



What remains from what happened ...

International Affairs report

Judith Teszáry



Report from IAGP Congress In Pescara

22-24 July 2022

This time an online pre-congress was offered a week before 16-17 July. In addition, an onsite pre-congress was held the day before the congress. Unfortunately, the LOC's technicians did not provide the first day's sessions online due to different circumstances. As a result, disappointed registered participants bombarded the organisers with letters of frustration.

We, who were in place, haven't been influenced by this mishap. It was out of our site.

The firm that provided the online program is probably used to other kinds of congresses, with lectures and presentations where the camera is on the leader but not on groups in action. So, one can call it a cultural clash.

The building where the congress took place was offered by the municipality, a public building, with uniformed guards watching over all the workshops, symposiums, key-note lectures, and large group gatherings. And there were many of them. One got used to their presence.

The working rooms were a bit problematic since a large room was divided by simple panels into three rooms. So, the session in the first room could hear the psychodrama in the third room, and the session in the third room was disturbed by the microphone the leader used in the first room. Other rooms were too small or too hot.

All in all, most participants were delighted at the end of the day. The joy of meeting personally and participating in excellent workshops, symposiums and lectures overrode the unpleasant moments.

Thanks to the dedicated work of the Scientific Committee, the program was well-balanced and rich.

Many forms of presentations addressed their topics on the adventures and benefits of online therapy and the influence of the Covid Pandemic on peoples' life. The Social Dreaming Matric topic was well represented in three consecutive panels each day of the congress. Different adaptations of Gordon Lorenz's were discussed and demonstrated. SDM is an excellent method to explore the actual unconscious mental state of groups. With today's zoom room platform, participants can connect and share their dreams from all over the world. The dreams' content hints at the mental state of the world's inhabitants. I recommend consulting the abstracts, which you find on the IAGP website.

Some topics from the Panel discussions:

- Ruptures/Repairs in Groups, Society and Organizations

**SOCIAL
DREAMING
international
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- Cultural Diversity, Groups and Psychotherapy around the World: IAGP Transcultural/Book: Authors/Reflections
- Power, intersectionality, and the female group leader
- Online psychodrama practices: lessons learned and reflections for the future potentiality in uncertain times
- Transcultural IAGP education projects and intervision groups: Challenges and potentiality in an uncertain time.

Members of the FEPTO Task Force for Peace Building and Conflict transformation group had two different workshops and one symposium.

Hybrid symposium - Encounter with the

"Enemy" Inside and outside, Reality and Surplus reality

Chair: Judith Teszáry, Sweden (I held the symposium myself since the other presenters couldn't attend the congress).

This symposium discusses mechanisms behind creating the "enemy" at intra-psychic, interpersonal and societal levels. Objectives are: to demonstrate how sociodrama and psychodrama explore the creation of enemies in myself and others when threat is involved. We will identify reactions to danger and their effect on our relationships. A short psychodramatic exploration will reveal how the "enemy" can destroy creativity and compassion. The multidimensional process of relating to each other influences the perception of the other.

This symposium turned out differently, depending on my being the only leader.

After a PPP on Projection and projective identification, devaluation and split as mechanisms for creating the enemy, I had an exercise referring to these psychological defences, which served as a warm-up to a sociodrama that emerged spontaneously in the group. The consequence or the learning lesson of this drama was that if nations keep together a third actor, the political power that wishes to turn them into enemies cannot succeed.

Workshop (Onsite) - Encounter with the "Enemy" Inside and Outside: "Enemy" in Covid time





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Conductors: [Maurizio Gasseau & Melinda A Meyer](#), [Judith Teszáry](#) (as a stand-in for Melinda, who couldn't come).

This workshop is part of three sessions by the FEPTO Task Force for Peace Building and Conflict Transformation, founded in Vienna in 2005 to study and carry out research on the use of Moreno's theories and tools on collective trauma. The workshop will be didactic and experiential. After a group warm-up, we will explore the roles and experiences of isolation, fear and anger during the pandemic. How can we transform this energy into creativity, courage and encounter? Then, we will play it, and we will end with the wisdom of a dream that will be represented on the stage.

Workshop (Online) - Encounter with the "Enemy" Inside and Outside: the "Fallen Angel" / Conductors: [Sofia Symeonidou, Greece](#), [Hande Karakılıç Üçer, Turkey](#), [Margarida Belchior, Portugal](#).

In Wim Wenders' movie "Far Away, So Close," the Angel Cassiel fulfilling his destiny to observe humans from the sky, suddenly became one on earth upon saving a mortal's life. Caught unprepared, he experiences all the temptations, worries, surprises, and gifts offered by this new existence. Our global reality, hurled by the Pandemic into a new, strange kind of existence, we are all challenged like Cassiel by our vulnerability and mortality. This workshop is an invitation to tread this path, not in fear, but to explore personal and collective gains and discoveries. Regarding collective trauma situations, participants in this workshop will learn: - to share and connect with others.

The days ended with a group analytic Large group. I missed the variety of methods used for these closing sessions. In the previous IAGP congress in Malmö group- analytical, sociodramatic and systems-centred methods were applied by different leaders daily. More variety and more learning from each other's praxis.

IAGP has a particular drive to recruit more members. So started a sponsor program, FOYT, and accepts members for one year for free, not having to pay the membership fee. The result was very successful; many new members came already to this congress.

The next congress will be in Japan, in Sapporo 2025, and I am sure the organisers will learn from this year's experiences.

Other news

The 8th Sociodrama Conference will be held in Budapest in 2024.

The conference's planning started with a local organiser's group embedded in the Hungarian Psychodrama Association. I am an advisor in the LOC. Developing sociodrama minimal training standards to complement the psychodrama minimal training standards is a task for FEPTO. Consequently, sociodrama conferences organised by our member institutes and organisations in Europe and Mediterranean countries are an essential subject of interest to our organisation.

IAGP



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