

Classical psychoanalytic theory tells us that any art piece should be treated as a symptom, as far as it is compensatory product of unsettled, unconscious drives. Surely the art has been produced by our brains, or even by AI, but what needs to be enquired here is to find out the “to-be-known” (unconsciously) in what the brain produced. How can we rediscover “not yet to-be-known” in the processes of sharing the art-symptom?

In this meeting, we discussed the clinical significance of the drawing by painters with autistic traits, dance performance within the psychiatric wards, or even life of individuals experiencing epileptic discharges. These art symptoms would tell us that they should not be regarded just as a product to be consumed by the affect-brain system. Rather, it is the Unconscious that we need to re-invent in the very process of our artistic and/or therapeutic experiences.

“Autism spectrum and artistic creativity”

Tsutomu Hanazono, MD (Hanazono Clinic)

People with autism spectrum traits have shown creativity in various areas including technology and art from early in human evolutionary history. Ito Jakuchu, a Japanese painter of the mid-Edo period, is considered a person on the autism spectrum. Throughout his long life, Jakuchu created a lot of works with innovative style. I would like to explain, through the Jakuchu’s works, how autism spectrum traits contribute to artistic creations as an underground water vein underpinning human creativity.

“Art and therapy in clinique de la borde”

Yasuo Miwaki, MD, PhD (Zinai graduate university)

Jean Oury, director of la clinique de La Borde, received his psychoanalysis from Jacques Lacan, but later took a different position from him when it comes to treatment at the psychiatric hospital. The pillar of this policy is art; or to be more precise, the expressive activity itself. However, it is not just the expression that was in question, but how the space for expression was arranged and managed that is the big question. We will discuss the point at which Oury crossed paths with Lacan.

“An expression therapy approach to the fault syndrome (epileptic spectrum)”

Norifumi Kishimoto, MD (Shizuoka General Hospital)

Epilepsy was once considered one of the three major psychiatric disorders, but with a better understanding of the disease and advances in pharmacotherapy, it is now

regarded as a neurological disorder. It is unfortunate that the wealth of psychological knowledge accumulated during the psychiatric era appears to be largely unused in the current treatment of epilepsy. I would like to present a case of an expression therapy approach to a patient with epileptic features and discuss it from a neuropsychanalytic point of view.

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Turkish Neuropsychanalysis Study Group

During the lockdowns of the pandemic, our group continued to work on neuropsychanalysis and cross-cultural affective neuroscience. Here is some of our news.

- (1) In February, Gökçe Özkarar Gradwohl and Prof. Turnbull published an article titled “Gender Effects in Personality: A Cross-cultural Affective Neuroscience Perspective” (Özkarar-Gradwohl & Turnbull, 2021). They reviewed the findings of the Affective Neuroscience Personality Scales in 15 countries (from West to East): Canada, U.S.A., Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Turkey, Russia, China, Hong Kong, and Japan. The results showed that gender differences on the ANPS were variable, for different classes of basic emotions. These categories included emotions on which females scored universally higher (CARE and SADNESS); emotions that showed variability based on geography (higher FEAR in Western women and higher PLAY in Western male); and emotions that showed virtually no gender effect (SEEKING and ANGER). The results were broadly consistent with gender effects reported in the Big Five personality literature, including a trend of gender differences increasing when moving from “East” to “West”.
- (2) In March, Dr Yasemin Hoşgören Alıcı from our group presented their study on suicide as a poster in the European Neuropsychopharmacology Early Career Workshop. The workshop was held online because of the pandemic conditions. Their study, which observed the suicidal risks in relation to ANPS profiles and had found significant relations with certain items of the SADNESS subscale, was published in the Journal of European Neuropsychopharmacology.
- (3) In March, Gökçe Özkarar Gradwohl co-authored a meta-analysis article on the relations of ANPS and Big Five (Marengo, Davis, Özkarar-Gradwohl & Montag, 2020). The results of 21 samples (from 12 countries) showed that high SEEKING and high Openness to Experience, High PLAY and high

Extraversion, High CARE/low ANGER and High Agreeableness, high FEAR/ SADNESS/ ANGER and high Neuroticism are related to each other.

- (4) Prof Gamze Özçürümez from our group has started to instruct the “Psychosomatics” and “Psychobiology of Mental Disorders” courses at the International Psychoanalytic University-Berlin (IPU-Berlin). She is introducing the perspective of neuropsychanalysis to the Clinical Psychology English MA students. In May, she invited Gökçe Özkarar Gradwohl as a guest lecturer on “Affective Neuroscience and Culture.”
- (5) In May, Gökçe Özkarar Gradwohl was invited to speak at Bahçeşehir University Psychology Club (Istanbul), on her theory of “Cross-cultural Affective Neuroscience.” Discussions included how and why different cultures responded to the pandemic measures differently and what can be the influences of the technological replacement for social contacts can influence the subcortical affective systems, in different cultures and for different genders.

We wish the international family of NPSA a healthy and safe year ...

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- Özkarar-Gradwohl, F. G., & Turnbull, O. H. (2021). Gender effect in personality: A cross-cultural affective neuroscience perspective. *Culture and Brain*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40167-021-00099-5>.
- Marengo, D., Davis, K. L., Özkarar-Gradwohl, F. G., & Montag, C. (2021). A meta-analysis of associations between individual differences in primary emotional systems as assessed with the Affective Neuroscience Personality Scales and Big Five Personality Traits. *Scientific Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-84366-8>

Archeology of mind

Our Regional Group “Archeology of mind,” located in Rome, is part of the Italian Psychoanalytic Society and of the International Neuropsychanalysis Society. We have been working during the past year on the issue of “Defenses in Neuropsychanalysis.” On the 16th of January, 2021, we had a public seminary entitled “Defenses as adaptative systems.” Cristiana Pirrongelli

and Teodosio Giacolini, co-coordinators of the Group, have edited the book *Neuropsychanalysis of the Inner Mind*, in press, by Routledge, with a preface by Mark Solms, with our contribution together with other neuropsychanalysts interested in affective neuroscience. Cristiana Pirrongelli participated in the training course of Prof. Andrea Clarici, University of Trieste, “Theoretical and Clinical Training Course in Neuropsychanalysis” validated by the Committee of the Clinical Register of the International Neuropsychanalysis Society, with curricular and professional value (Clinical Fellow) for the participants. I am a professor of Neuropsychanalysis at the postgraduate school of psychotherapy of the Gemelli Hospital/Lumsa University/Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome. Here is a selection of some of our scientific articles and books, produced during the past two years:

Giacolini, T., Conversi, D., & Alcaro, A. (2021). The Brain Emotional Systems in Addictions: From Attachment to Dominance/Submission Systems. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 14,609467. doi:10.3389/fnhum.2020.609467.

Giacolini, T. (2019). “Social Competition, Psychopathology and the (Physiological) Developmental Trauma. A Narrative Review.” *EC Psychology and Psychiatry*, 8(12), 1–10.

Giacolini, T. & Sabatello, U. (2019) Psychoanalysis and affective neuroscience. The motivational/emotional system of aggression in human relations. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9,2475. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02475.

Bignamini, E., Galassi, C., & Giacolini, T. (Eds.). (in press). Anps – Affective Neuroscience Personality Scales. Guide to understanding the patient through the affective neuroscience test. Guida ad alla comprensione del paziente con l'utilizzo clinico del test basato sulle neuroscienze affettive (Inside chapter of Cristiana Pirrongelli).

Giacolini, T., Pirrongelli, C. (Eds.). (in press). *Neuropsychanalysis of the Inner Mind. A Biological Understanding of Human Mental Function*. Routledge.

Giacolini, T., Piccone, L., Abbracciavento, G., Tarsitani, L. (in press). The Brain emotional systems in Eating Disorders. A study with the Short Version of Affective Neuroscience Personality Scales (ANPS-S).

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We are a group of psychotherapists and clinical psychophysicologists, dedicated to researching and developing insights from neuroscience into depth psychology and psychodynamic psycho-therapeutic interventions. The group was founded in the UK in 1988, and its