [Beyond Technophobia: The Digital from Neuroscience to Education] Milan: Raffaello Cortina, 2025 (Matteo Fumagalli)

Book Reviews

Bernard Golse, *La cura psichica del bambino e dell'adolescente. Per una psichiatria infantile umanistica*. Transl. and edited by Lenio Rizzo. [Mental Health Care for Children and Adolescents. Toward a Humanistic Child Psychiatry] Rome: Astrolabio, 2025 (original edition: *La Pédopsychiatrie aujourd'hui. Ce que les enfants risquent de perdre*. Paris: Odile Jacob, 2023) (Adriana Grotta)

Elsa Godart, *Vite vuote. Il nostro bisogno di riconoscimento è impossibile da soddisfare*. [Empty Lives. Our Need for Recognition Is Impossible to Satisfy] Rome: Fioriti, 2024 (original edition: *Les vies vides. Notre besoin de reconnaissance est impossible à rassasier*. Paris: Armand Colin, 2023) (Chiara Pecchio)

Gregg Barak, *Criminology on Trump*. London: Routledge, 2022 (Andrea Castiello d'Antonio)

Claudio Di Lello, *Elementi di psicoanalisi nei gruppi terapeutici*. [Elements of Psychoanalysis in Therapeutic Groups] Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2025 (Giuliana Nico)

Books Received

Journals

Psyche. Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse und ihre Anwendungen, 2024, Volume 78, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9/10, 11 & 12 (Marco Conci)

Marco Conci, *Comment on Psyche*

London Review of Books, 2025, Volume 47, no. 14 (Paolo Migone)

Journal of Applied Psychology, 2025, Volume 110, no. 7 (Paolo Migone)

Gli Asini, 2025, Year 16, no. 121 (Paolo Migone)

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Referees and proofreaders of year 2025

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