

of California Berkeley, internationally renowned chronic pain specialists Dr. Lorimer Moseley from Australia and Dr. Howard Fields from the University of California San Francisco presented to a packed audience. The conference was attended by physical therapists, psychologists, psychoanalysts, and others, bringing together a multidimensional approach to the complexities of chronic pain. It was extremely successful, and we hope to make this a yearly event.

Enid Young
drenidyoung@yahoo.com

Neuropsychoanalysis in Bologna (Italy)

The Psychological Clinical Service at Villa Bellombra Rehabilitation Hospital in Bologna supports neurological patients and their caregivers, serving patients suffering from disorders including stroke, multiple sclerosis, dementia, and Parkinson disease. Specific attention is also given to the individual reactions and group dynamics of health workers who take part in the interdisciplinary teams. The service, coordinated by Dr. Marina Farinelli, a clinical psychology specialist and psychoanalytic psychotherapist, integrates clinical rehabilitation practice with psychological and psychotherapeutic interventions based on psychosomatic, psychoanalytic, and neuropsychoanalytic approaches, with the aim of improving diagnosis and therapy throughout the entire rehabilitation process. The Psychological Clinical Service characterizes the hospital and is widely recognized for its innovative approach to rehabilitation; it recently received a request to provide support and collaborate with the local association of stroke patients and caregivers.

The clinical service is also active in research with neurological patients. Some studies are being carried out in collaboration with both Italian and international research institutions, concerning self, emotion, defense mechanisms, attachment, pain, anosognosia, and other topics. For example, the research project "The Impact of Brain Lesion on Internalization/Externalization Processes: A Neuropsychodynamic Study," began last year in collaboration among Villa Bellombra Rehabilitation Hospital (Dr. Marina Farinelli), the Neuroradiology Unit of the Bellaria Hospital in Bologna (Prof. Marco Leonardi), the Department of Psychology of Bologna University (Prof. Francesca Frassinetti) and the Mind, Brain Imaging and Neuroethics research unit of the Institute of Mental Health Research at the Ottawa University (Prof. Georg Northoff); the project is coordinated by Marina Farinelli and Georg Northoff (supervisor). The project was presented last year during the NPSA Seattle Congress and at meetings held in Bologna and Rome.

The meeting "Affect and Neuroscience: The Rehabilitation Processes" was held with the contribution of Italian and international experts, on November 2010, at the Department of Psychology of Bologna University. The aim was to link research and conceptualizations in the fields of affective neuroscience, neuropsychoanalysis, and clinical psychology and practice with neurological patients. The event was successful and was rated as highly helpful by the numerous participants. Organization of new events is in progress for the current and the next year.

A Clinical Case Discussion Group concerning neurological patients started one year ago at the Department of Psychology of Bologna University (coordinators: Dr. Marina Farinelli and Dr. Anna di Santantonio.) It involves psychologists from public rehabilitation hospitals, clinics, and private practice. It is open to specialists interested in neuropsychoanalytic and psychosomatic approaches to rehabilitation psychotherapy and research.

Marina Farinelli, MD
marina.farinelli@unibo.it

Neuropsychoanalytical Research Group of Córdoba (Argentina)

We are an interdisciplinary group that includes psychologists, philosophers, neuropsychologists, and undergraduate students of the Psychology Department of the National University of Córdoba. The group meets three times a week, focusing on epistemological issues concerning neuropsychoanalysis and implementing conceptual tools from the philosophy of the neurosciences and the philosophy of mind (e.g., the mind-body problem or competing explanatory models in neuropsychoanalysis).

At the moment we are working on verbal and nonverbal free association, with the aim of developing an experimental study in the near future. At the same time, we have submitted a paper to the *Annual Psychoanalysis Journal* of the National University of Buenos Aires (www.uba.ar/ingles/index03.php) and given presentations at the local and national level (www.unc.edu.ar/seccion/novedades/2011/abril/iii-encuentro-de-jovenes-investigadores-en-neurociencias-de-cordoba).

Our group received a grant from the National Institution of Science and Technology for the project "The Impact of Theories about Molecular Cognition in the Philosophy of Neuroscience: Reflections on Its Goals and Limits in Neuropsychoanalysis and General Psychology." In addition, for the third consecutive year, members of the group are in charge of a seminar in the Department of Psychology, on "Epistemological Problems of Neuropsychoanalysis."

José Ahumada
joseahumada@gmail.com

Istanbul Neuropsychoanalysis Study Group (Turkey)

In 2011, Istanbul continued to host interdisciplinary conferences, conduct research, and promote publications on psychoanalysis and neurosciences. Here is a summary of news from our city:

1. The interest in neuropsychoanalysis is increasing among psychiatrists in Istanbul and gradually becoming more fruitful. This year psychiatrist Saffet Murat Tura, from Imago Psychotherapy Center, published his new book *Matter and Meaning: Origins of Rationality*, which is based on a neuropsychoanalytic perspective. In his book, he explores the solutions offered by the modern philoso-

phy of mind for brain/meaning and brain/consciousness problems. He develops a dialectical materialist "Meaning Theory" to explain how meaning can be described as a material property and how sociolinguistic meanings may have natural foundations (Tura, 2011). In another vein, Dr. Cagri Yüksel gave two talks on the history and the future of neuropsychoanalysis as a new discipline to his colleagues at the psychiatry and neurology departments of the Istanbul Medical School, where he is continuing his psychiatry training as a resident. The constructive comments from the staff were highly inspiring for future neuropsychoanalytic studies to be held at the Medical School.

2. The affective neuroscience research carried out by clinical psychologists Gökçe Özkarar, Hanna Nita Scherler, Fahih Köksal, and Hatice Çetinkaya was accepted by both the Twelfth International Neuropsychoanalysis Congress held in Berlin and the Twelfth European Psychology Congress held in Istanbul. The results of the Turkish standardization of the Affective Neuroscience Personality Scale were compared with the American norms (Davis, Panksepp, & Normansell, 2003), leading to shared findings regardless of culture, as well as varying findings depending on cultural differences. For instance, gender differences on basic affective systems were exactly the same in both the Turkish and the American samples, in which females had higher scores on "sadness, care, and spirituality" and males had higher scores on "seeking." In addition, both positive affective systems (care, seek, play) and negative affective systems (fear, anger, sadness) showed positive intercorrelations in both cultures. In contrast, differences were observed between the two samples on the positive affect, negative affect, and spirituality subscales; these differences were interpreted in terms of the varying influences of American individualistic culture and Turkish collectivist culture on the neuropsychological development of human mind (Özkarar, Scherler, Köksal, & Çetinkaya, 2011).

The Istanbul NPsa Group (www.npsa-istanbul.com) considers that the integration of cross-cultural neuroscience with neuropsychoanalytic views will be important in the future of our globalizing world. Cross-cultural studies among different countries' neuropsychoanalytic study groups are strongly recommended, and collaborations with our group are welcomed.

Gokce Ozkarar
npsa.istanbul@yahoo.com.tr

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Neuropsychoanalysis Group of Mexico City (Mexico)

The Neuropsychoanalysis Group of Mexico City started activity just after the Berlin Congress, where the three current members presented developments in their research projects. The group intends to focus on integrating psychoanalytic methods into empirical studies, hoping to attract colleagues as more work is organized and published.

In terms of our active members, María Isabel Rodríguez Luna is a psychologist with a Master of Arts in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy who has been studying clinical applications of neuropsychoanalysis. At the Tenth Neuropsychoanalysis Congress, she presented a model that includes neurofeedback entitled "The Psychotherapy of Play and Neurofeedback—the Relational Model: The Parent-Child Relationship." Developing this interdisciplinary model, which integrates psychiatric and psychoanalytic approaches, she presented preliminary findings in a poster at the recent Neuropsychoanalysis Congress in Berlin, exploring the mind-body relation.

Jesús Baca Plasencia is also a Mexican psychologist; he has trained as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist, and has worked in the field for six years. Currently finishing his doctoral dissertation at Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain, he is working with a multidisciplinary focus that integrates philosophical, psychoanalytic, and neurobiological approaches to the problem of the mind-body relation. His work focuses on the genesis of the ego, evaluating the Freudian theory that asserts an evolutionarily derived set of mechanisms whereby the ego arises from the body, including a role for psychic energy in this new creation. This project attempts to take into account the most recent neurobiological findings about the formation of subjective structure that provide the human organism with a sense of self-integration and individuality. At the Berlin Congress, he presented a poster with Prof. Rosario García Cordovilla from the Biological Sciences faculty of Universidad Complutense de Madrid about his on-going research.

Daniela Flores Mosri, also a psychologist and psychoanalytic psychotherapist, is a lecturer and researcher at the Universidad Intercontinental in Mexico City, with a research and clinical practice that dates back to 1995. She presented the paper "The Psychodynamics of Borderline Pathology with Cannabis Use and Its Relation to Neuropsychoanalytic Aspects" at the Berlin Neuropsychoanalysis Congress. This project, supported by the Universidad Intercontinental, intends to provide a deeper understanding of borderline patients, suggesting that these patients use cannabis as self-medication for their unconscious conflicts, but also that psychotherapists treating this population must have knowledge of the neurobiology of cannabis. The study is projected to finish in December with a neuropsychoanalytic proposal for the treatment of these patients, based on a category analysis through case study material.

Our group will hold monthly meetings to keep updated and hopes to have an impact on more health professionals in Mexico and to expand our projects.

Daniela Flores Mosri
danmos@yahoo.com