FROM PSYCHOANALYSIS TO GROUP ANALYSIS

The Pioneering Work of Trigant Burrow
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Foreword by Malcolm Pines

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This selection of psychoanalytic and group analytic essays by Trigant Burrow (1875-1950), precursor of group analysis and co-founder of the American Psychoanalytic Association show the development of the relational orientation in psychoanalysis, and the origin and evolution of group analysis, moving from drive to the relation and the group processes and the social person. In the editors’ introductory essay, there are reported the events that led Burrow from psychoanalysis to group analysis, the censorship of the psychoanalytic orthodoxy, the silence of group analysis and the distortions of historiography. There is evidence of the richness and originality of the theoretic, clinical, methodological themes developed either in the psychoanalytic or the group analytic fields. Such themes are still questioned and object of study, among which stands out the principle of primary identification of the infant with the mother Burrow connected to the study of narcissism, homosexuality, and incest, and, in the group analytic period, to the social neurosis, besides the relativity of consciousness. The book represents a work of significant value on the historical, epistemological and social aspect, as it shows the relevancy and specificity of Burrow’s research, from which one may draw new clinic-theoretic proposals to face the unsolved problems of our time, particularly the social neurosis.

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About the Editors

Edi Gatti Pertegato, Psy.D., training in psychoanalysis and group analysis, is interested in precocious developmental processes, environment’s role, research on psychoanalytic-group analytic history. She dealt with expert reports for the law Courts and was responsible for the Foreign Section of the Rivista Italiana di Gruppo Analisi. She is former fellow and supervisor of Italian Group Analytic Society, founder-member of European Journal of Psychoanalysis, full member of GASI, member of AGPA, and of IAGP, and author of articles and books on psychoanalysis and group analysis.

Giorgio O. Pertegato, M.D., Psychiatrist, training in psychoanalysis and group-analysis integrated by the phenomenological approach. He dealt with family psychotherapy, with drug addiction, and works since 2000 in the Venice Mental Health Department where specifically deals with rehabilitation and self-help promotion of psychotic patients through group techniques, including the conduction of a group of “voices’ hearers”. He acted as clinical responsible of a community house for psychotics, collaborated to articles and books on psychoanalysis and group analysis.