



IPSO

International Psychoanalytical Studies Organization
Organización Internacional de Estudios de Psicoanálisis
Organisation Internationale d'Etudes de la Psychanalyse
Internationale Psychoanalytische studienorganisation

MILAN GROUP

24th IPSO European Meeting

5-7 OCTOBER 2018



FOTOGRAFIA DI MONICA BOMBA

CENTRO MILANESE DI PSICOANALISI "C. MUSATTI"

VIA CORRIDONI, 38 - 20122 MILANO

VERNISSAGE ON OCTOBER 5TH, AT 3 P.M.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: Olimpia C. Sartorelli (IPSO Rep), Monica Bomba (IPSO Rep), Laura Balottin, Davide Bruno,

Alessandra D'Agostino, Marco De Coppi, Valentino Ferro, Serena Giuliani, Anna C. Omboni, Valentina Martinelli



"...the dream-work does not shrink from the effort of recasting unadaptable thoughts into a new verbal form—even into a less usual one—provided that that process facilitates representation and so relieves the psychological pressure caused by constricted thinking." S.Freud, Interpretation of Dreams.

The term "transformation" is widely used in contemporary psychoanalytic discourses and features different meanings. Thus, it seems important to distinguish the use of the term in a descriptive sense as a synonym of "change", from the use of the term in psychoanalysis as the specific concept that Bion (1965) introduced.

The widespread and generic use of the term "transformation" reflects a contemporary common meaning of the analytic work as possibility of fostering psychic changes (emotional, ideational, imaginative) in patients, that improve the quality of the subjective experience, rather than healing, in more classical terms, from failed or pathological forms of existence. This aspect may be also understood in Bion's formulation (1965) even though, in this case, it presents itself in a far more radical and wide way as a key concept in order to rethink and, in some respects, radically "transform" the contents and modes of the analytic practice. The reference to Freud's work, in which the term "transformation" is used in a descriptive sense several times, stands as a basic premise indicating the work of dreaming and the fates of drives as the matrix of all psychoanalytic transformations (dream is a central, although different, experience also in Bion's thought).

So, what is "transformed" in psychoanalysis? What changes? How does the change take place? When? Why?

In the Italian Psychoanalytic Society, transformations are currently the object of research through the application of the three-level model for observing patient transformations (IPA Project Committee on Clinical Observation and Testing, 2014), which is used to conduct systematic clinical observations of patients undergoing psychoanalytic treatment. Specifically focusing on the transformations that occur in the patient during the analysis, it means recognizing the priority of the change that psychoanalysis promotes, with the implication that it takes place within the reciprocal relationship with the analyst. In this sense, "research" on transformations is an attitude of the psychoanalyst that develops both during the session and in après-coup on the clinical report. The psychoanalyst, with the attitude of a "researcher," approaches the clinic with curiosity and humility, willing to disconfirm his/her theories, to observe transformations or small changes in the relationship with the patient and to find new meanings.

Contemporary psychoanalysis is also an expression of important transformations. The concept of the unconscious has changed over time. The unconscious even more placed at the center of the analytic couple's work, nowadays. This has led to a growing interest in the preverbal, the "music" of the session, the body, the rêverie, and the role of playing in psychoanalysis with adult patients too. At the same time, psychoanalysis is moving away from hospitals and universities, even if this sites have taken part of the cradle of its origin. Following history cyclicity, we now witness a "post-modern," potential return of psychoanalysis to the main institutions for care and training. We mean a psychoanalysis that has been transformed by the development of its own thought and by confrontation with the reality of our times, different from that of a hundred years ago.

Contemporary psychoanalysis, and our European society with her, is confronted with various qualities of psychic pain, with existential emptiness encapsulated in the virtual world, and with primitive states of mind leading to the expression of diffused aggression and sexuality. We believe that these new psychic sufferings cannot be understood and transformed in the absence of a psychoanalytic thought. Psychoanalysis therefore addresses other contexts of care as well. By activating the "psychoanalytic functions of the mind" (Bion, 1965) of working groups in both public institutions and private practice, psychoanalysis nourishes the professional culture, giving rise to half-breed and creative expressions of cure.

Thus, the transformations that psychoanalysis makes possible are also those that involve heterogeneous care settings: from couple therapy to group therapy, to psychiatric acute inpatient treatment, to new forms of home-based care, and so on.

Finally, another possible and interesting reflection on the transformations, taking place in psychoanalysis, concerns the change that a candidate experiences in his/her own way of thinking and working during the psychoanalytical training. A transformation and an identity development that should also continue after the analytic training.

Candidates' works on these themes and on other possible declinations of the theme of "transformations" will be welcomed at the 2018 European meeting in Milan.

CALL FOR PAPERS!!

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposals for clinical and theoretical papers are welcome. Proposals should take the form of a **250-word abstract**, that must be written in English and accompanied by: title of paper, list of all authors with full given and family names, addresses of all authors, and name of corresponding author with email address. **The abstract submission deadline will be May 31, 2018.** Notification regarding abstract acceptance/rejection will be sent by July 1, 2018. All the abstract must be sent to **infomilanipso2018@gmail.com**. The registration deadline for accepted abstract presenters will be September 1, 2018. Abstracts without a registered presenter by this date will be removed from the final program.

The deadline for submitting full text papers will be September 15, 2018. Make sure that your presentation will not exceed 25 minutes.

Website: <https://ipsoeuropeanmeetingmilan.wordpress.com>

Fb-page: <https://m.facebook.com/ipsomilan2018/>