



European Psychoanalytical Federation

34th Annual Conference

REALITIES

REALITÉS
REALITÄTEN

26th- 28th March 2021

Online

Argument of the EPF Annual Conference 2021

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the EPF 34th Annual Conference and for the first time in its history a conference that will take place online.

How could the EPF Executive ever have predicted facing such a cruel and devastating reality as Covid-19 when the theme 'realities' was chosen for the 33rd Annual Conference to be held in Vienna 2020? This was going to be the occasion of the four-year handover from one Executive under Jorge Canestri, to the newly elected Executive under Heribert Blass. The two teams had met and worked together in January 2020 to plan for the 34th Annual Conference to be held in Nice, France in March 2021. As the time drew nearer for all of us to travel to Vienna the writing was on the wall concerning the rapid spread of the virus in Europe. Jorge Canestri called an emergency zoom meeting for March 1st of both Executives in order to discuss the situation. Lockdown and quarantine had not yet become a reality in Europe but we were all aware that it was on the horizon. In the history of the EPF conferences since the first one in 1976, to consider cancelling a well-prepared programme of an annual conference because of a virus had never had to be faced. After a long discussion we reached the painful consensus that we had to cancel the conference. The risks were too high to all our participants to continue as if life was normal. At the same time we decided to cancel the conference in Vienna we simultaneously decided to postpone the planned programme to take place in Nice, France 2021 instead because we hoped that the worst would be over.

Unfortunately, that was not to be and on October 23rd 2020 the new Executive met to discuss whether it would be possible to hold the annual conference in Nice. With sadness we unanimously decided that the conference would have to take place online. However sad we felt about this decision we also think that to continue our scientific activities through an online platform was much better than having to cancel the conference as we were obliged to in 2020.

And because at our present time new technological achievements are changing exponentially the theme of realities is more relevant than ever. The issue of 'remote analysis,' during the time of lockdown has not just become a possibility but for many of us – depending where we live in the world – the *only* alternative to psychoanalytic treatment. This has changed and intensified the age-old question

of the nature of reality. Of course, as psychoanalysts we are mainly concerned with psychic reality, following a concept that Freud had already begun to develop in 1895 with his distinction between thought-reality and external reality which had led him to formulate: "Thus thought accompanied by a cathexis of the indications of thought-reality or of the indications of speech is the highest, securest form of cognitive thought-process."

Freud still took an internalistic perspective from the point of view of the first person ("I am, I feel, I think") and faced the problem of how the psychic apparatus controlled by the pleasure principle and the drives can also be adapted to reality. Whereas Freud believed to find the answer in a combination of rationalism and empiricism, we now tend to rather follow the 'perspective of the interpreter or third person' in Cavell's sense and thus an externalistic view. This point of view from the third person incorporates the deeply influential factor of the public sphere, connecting the individual via the experience of language games (see Wittgenstein 1958) and behavior with the world of other speakers. In the child's interactions with its parents, the development of language and the associated meaning of the world cannot be separated from the interactive actions, whereby both, non-symbolic and symbolic, levels of psychic reality in connection with the associated affects are formed.

Meaning and reality of the world are conveyed through an emotionally tinged and publicly shared language, which at the same time allows the child sufficient room for developing and creating its own fantasies. While, on the one hand, these fantasies are influenced by the outside world, they can, on the other hand, also have an impact upon the child's environment. Thus, a dialectical conception of reality develops. The psychoanalytic method also follows a process model and uses the interactional understanding from the perspective of the third person in order to allow for a sense of mental and affective reality in all involved, but especially in the patient. To this reality belong both fantasy and imagination.

Third-person-perspectives include basic psychoanalytic concepts such as Bion's concept of maternal reverie, essential to capture inner reality, or the theory of mentalization as developed by Fonagy, Target et al., which emphasizes playing with different modes of psychic reality, like the psychic equivalence mode and the pretend mode. And, according to Laplanche, infantile sexuality emerges in the

encounter with the alterity of adult sexuality. The common point of reference for all of these concepts is to be found in the above-mentioned concept of psychic reality, in which, according to Britton (1998), belief takes on a central importance, because belief and accepting something as true lend to psychic processes the power of reality, much like human perception does lend it to physical processes. That the sense of reality is determined by active mental processes and can be guided in completely opposite directions is clinically – as well as in the case of artistic productions in literature or film – reflected in the fact that the reality presented and believed and expressed in fantasies, may either promote emotional liveliness or else may lead away from it.

In view of the actual technological development, our possibilities of experience have multiplied, but at the same time uncertainty and skepticism about the authenticity of inner and outer reality have increased. The emergence of the virtual world has intensified the dialectic between inside and outside and created in the inner experience a tension between one's own fantasy and virtual presence. For example, for many children and adolescents today, the number of their virtual "followers" is more significant than actually meeting up with their friends in person. Do these virtual "friends" belong to the physical outer world, or do they belong to the realm of normal inner fantasies, or do they rather represent a new form of internal reality? In addition to the conventional experience of space and time, for many people life occurs in a virtual, but quasi-real Second Life. Apart from the physically authored Ego or I many virtual-real Egos or I-s enter the scene. Are these present-day phenomena comparable to Winnicott's transitional phenomena and potential space; or are they ultimately stifling the emergence of a creative imagination? What about the relationship between fiction, fantasy and reality? Already Walter Benjamin (1935) had dealt with the change of art through the development of reproducible photography and film. Are we perhaps facing today not only yet another change in aesthetics, but rather an aggravation of the conditions that open the floodgates to a multitude of manipulative options for distorting reality? Which are the real fake news: those which designate uncomfortable realities, or rather those which intend to deny the uncomfortable realities by using false images? What impact does the increasing use of robots as a substitute for humans or human body parts have on our sense of reality? Are they a part of

us or are they a part of the outside world, or are they ultimately revealing themselves as a chimera made up of both dimensions?

In so-called remote analysis all these questions become illuminated in neon lights. When the body is virtual does psychic reality become easier to see? How in touch are we when listening to a patient who is talking through the internet? Can free association and free floating attention prevail? While we may all agree on the losses incurring in the analytic treatment many analysts are at the same time reflecting on the discovery of significant gains that occur in online analysis. Are some patients facilitated to talk in more depth about their innermost anxieties online? Will the acknowledgement of the value of online analysis mean that the wider dissemination of psychoanalysis could become a new reality so that the controversy of remote analysis lessens or even evaporates?

NB: You will be aware that this online conference has had to be significantly streamlined so that several panels and workshops of the preconference groups will either be deferred until Vienna 2022 or presented online for an EPF Scientific Seminar during the summer and autumn terms of 2021.

Despite these losses we nevertheless hope the presentations will stimulate further thought and reflections on the related questions to realities which existed before this present pandemic and will doubtless exist beyond its resolution.

The EPF Executive wishes all participants an inspiring and personally successful conference. We are very much hoping that our 35th annual conference to be held in Vienna on the theme of Ideals will be in person. Please check the EPF website for more details in 2021.

Heribert Blass, President
Jan Abram, Vice President and Chair of the Scientific Committee
Ewa Glöd, General Secretary

All references available from heribert.blass@epf-fep.eu

The EPF Conference at a glance

Friday, March 26, 2021

08:45-09:00 Opening the Conference

Heribert Blass (EPF President)
Jan Abram (EPF Vice President, Chair of the Programme Committee)

ST

09:00-10:30 First Plenary on the Main Theme

• **Konzepte äußerer und innerer Realität und ihre Beziehung zu traumatischen Erfahrungen** (*Concepts of external and internal reality and their relation to trauma*)
Werner Bohleber (German Assoc)

• **The non-symbolic level of psychical reality**
Judy Gammelgaard (Danish Soc)
Chair: Hemma Rössler-Schüleln (Vienna Soc)

ST

11:00-12:30 Parallel Panels on the Main Theme

• **Quelle épreuve de réalité en psychanalyse à l'époque de la post-vérité? De la logique du chaudron à l'épreuve des sorcières** (*What reality-testing in psychoanalysis in the post-truth era? From the logic of the cauldron to the test of witches*)
Bernard Chervet (Paris Soc)

Discussant: Dimo Stantchev (Bulgarian Soc)
Chair: Katrine Zeuthen (Danish Soc)

ST

• **Fictions or realities: the cyborg transference**
Laura Ezquerria (Madrid Assoc)
Discussant: Rui Aragão Oliveira (Portuguese Soc)
Chair: Anneli Larmo (Finnish Soc)

EN

• **The intermingling of external and internal realities of a Holocaust survivor mother and her child**

Ilany Kogan (Israel Soc)
Discussant: Nergis Güleç (Istanbul Assoc)
Chair: Alexander Uskov (Moscow Soc)

EN

• **First do no harm**
David Bell (British Soc)
Discussant: Helmut Hinz (German Assoc)
Chair: Christine Franckx (Belgian Soc)

EN

• IPSO Opening

IPSO Paper Presentation

Unreality and time in the Covid unit
Steven Jaron (Research and Training Soc)
Discussant: Gagandeep Kaur Makkar (Indian Soc)
Chair: Antonella Trotta (Italian Soc)

14:00-15:30 Parallel Panels on the Main Theme

• **Are you a robot? Cybersex and the sense of feeling real**

Agatha Merk (Swiss Soc)
Discussant: Cornelia Wagner (German Soc)
Chair: Yavuz Erten (PSIKE Istanbul)

ST

• **On the necessary triangulation with political realities in psychoanalytic processes**

Peter Gabriel (German Soc)
Discussant: Howard Levine (American Assoc)
Chair: Massimo Vigna-Taglianti (Italian Soc)

EN

• **Hidden and presented realities: the psychological dimensions of defying a perverse or corrupt authority**

David Morgan (British Soc)
Discussant: Anna Christopoulos (Hellenic Soc)
Chair: Svetlozar Vassilev (Bulgarian Soc)

EN

• **Anders Behring Breivik, master of life and death: psychodynamics and political ideology in an act of terrorism**

Siri Gullestad (Norwegian Soc)
Discussant: Victor Blüml (Vienna Soc)
Chair: Jani Santamaria Linares (Mexican Assoc)

EN

• **Psychoanalytic training: aspiration, reality, and institutional context**

David Tuckett (British Soc)
Discussants: Eike Hinze (German Assoc),
Patrick Miller (Research and Training Soc)
Chair: Elisabeth Skale (Vienna Soc)

EN

Saturday, March 27, 2021

09:00-10:30 Second Plenary on the Main Theme

• **The therapeutic process in psychoanalysis: regressed modes of psychic reality and the scope for change**

Mary Hepworth (former Target, British Soc)
Ebenen der Realität in Pedro Almodovars 'Matador'
(*Layers of reality in the movies exemplified by Pedro Almodovar's 'Matador'*)
Stephan Doering (Vienna Soc)
Chair: Annika Hirdman-Künstlicher (Swedish Assoc)

ST

11:00-12:30 Parallel Panels on the Main Theme

• **Panel on the environmental and climate crisis**
Climate change and environmental crisis. Psychoanalytical thoughts for an anthropological ecology

Alfredo Lombardo (Italian Soc)

• **L'union des frères contre l'effondrement dans la culture**

(*The brothers' union against collapse in culture*)
Luc Magnenat (Swiss Soc)
Chair: Sally Weintrobe (British Soc)

ST

• **Disruptive creativity, artificial intelligence and omnipresent control: cultural psychoanalytical thoughts on digital changes of subject and society**

Johannes Döser (German Assoc)
Discussant: Tomas Kajokas (Vilnius Soc)
Chair: Maria Teresa Flores (Portuguese Study Group)

EN

• **Fundamentalism: the analyst facing reality**

Adela Abella (Swiss Soc)
Discussant: Angela Mauss-Hanke (German Assoc)
Chair: Ferhan Ozenen (Istanbul Assoc)

EN

• **Listening for screams through the screen... Working through changing modalities in psychoanalytic engagement**

Divya Rastogi Tiwari (Indian Soc)
Discussant: Agnieszka Leznicka (Polish Soc)
Chair: Thomas Jung (Vienna Assoc)

EN

• **Forum Psychoanalysis and Muslim Contexts**

The interplay between political and psychic reality: Muslims in Europe today
Presenter: Sevil Kural (PSIKE Istanbul)
Discussant: Fakhry Davids (British Soc)
Chair: Saskia von Overbeck Ottino (Swiss Soc)

EN

14:00-15:30 Parallel Panels on the Main Theme

• **Konstruktion, äußere Realität und psychische Realität**

(*Construction, external reality and psychic reality*)
Franz Oberlehner (Vienna Assoc)
Discussant: Katy Bogliatto (Belgian Soc)
Chair: Ágoston Schmelowszky (Hungarian Soc)

ST

• **Panel IPA Migration and Refugee Committee**

The bitter realities of trauma, flight and migration
Vladimir Jovic (Belgrade Soc)
Marianne Leuzinger-Bohleber (German Assoc)
Korinna Fritzemeyer (German Assoc)
Discussant: Fabio Castriota (Italian Soc)
Chair: Gertraud Schlesinger-Kipp (German Assoc)

EN

• **Male – female – divers? Struggling with the realities of our patients today and with our own countertransference reactions**

Dana Amir (Israel Soc)
Discussants: Eva Reichelt (German Assoc),
Elda Abrevaya (Istanbul Assoc)
Chair: Marco Posadas (Canadian Soc)
(*the panel is organized by the Subcommittee of the IPA Committee on Sexual and Gender Diversity Studies*)

EN

• **EPF / IPA Working Party Committee (WPC): Joint Panel on Working Parties**

Working Party on Initiating Psychoanalysis. Beginning psychoanalysis: powerful unconscious realities

Bernard Reith (Swiss Soc)

Realities and the Listening-to-Listening- Method

Haydée Faimberg (Paris Soc)
Chair: Jan Abram (EPF Vice-President), Ruggero Levy (Chair IPA WPC)
Moderator: Leopoldo Bleger (IPA WPC)

EN

17:00-18:30 Panel on the Main Theme

• **The reality of Covid and the possible consequences for the psychoanalytic technique**

Arlette Lecoq (Belgian Soc)
Anna Nicoló (Italian Soc)
Marija Vezmar (Serbian Soc)
Chair: Kathleen Kelley-Lainé (Paris Soc)

EN

Sunday, March 28, 2021

09:30-11:30 Third Plenary on the Main Theme

• **The Internet and the identity of the analyst: ongoing reflections on a problematic area**
Andrea Marzi (Italian Soc)

Child development and psychic structuring in a world of technological devices
Giuseppina Antinucci (British Soc)

La psychanalyse et le virtuel

(*Psychoanalysis and the virtual*)
Sylvain Missonnier (Paris Soc)
Chair: Jeanne Wolff-Bernstein (Vienna Assoc)

ST

11:30-11:45 Closing Ceremony

Registration information

	Registration fees
Member of an EPF-Society/IPA member	€ 250,00
Participating Guest (registration needs to be recommended by a president or an officer of a society belonging to EPF)	€ 300,00
Candidate – registered in IPA component societies and form must be endorsed by the President or other officer	€ 150,00
EPI member/EPI candidate (Member/Candidate of the Han Groen Prakken Institute – European Psychoanalytic Institute)	€ 50,00

Please note:

This year's EPF Conference will take place over Zoom. It is strongly recommended for all attendees to either download the Zoom desktop programme or update a previously-downloaded Zoom programme. Registered conference attendees will receive further technical information **one week** prior to the conference. This document will include details on the use of various Zoom functions as well as all necessary Zoom links for the conference plenaries and panels.

Information and an online conference timetable can be found at www.epf-fep.eu. Further details can also be obtained from the Honorary Secretary of your local EPF member Society or from Congress-Organisation Reusch geber-reusch@t-online.de.

Register online at www.epf-fep.eu

The EPF Programme Committee 2021

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