

## BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL NEURO-PSYCHOANALYSIS SOCIETY

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### BULLETIN 14: INTRODUCTION

This time we have reports from six groups. It is especially nice to welcome a newcomer: the Istanbul Neuro-Psychoanalysis Study Group, which has been initiated by Gökçe Özkarar, who has also been very active at our last congresses.

I am looking forward to hearing from you—and seeing you in Los Angeles.

*Irène Matthis*

#### The Istanbul Neuro-Psychoanalysis Study Group, Turkey

During the first year of the Istanbul Group, the aim has been to introduce the field of neuropsychanalysis to specialists within various disciplines in Istanbul, in order to build a common ground for those willing to integrate their theoretical and research findings for the enhancement of neuropsychanalysis. Therefore, regardless of the differences in terminologies used in neuroscience and psychoanalysis, the exploration of conceptual overlappings and agreements among these disciplines will be the core philosophy of our group.

The group considers neuropsychanalysis to be a scientific method able to resolve the splitting in science that dates back to the famous "mind-body" problem. During the previous century, the scientific split between the study of the brain on the one hand, and the study of the psyche on the other, enabled scientists to enlarge the data bank, making crucial findings in both neurology and psychology. However, mutual idealization and devaluation, respectively, prevented the specialists from accepting the validity of the findings from the discipline to which they did not themselves belong. This kind of a narcissistic denial led to (so to speak) "Part Sciences." During our new century, a synthesis of these split data is required in order to reach a phase of "Whole Science" in the study of mind and body. Therefore, our group conceptualizes neuropsychanalysis as a method to reduce scientific splitting and to improve scientific maturation in our field.

According to our approach, participants from several disciplines—psychology, psychiatry, neurology, psychoanalysis,

philosophy, physics and sociology—have been invited to the group. Three study groups are being initiated, in order to elaborate three different themes:

#### 1. *Mind-body studies.*

As an introduction to the core philosophy of neuropsychanalysis, the group will focus on the study of the "mind-body" problem. Ancient and modern writings from both Western and Eastern "philosophy of mind" will first be reviewed. Then the group will try to integrate the principles of quantum physics into the area, reading selected books and articles of both "philosophy of mind" and "quantum physics," discussing the overlapping conceptualizations observed within psychology and physics. The dialogue of Nobel Prize winning physicist Wolfgang Pauli with his close friend C. G. Jung is an important keynote for the discussions in our group: "*The only acceptable point of view appears to be the one that recognizes both sides of reality—the quantitative and the qualitative, the physical and the psychic—as compatible with each other and which can embrace them simultaneously . . . It would be most satisfactory if physics and psyche (i.e., matter and mind) could be seen as complementary aspects of the same reality*" (Mindell, 2000).

#### 2. *An integrational study of neurodevelopment and object-relations theory.*

The literature on neurodevelopment and the psychodynamic theory of "the development of self" will be reviewed in order to find parallel features in the two perspectives, related to the study of "self- and object-representations." The group will focus on the chronologically corresponding points in both theories and elaborate the neurological substrates of the symbiotic phase, self-object differentiation, splitting, and the formation of whole self and whole object. The comparative outcomes will be implemented in neuropsychanalytic interpretations. Allan Schore's *Affect Dysregulation and Disorders of the Self* (2003) will give an important base to the study.

#### 3. *Neuropsychanalytic interpretation of schizophrenia.*

This study group is based on the thesis by Fatma Gökçe Özkarar, in which she tries to integrate neurological and psychoanalytic findings related to schizophrenia and associative disturbances. Her first study was based on the monaural application of Jung's Word Associative Task, where she analyzed the lateralization of semantic-memory disturbances in schizophrenia. Based on this research, two successive presentations were made at the 5th and 6th Neuropsychanalysis Congresses: "Ego Fails To Repress: The

Role of Left Frontal Lobe Hypoactivation in Associative Memory Impairment in Schizophrenia" and "Symptoms of Schizophrenia: A Cluster of Signs or A Composition of Schism and Defenses?" (not yet published).

In the neurological literature, focus has mainly been on the findings of frontal-lobe hypoactivation, lateral asymmetry, fronto-temporal disconnection, and hyperactivation of posterior regions. From the psychoanalytic perspective, the core issues have been the failure of repression, weakness in self-object differentiation, associative disturbances, omnipotent narcissistic defenses, and regression. In this study group, links between neurological and psychoanalytic findings in schizophrenia will be summarized in line with neuropsychanalytic interpretations, and areas that need further research will be pinpointed.

The groups will meet once a month at Boğaziçi University, at the Clinical Psychology Department or the Nisan Clinic.

#### REFERENCES

- Mindell, A. (2000). *Quantum Mind*. Portland, OR: Lao Tse Press.  
Schore, Allan (2003). *Affect Dysregulation and Disorders of the Self*. New York: W.W. Norton.

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#### The Body-Mind Study Groups of the Swedish Psychoanalytic Society

Within the core of the psychoanalytic movement in Sweden, the idea of interdisciplinary cooperation has received much verbal support, but less practical. This relates especially to neuropsychanalysis, the subject of which has been deleted from the training curriculum of the Institute. It has also been criticized in articles and books for being something of a positivistic aberration within psychoanalysis. This is, of course, on ongoing and necessary discussion, in which members of the groups take active part. Also, the approach of the psychoanalytic psychosomatics (PAPS) group seems to have threatened the more phenomenologically oriented psychoanalysts. The latter are less interested, it seems, in finding out about those unconscious meanings that materialize in somatic or neurological disorders. The PAPS group, however, is bringing precisely somatic disorders and illnesses into the field of phenomena capable of being understood and interpreted in a meaningful psychoanalytic way. Perhaps we could say, paraphrasing Freud, that resistance is a good sign. To immediately swallow, without thought and some resistance, new ideas is no good (as was the case in the United States when psychoanalytic ideas were introduced at the beginning of last century), but future developments will be better grounded if friction is applied and worked with (as in the reception of psychoanalysis in France, according to Freud). However, the work of the different body-mind groups in Sweden continues:

1. The group on The Philosophy of Psychology, initiated in 1999, has been led from the beginning by Prof. Lars-Göran Johansson at the University of Uppsala and chaired by Mag-

nus Kihlbom. During 2005 we have continued to discuss the truly perennial themes of the mind-body and the philosophical aspects of psychoanalytic theory.

2. The group on infant development, chaired by Magnus Kihlbom, which started in December 2002 with the aim of creating an interdisciplinary group, in 2005 included one psychoanalyst, one pediatrician, one physiologist, one infant researcher, and three psychologists. We have studied and discussed research on early development by R. Emde, T. B. Brazelton, D. Stern, L. Sander, K. Lyons-Ruth, B. Beebe, J. Jaffe, F. Lachman, and others.
3. The Lund/Malmö group continues to meet once a month. During 2005 we first read Modell's *Imagination and the Meaningful Brain* (2003), continuing then with some of the references given in his book; Freeman's *How the Brain Makes up Its Mind* (2000); and Edelman's *Wider Than the Sky* (2004). During 2006 we will sharpen our philosophical tools by reading Kim's *Philosophy of Mind* (2006).
4. The PAPS group has worked continuously since January 2000, chaired by Irène Matthis. We have been studying the work of Dr. Luis Chiozza and his group in Buenos Aires, related to somatic disorders from a psychoanalytic perspective. Some of Luis Chiozza's articles and his two books so far translated into English—*Why Do We Fall Ill?* (1999) and *Hidden Affects in the Somatic Disorders* (1998)—as well as some books in Spanish (Chiozza, 1976, 1978) have been the basis for the studies.

During the years the Swedish group expanded, and the wish grew to learn more, especially about the specific method—the so-called Pathobiographical Study—employed by the Chiozza group at the Weizsäcker Institute in Buenos Aires. At the invitation of the Argentine Foundation, a group of 25 Swedes finally traveled to Buenos Aires for a whole week of seminars. The group included many different professions—psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, medical doctors, and social workers—all with an interest in a psychoanalytic perspective on somatic illnesses. Half of the group, coming from Gothenburg, has also had previous experience of seminars and supervision in psychosomatics with Joyce McDougall. The following is a short report by Gunilla Sallander (Gothenburg) and Irène Matthis (Stockholm).

#### Scientific Conference at the Luis Chiozza Foundation, Buenos Aires, 17–22 October 2005: Psychoanalysis of Organic Disorders

The Weizsäcker Center for Medical Consultation is an impressive, very well-run, and efficient clinic and educational institution. The teachers at the Institute all have long clinical experience, and it was a real pleasure to listen to their thorough theoretical knowledge, presented with excellent pedagogic approaches. During all the seminars, there were simultaneous translations into English, which made it easy to follow (even if the subjects were difficult), raise questions, and discuss in Spanish/English. There was a warm and welcoming atmosphere, and we all felt the hospitality of our hosts. The program was ambitious, with three double seminars a day, Monday through Saturday. For your information we reproduce the full program on the next page.