



English Summaries

Ferenczi 150

With this issue we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Sándor Ferenczi's birth.

ESSAYS

NICOLAS ABRAHAM: Introducing *Thalassa*

Nicolas Abraham's preface to the first French edition of Sándor Ferenczi's *Thalassa: A Theory of Genitality* calls the book one of the century's most fascinating and liberating works. It instigates the psychoanalytic approach as a universal method of investigation that could complement the natural sciences, biology, palaeontology, medicine and even chemistry and physics. Ferenczi confronts us with what is inscribed in our bodies, our gestures and our myths, such that biology, natural history, embryology and physiology come to life with meanings that link us to the most remote history of our species. If our bodies speak from the beginning, foundational meanings are derived from even more fundamental symbolisations that point toward phylogenesis and the historical traumas and privations of our species. The language of organs and bodily functions would therefore be symbolic organisations that refer to ever more archaic languages.

Keywords: Ferenczi, Thalassa, genitality, psychoanalysis of origins, phylogenesis, bioanalysis

JENNY WILLNER: The Problem of Heredity: Ferenczi's Organology and the Politics of Bioanalysis

At the beginning of the First World War, Sándor Ferenczi drafted a first version of his theory of genitality, which was to be published in 1924 under the title *Versuch einer Genitaltheorie* (in English: *Thalassa*). Here, he theorizes not only genitality, but the genitals themselves. With the morphology of reproductive organs as a point of departure, Thalassa takes us through time and space, speculating that the physiological side of genitality must be understood as the belated abreaction of a series of

phylogenetic catastrophes. This contribution offers a new frame for reading Thalassa, challenging the common perception that the phylogenetic speculation in Ferenczi and Freud sought to provide psychoanalysis with a natural scientific foundation. Instead, Ferenczi deconstructs precisely such foundational claims: he reads his sources from nineteenth-century popular biology against the grain and draws upon diverging psychoanalytic notions of hysteria to destabilize popular evolutionary narratives. Read against the backdrop of its time, Ferenczian ‘bioanalysis’ holds the potential for a political intervention against biologism and eugenic thought. His methodology breaks with the dream of a transparent language in what is today called the hard sciences.

Keywords: Ferenczi, Freud, phylogeny, Lamarck, Haeckel, Bölsche, trauma, hysteria, antisemitism, evolution, heredity

JAKOB STABERG: A Complicated Dialogue: Ferenczi (Re-)reading *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*

Jakob Staberg discusses the death drive as matrix for a theory of modernity structured around the notion of catastrophe. He discusses how nature and death are given a new meaning within the field of culture. Against this background, Staberg analyzes the impact of Freud’s notion of the death drive in Sándor Ferenczi’s work. Towards the end of his life, Ferenczi collected disparate traces and entities that did not fit into Freud’s speculative essay, although they belong to its main subject. Ferenczi’s most famous paper, “The Confusion of Tongues between the Adults and the Child”, is the result of a much broader, unfinished project which Staberg explores in the fragments of Ferenczi’s posthumously published *Clinical Diary*. According to Ferenczi, death appears as an ambivalent and unsettling notion constantly present in the psychoanalytic situation itself. A notion of something beyond the pleasure principle emanates from transference and countertransference, which Ferenczi elaborates in terms of an early analysis of authority and a dismantling of the father figure. Ferenczi’s thinking beyond the pleasure principle mounts up to a radical re-reading of the bioanalytical speculations based on the question of survival, derived from an interpretation of organs as charged with meaning.

Keywords: death drive, transference, psychic fragments, bio-analysis

RALUCA SOREANU: Toward a Psychoanalysis of Organs: A Note on Ferenczi’s Contribution to the Theory of Sexuality

This paper explores some little-known contributions by Sándor Ferenczi to the theory of sexuality, which count as an unexpected “queering” moment in psychoanalysis. In an early 1906 text, “Intermediary Sexual States”, Ferenczi invents the notion of “tertiary sexual traits”, posing important questions related to both fantasy and embodiment when it comes to sexuality. In 1924, he coins the notion of “amphimixis of eroticisms”. Here, his focus is not on component instincts, but on the outcome that they can lead to through their encounter. There is no unilinear, irreversible or progressive sexual development of the individual, but rather a mix of infantile, adult, oral, anal and genital components. This mix will be unique, and irreducible to these

components. Amphimixis is thus at the heart of a radical revision of sexual theory. The last part of the paper articulates some of the consequences of the idea of amphimixis, in terms of a psychoanalysis of organs, and a new vocabulary on “organ neurosis”, “organ cooperation” and “organ individuality”. Ferenczi emerges from this exploration as a thinker interested in processes of differentiation and in singularities in the sphere of sexuality.

Keywords: Ferenczi, queer psychoanalysis, amphimixis, intermixing, theory of sexuality, organs

AGNIESZKA SOBOLEWSKA: Sándor Ferenczi’s *Clinical Diary* Between Spoken and Written Word

This paper examines Ferenczi’s late lifewriting practices. I read the *Clinical Diary* as an example of valuing speech (the oral situation) over writing (writing practices), which sheds new light on the crucial relationship between listening and writing in psychoanalytic practice. I argue that the oral dimension of the *Clinical Diary* (a great part of which was dictated by Ferenczi and typed by his secretary) makes it possible to expand the research on the diversity of lifewriting genres in psychoanalytic literature. I interpret Ferenczi’s diary as a written-oral form, which, thanks to his appreciation of the medium of the spoken word, enabled him to extend the situation of the mutual encounter between patient and analyst.

Keywords: Ferenczi, Clinical Diary, lifewriting, written-oral form

KATHLEEN KELLEY-LAINÉ: Sándor Ferenczi and the Shadowless Child

The author uses the metaphor of the shadow to explore the psyche of the “trauma child on the couch” who has lost the consistency of being and cannot grow up. She convenes Sandor Ferenczi’s visionary work to explore the profound and omnipresent meanings of childhood trauma. A brief clinical vignette illustrates the author’s understanding, and working with a patient, a “shadowless child”.

Keywords: metaphor, body image, growing up, pathological imitation,

ANNA VINCZE: The maternal permission – Sandor Ferenczi’s confessions

The article discusses the maternal permission, one of the elements of Ferenczi’s attachment to his wife, Gizella. Ferenczi’s honest confessions, his introspection in his correspondence with Freud and Groddeck and in the *Clinical Diary* provide rich material about his deep attachment to Gizella and his strong ambivalence towards her. The paper argues that Ferenczi’s love for Elma includes the wish that it is Gizella, Elma’s mother, who permits the relationship. The maternal permission means that Gizella, in opposition to Ferenczi’s strict mother, should not only permit sexual freedom in general, but endure the crossing of the greatest taboo: Ferenczi’s wish to marry her own daughter. The relationship with Gizella contains this ambivalence:

reliving the anger and revenge towards the mother, but also the wish to repair the relationship with her.

The second part of the paper explores male patients whose attitude towards women is similar to that of Ferenczi. They saw their mothers as cold, remote and untouchable, and their relationship with women was hindered by this. The transference was dominated by negative emotions. The paper discusses one male patient in more detail. Here, the lack of maternal permission plays an important role in the background of the negative maternal transference. In his case, the lack of maternal permission did not only extend to sexuality but to existence itself.

Keywords: maternal permission, anger at the punishing mother, ambivalence, reparation

JUDIT SZEKACS-WEISZ: Lost Children of Psychoanalysis. Tibor Rajka M.D. (1901–1980) The portrait of an analyst; his life and work in different snapshots

The paper reconstructs the life and oeuvre of Tibor Rajka, an important and highly forgotten member of the Budapest School of psychoanalysis, a contemporary of Sándor Ferenczi. Although rarely mentioned, Tibor Rajka, “psychoanalytic doctor of the mind” – as he described himself – was a member of the first, pre-war Hungarian Psychoanalytic Association. After its destruction and during the ensuing years of semi-legality and semi-acceptance, he was one of the most important figures in the revival of the Budapest School and the creation of the second Psychoanalytic Society.

Keywords: Tibor Rajka, Budapest School of psychoanalysis, re-establishment, technique, obsession, anxiety

ARCHIVES

SÁNDOR FERENCZI: A pszichoanalízis mai problémái [Present-day problems of psychoanalysis]. *Archives of Psychoanalysis*, 1927(1): 522-530.

MELINDA FRIEDRICH: On Ferenczi’s journalistic activities

This introduction concerns with Ferenczi’s journalistic activities and science popularization in the early 1900s, which he did not give up completely later, during his career as a psychoanalyst. With the expansion of the digitally available sources, new Ferenczi writings are coming to light and will certainly continue to do so in the future. The integration of the writings in the bibliography published here into Ferenczi’s oeuvre add further colors to the image of his career and personality.

Keywords: Ferenczi, journalism, *Az Ujság*

In this section we publish some interesting and insightful newspaper articles of Ferenczi that have not been published since their original publication.

SÁNDOR FERENCZI: Esti levél – Három liter vér [Evening letter – Three liters of blood] (*Pesti Hírlap*, 1902. aug. 9.)

SÁNDOR FERENCZI: A zene ellen [Against music] (*Az Ujság*, 1904. aug. 14.)

SÁNDOR FERENCZI: Dialógus a fejlődésről [Dialogue on development] (*Az Ujság*, 1904. szept. 7.)

SÁNDOR FERENCZI: Nosophobia. (*Az Ujság*, 1905. jún. 25.)

SÁNDOR FERENCZI: Lelki betegségek gyógyításáról [On curing mental illness] (*Ujság*, 1926. aug. 24.)

SÁNDOR FERENCZI: A szívfájdalomról [On heartache] (*Pesti Napló*, 1927. dec. 25.)

REVIEW

Historian **ESZTER BALÁZS** reviews the 3rd volume of the Hungarian complete edition of Sándor Ferenczi's works (*War, revolutions, psychoanalysis, 1914–1919*), edited by *Anna Borgos* and *Katalin Pető*, published in 2023.

OBITUARY

KATALIN NYERGES commemorates **Gábor Paneth** (1926–2023), the great doyen of Hungarian psychoanalysis. He was one of the five analysts recognised as a “Study Group” by the IPA in 1975, and in 1980 he was entrusted with the organisation of the psychotherapy section of the then newly formed Hungarian Psychiatric Association. His book *In the Labyrinth Passages* (1985), analyses the hidden connections between psychiatry and culture, based on his vast cultural, literary and historical education. His interest in irregularity and deviance led to the publication of a volume of essays *Sketches of Criminal Psychiatry* (2002). In these studies, he examines the criminal offender from the perspectives of psychiatry, psychoanalysis, mythology and fiction. His interest in myths, symbols and dreams has also brought him close to the Jungian approach. From the 1960s onwards, he worked for nearly thirty years in the mental health institution he organised and managed, the Csepel Mental Health Centre, which was the first in the country to combine adult psychiatric care, care for alcoholics and educational counselling.