

ABSTRACTS

Psychotherapy and state psychiatric care; an attempt at a theoretical approach

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Abstract

An attempt is made in this article, through a theoretical approach to discuss the relation between psychotherapies and state psychiatric care. Emphasis is put upon (a) the peculiarity of the setting of the organization of mental health services, (b) the analysis of the population needs in a specified area and (c) the terms for the application of the various psychotherapeutic techniques. A critical review of the «ideological» practices of the basic psychiatric models (bio-medical, psychoanalytic, social) is also advanced and a theoretical and practical setting is proposed for an integrated approach of psychiatric practice and psychotherapeutic procedure in the community. This theoretical frame is examined within the peculiarity of greek reality of state psychiatric care, of privately based training and practice of psychotherapies. The importation of theoretical trends and therapeutic techniques from abroad is also discussed. Finally, the need for a clinical discourse based on a careful evaluation in an «intermediate space», where every psychotherapeutic technique is met with the «unforeseen» setting of greek state care, is stressed.

Mourning and loss: working through in three types of greek folksongs

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Abstract

In this text a study is attempted of the way mourning and loss are worked through three categories of folksongs. The common thematic motives which make up the axis that connects the songs of death, expatriation and marriage are explored. This common axis is mourning for the loss of a person who departs, for a separation that will last for ever. The crisis caused on account of the departure of a member reflects both in the family and the social environment. Similarities and differences are looked for, regarding the manifestations of mourning in these three categories and a recording is attempted of the affective framework concerning the above three forms of loss. The manifestation of mourning or sorrow is a personal expression of affect but it is also a cultural way of learning which determines the expression of loss, thus preventing the generation of disturbed behaviour. On the other hand, it operates as an inhibiting factor on the repulsion of affects of sorrow and aggression. Thus, the manifestations of mourning, which may be either accompanied by rituals or may have merely to do with songs, in which case they operate as a therapeutic model for the working through of bereavement and mourning. The presence of the mother which is a dominant presence in all three categories of songs is also taken into consideration in relation to the important theme of guilt which concerns both bereavement and separation. Women, being the main creators of this type of songs, are in a position to say something about mourning and about the responsibility they feel about the separations, which reproduce and bring back the original separation of the primitive «mother-child» symbiotic couple. The views of classical psychoanalytic theory (Freud, Abraham), but mainly of Melanie Klein, are used in the exploration of the psychic processes which, in relation to the social factors, generate the thematic background of the manifestations of mourning within these songs.

Between family romances and prersonal myth; the adoption adventure

O. Maratos and E. Tzavaras

Abstract

Adoption, a condition «against nature», is an exceptional event for the childless couple and for the child without a family. This special reality motivates in both parent and child the most essential human existential questions? those of origin and personal identity. Freud, refering to the unconscious fantasy activity of our childhood, having to do with our origins and the relationship to our parents, described the mythoplastic mental function of the child. Kris refers to the «personal myth» as a set of autobiographical memories, invested during childhood, and playing the role of a «screen». He considers the personal myth as the basis upon which a self-representation is built. In this theoretical article, adoption is seen as the adventurous scenario, where reality meets the unconscious fantasies - common to all people - relating to fear of castration and uncouscious guilt. The outcome of adoption depends on the capacity of parents and child to work through this symptomatic occurence.

An infant observation; the influence of a previous spontaneous abortion to the mother-infant relation

S. Manolopoulos

Abstract

In this case study of an infant observation, I attempt to demonstrate how a previous spontaneous abortion, together with some other incidents, undermined the mother's capacity to care for her baby. Her husband's healthy efforts and her child's normal development helped her, along with a visit to her own mother, to overcome her depression and catch up with her maternal tasks.

Object and subject in clinical research; the case of semi-directed interview

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Abstract

One of the most essential issues in the field of clinical research has been the effect of the researcher upon the subject(s)-object(s) of his study linked with the effect of the object of study on the researcher. The involvement of the researcher has led (a) to the study of the underlying psychological and social mechanisms which determine that involvement and (b) it has motivated the debate about those methodologies which most effectively sustain scientific validity. The methodology of the interview, which constitutes the main practice of clinical psychology, either for researchers or for therapists, is illustrating these developments. The study of counter-transference phenomena which appear in the interview, as well as the systematic content analysis of the interviews, have shown the complexity of dynamics that is carried by the discourse of each participating subject. Furthermore, the presentation of the material from concrete clinical research case aims at uncovering those elements which compose the inter-subjective dimension of this kind of research.