

The Istanbul Neuropsychanalysis Study Group

In line with our integrative goal to build collaborations between specialists from various schools of thought, scientific disciplines, and cultures, the Istanbul Neuropsychanalysis Study Group enhanced its national and international activities in 2009. Some of these activities are summarized below:

1. Prof. Mehmet Kerem Doksat, the head of the Evolutionary Psychiatry Studies Group and Director of the Mood Disorders Unit at the Psychiatry Department of Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty of Istanbul University, introduced to our group his studies on evolutionary psychiatry and mind-body issues (www.keremdoksat.com). The members of our group, who are interested in linking these two fields, may register to the interaction group of Prof. M. K. Doksat and follow his excellent publications and activities.

2. In April, counseling psychologist Filiz Çetin from Nisan Psychotherapy Center (www.nisanpsiko.com) invited Dr. Rise Van Fleet for the continuation of their studies on filial therapy education. Van Fleet gave a workshop on "Filial Therapy with Families with Strong Resistances" and together with Çetin they gave a four-day training on "Intensive Filial Therapy." During these activities, the affective neuroscience related to play therapy and Jaak Panksepp's research on the neuroscientific findings on play therapy were also discussed in detail. We noticed that knowing the neuropsychodynamic results of play therapy encourages the specialists and families to utilize this technique more. Filiz Çetin continues to carry out supervisions on filial therapy for specialists in children's mental health.

3. On 18 June, clinical psychologist Fatma Gökçe Özkarar from Doku Psychotherapy Center (www.dokudanismanlik.com) and Prof. Güler Fişek from the psychology department of Boğaziçi University hosted Dr. David Pincus, a member of the International Neuropsychanalysis Society from Ohio, who gave a seminar to the specialists in Istanbul on "Attachment and Separation: The Neuropsychanalytic Perspective of the Social Relational Self." The seminar was a joint organization of the Istanbul Neuropsychanalysis Study Group and Boğaziçi University Research Center-BÜPAM (www.bupampsi.boun.edu.tr). Attendants listened to presentations about the functions of neuropeptides related to attachment and the neuroscientific findings on psychic pain. Dr. Pincus also gave examples from his brain research of how psychic pain and empathy can be understood in an integrated manner in the laboratory and the clinician's office.

4. The Association of Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapies (PPPD: www.pppdnergei.org), which started to exchange news and information with the Istanbul Neuropsychanalysis Study Group in 2008, organized several activities also in 2009. Psychoanalyst M. Apprey from the United States gave a talk entitled "When the Thought Is Clear, the Words become Clear: Anna Freud and Thoughts on Representational World." On 15 February, J. Schaeffer, gave a seminar on "Hysteria in Children." On 21 June 2009, B. Lechevalier, gave a seminar entitled "How M. Klein Was Working: The Case of Richard." PPPD continues to enhance their education programs on psychoanalysis in Istanbul.

5. Clinical psychologists Fatma Gökçe Özkarar, Hanna Nita Scherler, and Falih Köksal completed the study of Turkish Standardization of the Affective Neuroscience Personality Scale

(ANPS). Several Ph.D. candidates from different universities and departments (e.g. psychology, theology) in Turkey started to include the ANPS in the measurement materials that they are going to use in their researches. We predict that the number of scientific discussions and cross-cultural studies in affective neuroscience will increase with the utilization of the Turkish ANPS.

The Istanbul Neuropsychanalysis Study Group is open to anyone who is without prejudice toward any school of thought, discipline, or culture. We are inviting specialists from all around the world to interact with the neuropsychanalytic movement in Turkey with the wish that this movement will expand. We are happy to see that this wish is gradually becoming true.

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The MindBrain Consortium, Akron, Ohio

The MindBrain Consortium is a society-affiliated program based at Summa Hospitals in Akron. The program is likely to become more regionalized. We have been doing studies on the neuropeptides of attachment and social pain. One was an inconclusive study on oxytocin. We are about to do a study using a partial mu-agonist, buprenorphine, as an adjunct for treatment of refractory depression. We know that the opioid system is intimately involved in quelling separation distress, depression, social pain, and physical pain. In collaboration with the Medical University of South Carolina and Ziad Nahas, we are in the final stages of writing up an fMRI study involving oxytocin and mentalization in depressed subjects. Our findings are fascinating, as they suggest that depressives "utilize" oxytocin in a less integrated, more cognitively oriented fashion relative to healthy controls. In this study, we use a version of Simon Baron Cohen's Reading the Eyes Task that was developed for autism and theory of mind.

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The Body Image Study Group, New York

The Body Image Study Group has been meeting under the auspices of the Arnold Pfeffer Center for Neuro-Psychoanalysis for a decade. Its eight members are comprised of five psychoanalysts and two psychologists, and one biologist who went through analytic training. The Study Group usually meets the first Sunday of each month, the day after the monthly Pfeffer Center lecture.

We have been looking at the role of the body in the mind from several points of view—psychoanalytic, sexual, linguistic, biological, and others—that are hard to categorize. We have looked at how the mind is modeled on the body ("The ego is first and foremost a bodily ego"), how the image of the body affects the mind, as in children whose bodies were damaged, and how the brain "makes" the mind. We have studied how Freud based his early ideas of the mind on nineteenth-century neurology, not on observations of analytic patients, and how