

If you are interested in joining or visiting this group, please contact: Katerina Fotopoulou at [a.fotopoulou@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.fotopoulou@ucl.ac.uk), providing 2–3 lines indicating your discipline, education, and research/clinical interests.

The group is supported by donations to the Neuropsychoanalysis Fund ([www.neuropsa.org](http://www.neuropsa.org)), including the Editors' royalties on the following book: A. Fotopoulou, D. Pfaff, & M. A. Conway, *From the Couch to the Lab: Trends in Psychodynamic Neuroscience* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

We also wish to offer a special thank you to Paula Barkay, who is always there to welcome us on the day and keeps us organized and safe in her uniquely elegant and discreet ways.

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### **Brazil: Porto Alegre, RS—Southern Brazilian Chapter**

2012 was a profitable year, as we continued to develop the consilience of neuroscience and psychoanalysis in our state's mental health community and become more active at our annual congress.

At the 13th International Neuropsychoanalysis Congress, on "Craving, Caring, & Clinging," held in Athens in June 2012, we were honored to be part of the symposium "A Relational Turn in Neuropsychoanalysis—Applications in Developmental Acquired and Progressive Conditions," coordinated and organized by Christian Salas.

Our presentation was entitled "A Closer Look on the Underpinnings of Neuro-developmental Disorders of Relating and Communicating (NDRC) and Some First Impressions on Naltrexone Use on 55 Children." Because the sensorimotor systems have a hierarchical development, disruption of regulatory processes due to poorly modulated inhibition or amplification of signals can lead to NDRC. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is one of these neurodevelopmental conditions. The ability to be able to inhibit/enhance certain social/emotional processes depends not only on where the starting point of disruption is in the brain, but also on getting the right clues out of the infant's behavior affected by the disruption. One of the systems that can be affected in this multifactorial disorder is the opioid system. Naltrexone at a low dosage has been used in an effort to modulate the tendency of the infant to "encapsulate" inside his or her comfort zone. Leaving the safety of social withdrawal spontaneously is sometimes very difficult, and the longer the infant remains in his or her cloister, the bigger the risk of crystallizing behavior. Naltrexone, at low doses, seems to attenuate this tendency in some infants.

On 16–18 August, we were invited to participate in a round-table discussion at the annual meeting of the Brazilian Society of Psychoanalysis of Porto Alegre ([www.sbpedpa.org.br](http://www.sbpedpa.org.br)). The discussion was the intersection of the fields of physics, psychoanalysis, philosophy, and neuroscience. The theme was "the changes of the psychic apparatus throughout the process of analysis." Neuropsychoanalysis was a great bridge. It appears, even to the most reluctant, to be here to stay.

In October we spent a full day discussing the organic, psychological, and social implications of an interdisciplinary approach for children with the diagnosis of ASD at the Litoraneo Centre of Studies, Capao da Canoa, coordinated by Psychologist Cleon S. Cerezer. The goal was bridging the complexity of neuroscience and psychodynamics. Our thanks to Psychologists Catarine M. Masschmann, Francine Franklin, Giovana S. Mauricio, and Jordana S. Dalsotto.

And last, but not least, in November we were honored with the invitation to coordinate the publications of the bulletins of the regional groups of the International Neuropsychoanalysis Society for our journal.

I look forward to supporting the activity of all our affiliated groups. Please get in touch through my email.

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### **Turkey: Istanbul Neuropsychoanalysis Study Group**

In the first half of 2013, the Istanbul Study Group—via publications and congresses—continued networking among the varied specialists involved in neuropsychoanalysis: psychoanalysts, psychologists, neurologists, and psychiatrists. Both local and international guests enriched our work.

In April, Metis Press published the Turkish edition of the essential neuropsychoanalytic text, *The Brain and the Inner World*, by Mark Solms and Oliver Turnbull. This edition was translated by psychiatrist Assoc. Prof. Hakan Atalay from Yeditepe University and edited by clinical psychologist Gökçe Özkarar from Çınar Psychotherapy Center. We expect that this book will greatly expand the audience within Turkey for neuropsychoanalytic perspectives. We announced its publication via the mail groups and websites of the Istanbul Neuropsychoanalysis Study Group, Turkish Psychologists Association, Turkish Neurology Association, Turkish Psychiatry Association, Turkish Neuropsychiatry Association, and Neuropsychology Society.

The 10th International Cognitive Neuroscience Meeting was held from 19 to 21 April in Istanbul at Bilgi University, and for the first time at this society's conference, neuropsychoanalysis was given a prominent place. Child neurologist Charles Njiokiktjien from Leiden University of the Netherlands spoke on "Theory of Body," and his collaborator, child neurologist Prof. Barış Korkmaz, from Istanbul University's Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine completed this perspective with his talk on "Theory of Mind." The subsequent talks focused on specific neuropsychoanalytic topics: Prof. Mark Solms from Cape Town University spoke on "Neuropsychoanalysis of Dreams," Prof. Oliver Turnbull from Bangor University addressed the "Neuropsychoanalysis of Body Schemas," Assoc. Prof. Hakan Atalay from Yeditepe University spoke on "Neuropsychoanalysis of Social Mind," and Clinical Psychologist Gökçe Özkarar presented "Cross-cultural Affective Neuroscience: Turkish example" (the detailed program is available at [www.istanbulcogneuro.org/program.html](http://www.istanbulcogneuro.org/program.html)). In addition, our Istanbul Neuropsychoanalysis group offered the new Turkish translation of *The Brain and the Inner World* in the bookstands in the congress venue.

In line with our goal to contribute to the growth of the global neuropsychology family, Istanbul continues to build national and international bridges to strengthen neuropsychological dialogue among specialists from various disciplines.

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### **France: La Société de Psychosomatique Intégrative (SPI), La Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris—Psychoanalysis, Medicine, and Neurosciences**

Three main events were held during 2012. In February, a study day focused on the use in psychotherapy of body relaxation as a preliminary to psychosomatic psychotherapies. For some patients with serious difficulties in mentalizing, it is recommended to build up a self psychic image using body therapies; starting with the body helps to construct a mental apparatus and strengthen defenses. Dr. Myriam Brun-Valicon, SPI vice-chair, Dr. Pierre Bonnardot, vice-chair of the French Society of Psychosomatic Medicine, and Eric Hadjeri and Thierry Villac, psychotherapists, gave presentations that are now available on the SPI websites:

- <http://societedepsychosomatiqueintegrative.over-blog.com>
- [www.psychosomatique-integrative.net](http://www.psychosomatique-integrative.net)

On 31 March, the study day was devoted to the role of pain in the psychosomatic equilibrium of somatic patients. Jean Benjamin Stora (Chairman of the SPI, Endocrinology Service) gave a presentation on the role of pain, illustrated by case material; Dr. F. Tafforeau and Dr. Joseph Lore spoke

on the neurophysiology and clinical approaches to pain; and psychotherapist Nadine Henri gave a presentation on the incidence of pathological mourning in chronic pain.

Finally, every year SPI organizes a symposium on integrative psychosomatics with a medical service. This year, Prof. Patrice Debré, Head of the Department of Immunology Ap-Hp, unité Inserm UMR-S 945, gave a presentation entitled “From Passive Defense to the Targeted Attack: The Comparative Evolution of Immunology.” Dr. Frédérique Tafforeau used a psycho-neuro-immunological approach with a contribution linking the immune system and the central nervous system. Dr. Tafforeau is a doctor in the intensive-care unit of Vannes Hospital and a member of the association “La cause des bébés,” chaired by Myriam Szejer. She is involved in research integrating epigenetics, the mental apparatus, and the central nervous system. Jean Benjamin Stora chaired the symposium “Hypothesis of Interrelationships between the Immune and the Central Nervous Systems.” The two final communications dealt with a study done by Dr. Pascale Surugue and Dr. Stora entitled “Breast Cancer, a Study Aimed at Validating the Model Developed by J. B. Stora to Assess the Psychosomatic Risk,” which evaluated a sample of 30 patients. The study involved 10 medical doctors and Dr. Bernard Asselain, Head of Department of Biostatistics, Institute Curie, Paris.

The integrative psychosomatics approach is slightly broader than the neuropsychological one as it integrates many biological systems: the name of neuropsychosomatics has been proposed for such an approach.

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