

## Bulletin of the International Neuropsychoanalysis Society

Edited by Maria Sonia Goergen

### Bulletin 28

We are happy to share the first group reports of 2014! This is the year we return to New York City, for our 15th annual congress, this time on “Current Neuropsychoanalytic Research.” Given that so many of our regional groups are involved with exciting interdisciplinary research, some of which is reported here, we hope to see you personally at the event!

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### The neuropsychoanalysis group of Mexico City

The founding members of the group had a productive year and attended several congresses to present their research work; the most important was the 14th Neuropsychoanalysis Congress held in Cape Town, where Jesús Baca Plasencia presented a poster entitled “The ego genesis: a neuropsychoanalytical study.” He combined the Freudian and the neurobiological perspective about the early development of the ego and proposed several correlations between the Freudian theory and two neurobiological approaches in which he considered the epistemological implications of the task and established a coherent epistemic foundation for the correlations. Two main early developmental processes of the Freudian theory were addressed: the autoerotic and the narcissistic phases. The neurobiological perspective is based on the work of Antonio Damasio and Mark Solms, specifically the development of the self related to the various types of consciousness proposed by Damasio, and several concepts regarding the id and the ego recently published by Mark Solms.

María Isabel Rodríguez Luna presented “Clinical applications of neuropsychoanalysis: a case study of an adolescent patient” during the research sessions. She discussed the integrative teamwork necessary to help an anorexic patient with epilepsy, focusing mainly on the clinical application of a neuropsychoanalytical treatment that entails the integral vision of physicians and the psychodynamic psychotherapist. The treatment aims to help the progress of the patient’s mind-body interaction and takes into account the fundamental aspects of clinical work with adolescents and eating disorders.

Daniela Flores Mosri presented “A neuropsychoanalytic comprehension of borderline organizations: an affective approach” during the research sessions. Universidad Intercontinental in Mexico City is supporting this

research project that focuses on the use of case study material to integrate an affective approach, both from psychoanalysis and from neuroscience, by taking into account the work of Jean Bergeret, Michael Balint, Helene Deutsch, and Jaak Panksepp, among others. Clinical psychoanalytic data seen from an affective point of view seem to be congruent with many of Jaak Panksepp’s descriptions related to the basic emotion systems. Borderline disorders can be understood from many perspectives, most of which emphasize the pathology of object relations. Object relations are distorted as a result of the affective dysregulation from major narcissistic injuries that seem to have an early impact on the SEEKING, PANIC, RAGE, and FEAR systems. The group was invited to discuss this topic at the 13th National Congress of the Mexican Association for Group Analytic Psychotherapy held in October 2013.

The founding members also started open study group sessions in October held at Universidad Intercontinental in Mexico City. The aim of these sessions is to share and discuss neuropsychoanalytic topics of relevance to a growing audience in Mexico. Professionals from several fields have attended, including psychoanalysts, psychoanalytically-oriented psychotherapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, and neuroscientists. Interest keeps increasing in the country and the group welcomes everyone who wants to learn and discuss more about the dialogue between neuroscience and psychoanalysis.

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### Turkish neuropsychoanalysis study group

The “Istanbul Neuropsychoanalysis Study Group” has been renamed the “Turkish Neuropsychoanalysis Study Group.” Our website address stays the same ([www.npsa-istanbul.com](http://www.npsa-istanbul.com)) and there is a new Facebook page for the members ([www.facebook.com/ Türk Nöropsikanaliz Çalışma Grubu](https://www.facebook.com/Türk-Nöropsikanaliz-Çalışma-Grubu)). Here is our recent news:

- In May 2013, Assoc. Prof. Gamze Özçürümez, the Secretary General of the Psychiatric Association of Turkey (PAT), initiated the “Neuropsychoanalysis Working Module” under the PAT. Its first official meeting took place during the 49th National Psychiatry Congress held in İzmir in September. Dr. Berna Özata was elected as the new coordinator, and four members of the Turkish

Npsa Study Group, Prof. Barış Korkmaz, Assoc. Prof. Gamze Özçürümez, Assoc. Prof. Hakan Atalay and clinical psychologist Gökçe Özkarar Gradwohl, became members of the Npsa Working Module of PAT.

- In July, Prof. Barış Korkmaz from the Turkish Npsa Study Group and his colleagues Prof. Charles Njiokiktjien and Prof. Ank Verschoor, both Dutch Npsa members, published *Children's Social Relatedness: An Embodied Brain Process* and presented their book to readers for the first time at the 14th Congress of the International Neuropsychanalysis Society in Cape Town. For the full reference, please see below.
- In October, Dr. Giles Yeates from Npsa UK gave a talk in Istanbul on “Neurological Knife-edge to Emotional Intimacy in Couple Relationships: Neuropsychanalytical Perspectives.” The seminar – organized by the Turkish Npsa Group, Çınar Psychotherapy Center and Istanbul Bilgi University Clinical Psychology Department – demonstrated how neuropsychanalytical knowledge can be implemented into clinical studies.
- In November and in December, clinical psychologist Gökçe Özkarar Gradwohl from Çınar Psychotherapy Center gave a talk entitled “Neuropsychanalysis: The Unity of Mind-Body Poles,” first at the 1st National Neuropsychophily Congress (held at Üsküdar University), then at the 2nd Psychology and Development Days (held by Marmara University Department of Counselling Psychology). Her presentation, summarizing the mind-body dualism throughout history and analyzing the role of neuropsychanalysis in the current *Zeitgeist*, provided an interdisciplinary discussion platform for discussion between specialists in different areas.
- In December, Assoc. Prof. Hakan Atalay from the Turkish Npsa Group presented “The Role of Neuropsychanalysis in Understanding Body and Mind” to the Istanbulian members of Psychiatric Association of Turkey (PAT). This was the second neuropsychanalytical seminar given by Atalay to PAT Istanbul Branch, and signaled the growing interest in npsa among psychiatrists.

As neuropsychanalytical thinking spreads throughout our country, we hope the Turkish Npsa Study Group will start reporting from our other cities as well.

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## References

Korkmaz, B., Njiokiktjien, C., & Verschoor, C. A. (2013). *Children's social relatedness: An embodied brain process*. Amsterdam: Suyi Publications.

## La Société de psychosomatique intégrative (SPI) La Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris: Psychoanalysis, medicine and neurosciences

These were the main events of 2013 in our Society's meetings:

- Dr. Huguette Hannebicque presented “In search of an integrative approach to psychosomatics applied to children illustrated by 4 cases of nephrotic syndrome.” This intervention introduces a psychosomatic approach to integrative therapies for children and adolescents.
- Michael Stora, a clinical psychologist, psychoanalyst, psychosomatic specialist, and creator of the digital world observatory in France, talked about the relationship between video games and psychosomatic disturbances, especially video-game addiction of children and adolescents. Michael Stora is developing therapies for this type of addiction, and proposes that there are relationships between psychological dependence and neuronal dependence in children and adolescents.
- Dr. Frédérique Tafforeau communicated the results of research “When physiology is derailed,” presenting a few examples highlighting the strong link between the immune system and the nervous system.
- The September Symposium was devoted to “A Psychosomatic Approach to Babies.” Jean Benjamin Stora presented a clinical case relating psychosomatics and psychoneurobiology of babies. Dr. Myriam Szejer, psychoanalyst and child psychiatrist, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Foch Hospital in Suresnes, Co-Director of Education, D.U., for psychological issues around birth, acting Chairwoman of the association “La Cause des bébés,” communicated on her experience with babies: “Words to be born.” Dr. Catherine Dolto, pediatric haptotherapist, talked about “The importance of prenatal emotional life as the foundation of mental health: Thirty years of clinical haptonomics accompanying pregnancy.” Dr. Dominique Leyronas, pediatric neonatologist of the Maternity Private Hospital of Antony presented “Prevention of psychosomatic disorders in infants: pediatrician and birth, which place?” Dr. Frédérique Tafforeau, a cell and molecular biologist and Member of the Society Psychosomatic integrative and “Cause des bébés”