



English Summaries

Psychoanalysis and the Animals

ESSAYS

ROSI BRAIDOTTI: Animals and Other Anomalies

Philosopher and feminist theorist Rosi Braidotti's essay is a sub-chapter of the author's 2011 volume (*Nomadic Theory. The Portable Rosi Braidotti*). The text represents the trend of feminist posthumanism; this approach questions the human-centeredness, hierarchical and binary categories of Western thought. Braidotti's philosophical thinking tries to overcome the limitations of traditional anthropocentrism, which assumes that man is superior to all other forms of existence. In contrast, Braidotti proposes an approach that acknowledges the interdependence between humans and other forms of life, such as animals, and emphasizes the importance of a feminist perspective in managing this dependence. In the chapter, Braidotti integrates feminist theory, psychoanalytic tradition, and posthuman thought to reevaluate the traditional understanding of the relationship between animals and humans.

Keywords: posthumanism, feminism, anthropocentrism, interdependence

LÁSZLÓ NEMES: The Melancholy of Extinction

The paper provides an introduction to the emerging new field "extinction studies". The extinction of species, the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of natural environment are not just biological phenomena, but cultural ones surrounded by various patterns of collective memory, and personal feelings like grief, anger and hope, as well as moods like nostalgia and melancholy. Pictorial and narrative representations are both parts of this construction of meaning and memory. Quite recently, the promise of resurrecting extinct species by biotechnological tools, the so-called de-extinction, takes the ethical, philosophical and cultural questions of extinction into a new perspective. If de-extinction is a real possibility indeed, we have to rethink our attitude to the species and their extinctions, thus the values and nature of them. I also analyze the psychoanalytic readings of collective and individual

reflections on extinction, namely the debate about melancholy as a proper or improper mood in the age of extinction and de-extinction.

Keywords: extinction, extinction studies, de-extinction, collective memory, grief, melancholy

JOHANNA VUKOV – ZOLTÁN KÓVÁRY: Dog in the Consulting Room. The Place of the Human-Animal Relationship in Psychoanalytic Thinking

Although Sigmund Freud himself had a long history with dogs, and even had them present during psychoanalysis sessions, the human-animal bond seems to be left out of the psychoanalytic theory. The human-animal bond had been viewed as a substitute for other relationships or even a pathological one. This paper tries to provide insight into the existing literature and point out the importance of the human-animal bond. A summary of current studies is presented with different theoretical approaches. Animals might serve as an object of projection or identification. Other studies applying selfobject theory to the human-animal bond suggest that animals may function as mirroring, idealizing, and twinship selfobjects. From the perspective of object relations theory animals are considered to be transitional objects. In summary, the bond between humans and animals proves to be meaningful and unique and should be taken into consideration in its own right.

Keywords: human-animal bond; companion animals; selfobject theory; object relations theory; Sigmund Freud

LYDIA MARINELLI – ANDREAS MAYER: The Receding Animal: Theorizing Anxiety and Attachment in Psychoanalysis from Freud to Imre Hermann

Animals played an important role in the formation of psychoanalysis as a theoretical and therapeutic enterprise. They are at the core of texts such as Freud's famous case histories of Little Hans, the Rat Man, or the Wolf Man. The infantile anxiety triggered by animals provided the essential link between the psychology of individual neuroses and the ambivalent status of the "totem" animal in so-called primitive societies in Freud's attempt to construct an anthropological basis for the Oedipus complex in *Totem and Taboo*. In the following, we attempt to track the status of animals as objects of indirect observation as they appear in Freud's classical texts, and in later revisionist accounts such as Otto Rank's *Trauma of Birth* and Imre Hermann's work on the clinging instinct. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Freudian conception of patients' animal phobias is substantially revised within Hermann's original psychoanalytic theory of instincts which draws heavily upon ethological observations of primates. Although such a reformulation remains grounded in the idea of "archaic" animal models for human development, it allows to a certain extent to empiricize the speculative elements of Freud's later instinct theory (notably the death instinct) and to come to a more embodied account of psychoanalytic practice.

Keywords: attachment, animals, Freud, Otto Rank, Imre Hermann

WORKSHOP

ANNA ALEXANDROV: The Narratability of War - A Psychobiographical Study About J. R. R. Tolkien

It is well-known that the author of *The Lord of the Rings* strongly disapproved of interpreting his novel as an allegory of World War II. In addition, previous scholarship highlighted the losses experienced by J. R. R. Tolkien during World War I as a much more significant influence on his fictional work. The starting point of this paper is that, as the period in which the novel took its final form, World War II is, nevertheless, a relevant context of Tolkien's creative work. In this paper, I examine which elements of the context created by World War II contributed to earlier losses and traumatic experiences finding their place and becoming shareable in Tolkien's fictional work. For this inquiry I utilize the tool of psychobiographical analysis, examining Tolkien's relationship to war in general, as well as the prominent role played by his youngest son, Christopher, and the dialogue with him, in Tolkien's creative process. The paper argues that Tolkien saw Christopher, both his audience and co-creator, similar to himself in the midst of the crisis created by the war, which contributed to the fact that the traumatic experience of World War I became (at least partially) narratable in *The Lord of the Rings*.

Keywords: J. R. R. Tolkien, psychobiographical analysis, trauma in literature

ARCHIVE

MICHAEL MOLNAR: On Dogs and Doggerel

Every year the Freud family dogs presented birthday poems to their master. These rhymes written by Anna were a coded communication with her father and an expression of suppressed tenderness. They enact a return to the affections and appetites of her childhood, and also her anxieties about feeding and separation. The three-way relationship between Anna and Sigmund Freud and their pets confuses behavioural categories. Both the pets and Anna's doggerel poems (here in their first rhyming translation) mediate outlawed or otherwise ignored impulses. This essay argues the importance of "trivia" in history and biography.

Keywords: Freud, Anna Freud, dogs, poems, communication, affection, childhood

EDITH RÉNYI (GYÖMRŐI): A Cat is a Cat (excerpt)

A chapter from the Hungarian psychoanalyst Edit Gyömrői's manuscript *A Cat Is a Cat*, written in English, is now being published for the first time. In the series of stories, she tells about the many cats that surrounded her during her life (primarily during her emigration to Ceylon after 1939), and through this, about herself.

Keywords: cats, animals, nature, Ceylon, travelling