

ABSTRACTS

Mother's access to her infant's psyche¹

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We know about the affective life and the phantasies of an infant from our work with adults who suffered early traumas, and from our work with children as young as six months old. We also have the chance to know from our analytic work with parents: we listen (in their phantasies, affects, speech and in preverbal communications) how, in their "reverie", they hold a continuity of the actual infant in their own psyche.

Propositional and semantic type of text representation

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This paper refers to the construction of a text representation during reading. It reviews previous studies and presents an experiment of ours that support the propositional type of representation. This experiment used a probe judgement task in which subjects read a passage on a familiar topic and then they pass a word judgement test. 45 subjects were divided into three groups according to the type of the passage. The difference between the passages based on the content of the first of the three sentences they contained: *thematic* (of the same content with the two others), *opposite* (of different content with the two others), and *sentence-empty-line*. The results demonstrated quicker responses for the experimental passages with thematic sentences. It seems then that the access to the semantic representation of an information depends on its initial level of activation. This corroborates with theories supporting that the information is stored in memory in the form of a propositional net.

Key words: representation, activation, propositional net.

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Emotion and vocal imitation in early infant-parent interaction

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The aim of the present naturalistic, longitudinal and cross-cultural study was the description of the emotions expressed in the course of early vocal imitation that takes place in free infant-parent interaction. The free interactions of 30 infant-parent pairs, 15 from Greece and 15 from Scotland, were videorecorded at infants' homes at 15-day intervals from the 2nd to the 6th month of their life. The emotional states of infants and parents in the course of early vocal imitation were subjected into micro-analysis. The results showed that: a) Interest and pleasure were the most common emotions that accompanied early infant and parental vocal imitation, b) Infant and parental vocal imitation, vowel imitation, vowel-consonant sound imitation and turn-taking vocal imitation were accompanied by emotional matching of interest and pleasure of the interactant partners, c) The developmental curve of infant pleasure, parental pleasure and infant interest changed in the course of the present study, while the developmental trajectories of infant and parental interest and pleasure do not differ in infant and parental vocal imitations. The results of the present study are discussed in the frame of innate intersubjectivity theory.

The legal aspects of psychotherapeutic confidentiality in Greece

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This article discusses legal matters that pertain to issues of professional confidentiality, especially within the area of psychological services. The psychologists' Code of Ethics, especially in Greece, has no validity in courts, since it provides guidelines which, under no circumstances, constitute law. It is therefore important for the Greek psychologist to have knowledge, even of a general level, of the contents and meaning of the relative articles of the Constitution, Criminal Law and Civil Law, as well as of the respective legal procedures. Thus, the article presents and explains the relevant laws and instances.

Key words: therapeutic confidentiality, professional confidentiality, medical law

Civilization and vicissitudes of sublimation

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This article investigates the relation between civilization and sublimatory processes. It is pointed out that social encounters are created through superego – guilt and repression functions and inter-relations. It is also noted that creativity and cultural products do not lose their initial instinctual dynamics, and that they can even be experienced as 'erotic' pleasure. It is thought that the basis of social institutions is to be found in the possibility for investments, disinvestments and re-investments of psychic energy. It is suggested that the mobility of limits, the conversions, diversions and the multitude of forms of this 'game' seen within a grid of relations that possesses mobile limits, is the crux of civilization. Investigating them is also a task for psychoanalysts as human beings as well as members of a cultural group.

Psychosocial factors and mental health in women with breast cancer

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Cancer diagnosis and treatment have been suggested to challenge the patients' pre-existed mental representations about themselves and the world, causing high levels of stress and preventing their psychosocial adjustment. The purpose of this study was to examine the ways that stress, intrusive thoughts, emotional expressivity and global meaning influence the mental health status of women with breast cancer. The sample consisted of 150 women with breast cancer, who had completed their cancer treatment before participating in the study. The Impact of Event Scale (Horowitz, 1979) was used to assess intrusive thoughts, the Emotional Expressivity Scale (Kring, 1994) assessed Emotional Expressivity, the Life Attitude Profile (Reker, 1992) assessed global meaning, the Mini-Mental Adjustment to Cancer Scale (Watson, 1994) assessed the psychological adjustment styles and the Perceived Stress Scale (Cohen, 1983) assessed the appraised stress. Multiple regression analyses showed that intrusive thoughts, perceived stress and global meaning significantly predicted mental health status in breast cancer patients. Specifically, women who reported higher levels of stress and were overwhelmed by intrusive thoughts, were found to have poor adjustment and mental health. On the contrary, women who had a strong sense of global meaning were found to have achieved better psychosocial adjustment and mental health. Psychotherapeutic interventions of existential and cognitive orientation can be planned and implemented to help breast cancer patients confront the psychological and existential crisis they may suffer because of their illness.