



## English Summaries

### What Does the Mother Want?

#### ESSAYS

**ORNELLA PICCINI: The mother's body, the role of pleasure in the mother–infant relationship, and the traumatic risk**

In this paper, I wish to talk about the process of becoming a mother, with particular attention to the role of the mother's bodily experience, during pregnancy and childbirth, in developing maternal competencies. Studies on neurophysiological mother–infant interaction allow us to focus on a series of specific bodily based processes that support their relationship in order to guarantee the establishment of a secure attachment. The experience of pregnancy and childbirth, through the body, reactivates the somatic memories of the woman, with the possibility of a re-enactment of traumatic experiences on the one hand, but also with the possibility of a transformation and an integration of these experiences through physiological, biological, psychological processes characteristic of motherhood. Neurophysiological processes related to bodily pleasure can make the difference. The literature at hand describes a post-traumatic stress disorder in women due to the conditions of giving birth, with particular attention to women with a history of sexual abuse during childhood. We should ask ourselves exactly how psychoanalysis considers this new emergent issue and how it should reconsider the role of the mother's body.

**Keywords:** childbirth, birth, motherhood, pleasure, trauma, postpartum depression, PTSD

**Mariann Ita: The linkage between maternal ambivalence and idealization of motherhood (in the age of intensive mothering)**

From a new perspective the paper revisits maternal ambivalence, which is one of the well-known and often discussed themes of psychoanalysis. On purpose the problematization is provocative, insofar as it claims that the early theorists of psychoanalysis could not provide comprehensive enough framings and adequate interpretations of maternal ambivalence, because – to a greater or lesser extent – they

were entrapped by the idealization of motherhood, i.e. by different biased social patterns, meanings and structural constraints of their times. The proposed argument addresses the relevant model of motherhood in our age, the so-called ‘intensive mothering’, which impacts maternal roles, identities, attitudes, behaviors, and praxes in a much more prevalent way than any other model before. These dynamics, of course, have triggering effects on maternal ambivalence, however due to the sweeping idealization of motherhood also guilt, remorse, and repressions are more common among mothers because of their negative feelings. Rozsika Parker was the very first who recognized this problematic link between maternal ambivalence and idealization of motherhood. She criticized the early theorists of psychoanalysis because of their misleading arguments about maternal ambivalence. Her works are pioneer contributions which are more important today than in the years when they were published. The current paper gives an overview of Parker’s theories, which are often cited by contemporary authors who strive to revise, refine, and clarify her arguments. This study tries to summarize these latter concepts as well.

**Keywords:** maternal ambivalence, idealization of motherhood, intensive mothering, Rozsika Parker

### **Victoria Clarke: From outsiders to motherhood to reinventing the family: Constructions of lesbian parenting in the psychological literature — 1886–2006**

This article provides a feminist critical psychological analysis of the psychological literature on lesbian parenting. Rather than offer an overview of the findings and methods and an evaluation of the scientific merit of the literature, the aim of this article is to examine the construction of lesbians as parents and the evolving history of the category ‘lesbian mother’ in psychological research. The period under analysis begins with the construction of lesbians as outsiders to motherhood in the work of early sexologists and ends with the construction of lesbians as reinventing the family in the work of lesbian and gay psychologists. Five phases of research are identified and the analysis explores what research in each phase reveals about the social and political meanings of lesbians raising children. The article concludes by charting the emergence of feminist critiques of the psychological literature. These critiques raise important questions about the regulatory role of psychology and the (re)production of heteronormativity in research on lesbian parenting.

**Keywords:** lesbian parenting, critical psychology, feminism, motherhood, heteronormativity

## **WORKSHOP**

### **Julianna Vamos: From the thalassal reverie to the enlightening environment**

The sincere and gentle child existed in the representation of Sándor Ferenczi. In case of happy pregnancy, of psychic and environmental conditions for the newborn, the baby shows infinite goodness with a clear quest for meaning from the beginning. The

importance of the environmental provision opens to the idea that trauma originates from pathologizing conditions, so from outside. The death instinct comes with UNwelcomed child. Being in the impulse of the origin Ferenczi explored the uterine life and speculated its link with the universe. The poetic reading of *Thalassa* remains a less difficult lecture and it can take us to contemporary questions including climatic and environmental issues. The consequences of an enlightening environment (Ferenczi's *Clinical Journal*) with adjusted respectful care gives us another vision of the infantile, and the infantile in the child, in the adolescent and in the adult. The old basic idea of the "helplessness" was a speculation, that the contemporary research overturns seriously. What style of analysis comes out of this? Clinical material from the coach with adults and from observations of the newborn's expressions, movements, gaze will show us a clinical approach on Ferenczi's footsteps.

**Keywords:** enlightening environment, confusion in communication, solicitude, helplessness

### **Enikő Nagy: The psychobiographical analysis of the role of motherhood in the life and work of Egon Schiele**

In this applied thesis I investigated the role of motherhood in Egon Schiele's life and work, focusing on how the expression of women changed throughout his adolescent and young adult years, examining his paintings. Psychobiography offers analytical freedom to trace the role of motherhood through various life stages, examining his relationships and providing valuable self-awareness benefits. The common theme of the eyes, hands and mouths reveal a system representing a desire for attachment, hence it could be connected with Imre Hermann's theory of the clinging instinct. Changes linked to the maternal role are most evident in his evolving relationships with women, especially in the transition from adolescent to young adult. Successfully sublimating the frustration arising from attachment needs to his mother, these emotions serve as a catalyst for Schiele's creative process. In his journey of achieving a stable identity and later real intimacy he goes from hurt and pessimism to an intimate and optimistic understanding of familial relationships.

**Keywords:** Egon Schiele, psychobiography, Imre Hermann, clinging instinct, creativity, expressionism, motherhood, attachment

## **ARCHIVES**

In our archive column, with the help of Dr. Ágnes Somkövi, we remember Jenő Raffai (1954–2015) on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. He was the most significant representative of the school of relationship analysis, a mother-infant relationship analyst and trainer. We publish an unpublished lecture by Raffai, originally delivered in German and later published in a German-language perinatal textbook. Raffai's clinical experience led him to discover interesting connections, and, as a good

theoretician, he introduced new concepts that greatly facilitate our understanding of the complex and intricate system of the mother-infant unit.

Dóra Kelecsényi conducted an exciting and enlightening interview with Dr. Ágnes Somkövi, physician, mother-fetus relationship analyst and trainer, heir to the legacy of Dr. Jenő Raffai and Dr. Éva Hadházi, psychologist, mother-fetus relationship analyst and trainer.

## REVIEW

Vera Békés presents the book of historian Lilla Krász (*Birth and Motherhood in Old Hungary*), which deals with the changes in motherhood between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Hungary. Among other things, the book seeks to answer the questions: How did women of the past centuries live the elementary experiences of conception, pregnancy, childbirth, childbed, breastfeeding and feeding? What concrete and mysterious signs and bodily changes did they perceive and how did they interpret them? How and under what circumstances did they give birth to their child?