

PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC APPROACHES IN DIFFICULT CASES (AND II)

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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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TREATING YOUR CHILDREN WELL, HERE AND THERE. A NEW
APPROACH

Marie-Rose Moro*

This paper examines how the way in which we think of children, on their needs and growth, influences the way we instruct them on life, school and also how we cure them. Different modalities of parental construction and of good childcare, here, there and in transcultural situations are considered. The author stresses that taking this cultural diversity into account is a mayor issue in current, and future, medicine and psychopathology. Good care is a process of accompaniment and treatment to be co-constructed with parents starting off from their own ingredients. KEY WORDS: sons of immigrants, maternity, cultural diversity, medicine, transcultural clinical practice, good care.

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WHAT RESEARCH TELLS US ABOUT LOSS OF ATTACHMENT FIGURES
IN CHILDHOOD

Helen Barret*

The central question explored in this paper is how much is currently understood about the consequences of loss of an attachment relationship in childhood. Drawing upon several indicative bodies of research findings, it is suggested that social orienting response mechanisms may play an important but, as yet not well understood, role in promoting children’s recovery from loss. It is also argued that, although simple stage models can be useful as guides, some may need revision in light of new research on young children’s understanding of death and of the importance of ‘continuing bonds’. KEY WORDS: attachment, relationship, loss, childhood

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AUTISM AS AN EFFECT OF A PRIMARY INTERSUBJECTIVITY DISORDER (PART I)

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Autism is a “spectrum” of conditions, all of which disturb the primary development of interpersonal understanding. This paper considers early interactions observed in home movies of children later diagnosed with autism, and examines the sequences of maternal approach and infant’s responses to these approaches. The author hypothesizes that children with autism show fewer contingent responses towards their mothers’ than typical children do, and that episodes of contingency are a function of increased closeness used by caregivers. These approaches are supposed to play an important role in creating interactive sequences which are the expression of the building of new cortical and sub-cortical networks in brain development. When these links are not properly formed early in life, a variety of downstream effects may occur. KEY WORDS: autism, intersubjectivity, contingency, mirror neurons.

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A PREVENTIVE APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS: CLINICAL WORK WITH BABIES

Beatriz de la Fuente Galea*

This paper studies, from a preventive viewpoint, the risk factors and protective factors of early severe psychopathologies by observing babies throughout their six first months of life. Parent-child relation disorders are considered as the main cause of these pathologies, which babies are able to manifest with several alarm signs of psychopathological development. The results obtained are in accordance with this theory. KEY WORDS: risk factors, protective factors, early severe psychopathologies, parent-child relation disorders, alarm signs.

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FOLLOW-UP OF A GROUP OF PATIENTS TREATED FOR EATING DISORDERS DURING ADOLESCENCE

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Introduction: Eating Disorders (ED) have a bad prognosis and generally evolve to chronicity. Objective: We studied the evolution of a group of 30 patients with ED treated at the ED Unit of the *Joan XXIII University Hospital of Tarragona*, until up to 2-4 years after discharge. Results: 80% of the interviewed patients maintained good physical, psychic and social health, depression being the main diagnosis of relapse and, in two cases, non-specific ED. Treatment interruption, diminishing the time of treatment and having a family background with mental disease, predicted a worse prognosis. KEY WORDS: eating disorders, adolescence, psychotherapy, evolution.

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OUT-PATIENT INTENSIVE TREATMENT PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH SEVERE MENTAL DISORDERS

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This paper exposes the functioning of the intensive treatment programme for children and adolescents with severe mental pathology, which started at Gijón (Spain) three years ago. It describes the organization of the team, the internal functioning and the work done with children, families and related health and educational services. The authors describe in detail each of the steps of the attendance process and also share some of the experiences and conclusions they arrived to. KEY WORDS: severe mental pathology, team work, individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, group of parents.

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CURRENT CLINICAL LINKAGE

Rodolfo Moguillansky**

This paper intends to show how the author, being a psychoanalyst, views clinical linkage. The author does so in a schematic way taking into account the diversity of families existing in our current society. The author finally illustrates his contribution with a clinical case of a couple who consult for their relationship, their link and bond, which has gradually deteriorated. KEY WORDS: clinical linkage, family, linking conflict, indications, interventions.

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SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AND CHANGE: ITS INFLUENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH

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This paper deals with the social changes that affect the systems of upbringing and examines the influence of these on the development of mental health. It summarizes recent neuroimaging research and connects it with the function of parental caregivers of fostering the development of the brain, the intellect and personality. The author defends the need for real political measures of conciliation between parents' work occupations and children's needs for a healthy neurological and mental development, instead of the false and demagogic measures proposed up to now which increase infant and child institutionalization. KEY WORDS: social change, mental health, neuroimaging, conciliation, social measures, upbringing.

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AN ALLUSION TO VIOLENCE IN THE ORIGINS OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

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This paper takes a retrospective view of the life and work of Freud, and points out how the contradictory circumstances of his life, along with certain intellectual relations, especially with his contemporaries, marked the character and will to know of the creator of Psychoanalysis. These aspects of his life, along with the humiliation suffered during his childhood concerning his origin or the fact that he lived through World War I

and the beginning of World War II, made him reflect on violence and war. Another issue is how having received a profound scientific and medical training he became interested in psychology, archaeology, mythology and art. This attitude was relevant and had repercussions within the psychoanalytical movement and in those who have continued his work. The paper includes theoretical working concerning passion, love, hate, aggression and violence. KEY WORDS: identity, violence, culture, politics, will to know.

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