

## SELF-AGGRESSION AS A TRANS-CULTURAL SIGNAL BETWEEN MENTAL SUFFERING AND COMMUNICATION A COMPARISON BETWEEN ITALIAN AND IMMIGRANT PATIENTS

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The clinical population (13 patients: 7 females and 6 males) addressed to the Day-Hospital of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy Unit after self-aggressive acting (cutting, in the majority of the cases) without suicidal intention, is presented. Statistical analysis allowed us to detect two different subgroups: self-aggressive acting prevailed amongst girls in the Italian group, whilst this type of patients were nearly all male in the immigrant group. The mental suffering is both in the Italian and the immigrant group the basis for the self-aggressive acting, but it assumes a different meaning from a symbolic viewpoint. In the Italian group this kind of acting can be read as a reassuring manoeuvre against anxiety or depressive feelings, whilst in the immigrant group these acts are often an expression of rage and protest against adults. KEY WORDS: personality disorders, self-aggressive behaviour, self-cutting, detention, trans-cultural psychiatry.

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## EXTREME MIGRATORY MOURNING: THE SYNDROME OF THE IMMIGRANT WITH CHRONIC AND MULTIPLE STRESS (ULYSSES SYNDROME)

Joseba Achotegui

This paper postulates the existence of a direct and unequivocal relationship between the extreme degree of stress experienced by some immigrants and the appearance of their symptoms. The Ulysses Syndrome is characterized by the presence of certain chronic stressors or griefs –forced loneliness, defencelessness, fear, etc.– which lack social support, and by the appearance of a group of psychic and somatic symptoms framed within mental-health and bordering psychopathology. The people suffering this set of symptoms will eventually get worse and suffer a standard mental disorder, and therefore will require the intervention of other professionals –social workers, social educators, nursing, etc.- and not only psychologists or psychiatrists. KEY WORDS: migration, mental-health, stress, migratory grief, prevention.

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## PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC APPROACHES IN DIFFICULT CASES

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In this paper we pose the problem of psychotherapy in difficult cases in contrast with those cases indicated for therapeutic interviews or brief psychotherapies (parents–child or “focal”). Several clinical examples which illustrate the hypothesis that brief psychotherapeutic interventions are attainable, above all, in neurotic or “para-depressive” personality organisations are given. In more or less regressive borderline organizations the possibilities of constructing a “central psychotherapeutic focus” and therefore of obtaining a brief psychotherapeutic action are reduced, though this may be attempted. In more regressive personality organisations, with infant psychotic autistic or symbiotic traits, even conventional psychotherapies encounter obstacles, particularly negative therapeutic reactions. KEY WORDS: psychotherapy, brief psychotherapeutic interventions, neurotic personality, psychosis.

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## THE FOLIE À DEUX AS A MODEL FOR INTERPERSONAL FUNCTIONING

Anna Maria Nicolò

Using Freud's metaphor of the light-sensitive plate that makes the final part of the spectrum visible, the author suggests that complementary, mutually reverberating aspects of two personalities trigger the mutual influencing and amplification of contained affects or parts of the self, which would otherwise remain dormant. The relevant aspect is mainly the highlighting of new aspects that had always belonged to that person. This process can, in extreme cases, overwhelm what had up to that moment been the identity known by that individual and by others. The folie à deux is located at the pathological end of the spectrum, but it can be viewed as a universal model of a bipersonal psychological functioning where the link is the central element. In this case, the link itself can activate and induce aspects in each of the personalities as they interact. A link is the third object co-constructed by two or more mutually interdependent members of a family. It is a shared unconscious co-construction by the partners. It influences the partners and is powerful enough to prevent the development of personality disorders. KEY WORDS: folie à deux, transpersonal pathology, subject, couple, object relations.

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## THE FEELING OF SECURITY IS A DEVELOPMENTAL PATH

Luis J. Juri

For a psychopathology of development (Waddington, Bowlby), the feeling of security is a possible developmental route which may, or may not, be followed. The building up of a feeling of security begins in the preverbal stages of life and continues with the influence of language. The episodic path (what is seen and heard) and the semantic path (what is said) contribute to establish, or undermine, such a feeling. For John Bowlby, the psychotherapist is an "exploration companion" to the patient. A proper psychotherapy should provide a feeling of security and trust. KEY WORDS: development, security, secure base, endogeny, inter-subjectivity.

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## ATTACHMENT EVALUATION IN ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS: THE CHILEAN VERSION OF THE "CAMIR" ATTACHMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

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The CAMIR Attachment Questionnaire in adults, by Pierrehumbert et al. (1996), evaluates attachment bonds in adults. This paper presents the adaptation process of the instrument to the Chilean social and cultural reality, and its contribution to the assessment of adolescent attachment styles. The statistical analysis of its application to a Chilean sample, which demonstrated psychometric properties suitable for evaluating adolescent and adult individual patterns of relationship within the Chilean context, is also exposed. KEY WORDS: attachment, adolescents, individual models of relationship, psychometric properties.

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## EXPERIENCES AND FUNCTIONS OF NARCISSISM IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PERSONALITY DISORDERS

Alain Braconnier and Sandra Murcia

The notion of narcissistic personality disorder and the concept of narcissism are complex. In this paper the authors examine these disorders in children from a functional, and not a structural, point of view. This option is chosen after considering the development which is characteristic to this period of life. Based on a clinical case, the authors highlight three functions: a need to create a moment for oneself, a need for satisfaction through one's own body and a need for self-preservation from aggressive phantasies and their projections. For the child, narcissism can also be understood as a protected space which allows the subject to live in the best of possible worlds. KEY WORDS: personality disorder, child, adolescent, narcissism.

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## RELATION BETWEEN IMAGES AND VIOLENCE, AND ITS INCIDENCE ON ADOLESCENTS

Teresa Sunyé Barcons

We are currently witnessing a rise in the images to be found in the most intimate areas of the human subject, images which are often blamed for the disturbing increase in the number of acts of pointless violence. In order to understand the relationship between image and violence, we first and foremost need to concern ourselves with the very nature of the image. This will enable us to reflect upon the psychological difficulties that adolescents must bear with on becoming adults in a society in which a particular facet of the image has acquired a dominant role. KEY WORDS: images, violence, fusion, symbolization, word, adolescents.

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