

As is our custom, this 12th volume of the Annual presents a selection of the most significant articles to have appeared in our Journal during 2017. 2017 was also the year which saw a handover of the Editorship of the Journal from Giuseppe Civitarese to myself. The Journal plays an important role in collecting and giving voice to the varied expressions of psychoanalytic thought which animate our national scientific community, and by publishing original articles submitted by members and subjected to a rigorous process of review, it has the task of making them known to the society as a whole. The translation into English of certain contributions which have seemed to us to be especially important in their originality, has the purpose of testifying to the lively and distinctive character of Italian psychoanalysis and simultaneously building a bridge to the international community.

Starting with the second issue of 2017, the Journal has introduced a new section called Focus, designed as a vehicle for a specific subject to be explored in depth and discussed by three psychoanalysts with expertise in the chosen theme. This is followed by a brief discussion of their papers by two other colleagues.

This edition of the Annual includes the three articles featured in the first Focus and dedicated to the theme of the analyst's analytic identity. Lucio Russo addresses the distinctive nature of the topic which in his opinion is expressed in analytic work that is founded on the breaking of common sense and logic. The analytic work which confers meaning on the analyst's identity is expressed in the realm of fantasy. The device to which Russo is referring and which becomes ever more obvious when the analytic function is in danger of being annulled, consists of the analytic relationship and self-analysis. Self-analysis is particularly helpful because it concerns the analyst's negative capability, the ability to create a third, differentiating element between the analysand's psyche and that of the analyst, fostering capacities and potentialities for symbolisation which have been left blocked.

In Giovanni Foresti's paper, the theme of psychoanalytic identity is discussed in the light of certain hypotheses: identity depends on the systems of differences which define it and is constituted as a paradox which can never be completely resolved. Furthermore, psychoanalytic identity cannot be conceived only as the product of training, but should be understood by the analyst as the goal of a permanent professional development, and psychoanalytic institutions should facilitate the necessary openness of identity.

Lastly, in the third contribution, Andrea Marzi addresses the theme from the viewpoint of the changes produced by the digital world and their impact on the analytic identity of the analyst and on the virtual spaces of the mind. The new possibilities offered by information technology put pressure on the traditional coordinates we use

to orient ourselves and this is reflected in the analytic field and in the analyst's identity. The theme is explored through clinical illustrations.

In the other parts of the Annual we have translated some articles which we consider representative of the various themes on which Italian psychoanalysis is concentrating its richness and elaborative energy.

The first article in this volume, by Francesco Conrotto, is about the processes of symbolisation, sublimation, and metaphorisation, and their function and role in the psychic economy and in the birth of the subjective dimension. This last feature unfolds from the starting point of the progressive dissolution of the sensory component and the progressive diminution in the prevalence of the primary process. It is the very deficiencies which occur during this process that give rise to the different forms of psychopathology.

The paper by Giuseppe Fiorentini is devoted to reflection on the specific forms of psychopathology that are linked to narcissism. In the light of the story of Narcissus, the author discusses pathological narcissism and some difficulties which we encounter in the analytic treatment of patients with such problems. The analyst's own narcissism is also considered, as are the impasses and risks of interminability connected to these analyses. From his particular viewpoint, Fiorentini believes that narcissistic suffering derives above all from the difficulty in addressing the various phases of the process of individual subjectivation and growth.

Fernando Riolo's paper stands out for the lucid brevity with which it addresses and discusses a crucial topic, that of the significance of the pleasure principle from Freud onwards. In a few rich pages the author demonstrates how, in his opinion, the principle of pleasure-unpleasure maintains the central function Freud earlier assigned to it, as the engine behind the process of transformation. Precisely because psychic life is anchored in its biological roots, it is the build-up of somatic-affective quanta which enables the development of the psychic qualities and cognitive functions oriented to the reality principle and the relationship with the outside world. He underlines the crucial bidirectionality between somatic and psychic, conscious and unconscious, external and internal.

By contrast, Gemma Zontini addresses a topic which features less often in the psychoanalytic literature: the use of silence in psychoanalytic technique. The author raises some points which in her view validate the role of silence in treatment. Silence plays a precise economic function, counterbalancing the motoric discharge of speech. It has the effect of relaunching the symbolic potency of language, composing a background to verbal expression, and fostering instinctual fusion and the achieving of an appropriate distance from the object: moreover, its theoretical aspect connects with the analyst's work of the negative.

The other choices in the selection of articles are directed to two sections of the Journal, Notes and Psychoanalysis with children and adolescents. In «Migration:

surviving the inhuman», Virginia De Micco confronts a topic of dramatic contemporary relevance, that of migrations and the traumas of identity connected to them. The article centres on reflections about how the psyche reacts to the trauma of migration, the ways in which the traces of trauma survive in the psyche of individuals and groups, and the effects of transgenerational transmission.

Two topics return in a different form in the context of psychoanalysis with children and adolescents: the changes produced by the digital world and the use of technology introduced by Marzi, and that of subjectivation opened up by Conrotto's article. Daniele Biondo's paper address the use of technology by adolescents and its significance in the process of subjectivation and over the course of treatment. For the adolescent, the use of technology can constitute a medium or surrogate for acquiring gender identity, for blocking the acquisition of a generational identity, and for representing one's own developmental pain through forms which range from hallucination to figurative portrayal.

In her paper, Marina Lia puts forward some hypotheses about how different approaches to the problem of the transference have influenced choices about the setting and the technique of interpretation. Through two clinical vignettes about children with organic damage, she illustrates the conditions that are supportive of the analyst within a traditional psychoanalytic setting.

The subjects addressed move from questions of theory, as in the essays by Conrotto and Riolo, to contributions focussing more on clinical problems, as in Fiorentini's paper, or the theory of technique in the case of Zontini. By contrast, the themes addressed in Notes and in Psychoanalysis with children and adolescents testify to the ability of psychoanalytic thinking to deal with problems connected to current events and to put the instruments of psychoanalysis to work in contact with new forms of distress. The variety of the articles will allow each reader to draw from them whatever most strongly claims their attention and interest.

In concluding this editorial, I wish to inform my colleagues about a new initiative provided by the Journal, hoping that readers will pass the information on to colleagues in their own Societies. This year's Annual is available with open access on the Journal's website <http://rivistadipsicoanalisi.raffaellocortina.it>, and we have in addition launched the section called Dialogues which gives access free of charge to three articles from the Annual which address a specific topic (this year, the analytic identity of the analyst) with comments from two non-Italian colleagues, who in this edition are Michael Parsons and Jossy Triest. There is also the opportunity for anyone who wishes to join the debate by writing a response in English directly on the website, with a maximum length of 5,000 keystrokes, including spaces.

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