



English Summaries

Otto Rank – Within and Beyond Psychoanalysis

ESSAYS

PETER L. RUDNYTSKY: Rereading Rank

In proposing to reread Rank's work from the standpoint of contemporary psychoanalysis, the paper concentrates, on the brief interlude from 1924 to 1927 when Rank became the first object relations psychoanalyst. During this transitional period after the schism precipitated by *The Trauma of Birth*, Rank had freed himself of personal loyalty to Freud but still conceived of his theoretical project as a revision rather than a renunciation of psychoanalysis. With this attitude, Rank achieved a delicate balance that he soon lost, and his example exerted no lasting influence; but it serves as a beacon for subsequent relational analysts.

Keywords: Otto Rank, Freud, Ferenczi, object relation theory, trauma of birth

ZOLTÁN KÖVÁRY: Standing on the Shoulder of Giants: The Significance of Otto Rank in the Development of Dynamic Psychology

Otto Rank became one of Sigmund Freud's closest colleagues at a very young age and the first non-medical ("lay") psychoanalyst. His human scientific training made him the best psychoanalytic interpreter of mythology and literature, and the editor-in-chief of the journal *Imago*. After the First World War, he himself began psychotherapeutic work, and together with his friend Sándor Ferenczi, created the first form of relational psychoanalysis. His book *The Trauma of Birth*, led him to confront Freud which forced him to leave the psychoanalytic movement. He then lived and worked in Paris and New York, laying the foundations for humanistic and existential-humanistic psychology, directly and indirectly influencing such prominent American psychologists as Carl Rogers, Erich Fromm, Rollo May and Irvin Yalom. The paper seeks to present Rank's career, his work and its wide-ranging impact to the present day.

Keywords: psychoanalysis, trauma of birth, existential psychology, humanistic psychology, creativity, psychotherapy

ANTAL BÓKAY: Otto Rank's Failed War: Lessons from the Psychoanalytic Debate of 1924

It is a systematic feature of the history of psychoanalysis that new theoretical and therapeutic concepts are born out of severe and sometimes murderous controversies. Psychoanalytic insight is always based on self-creation and self-knowledge, the development of the theory is an object of one's own experience, and the alteration of the theory challenges this personal self-construction, which is mainly unconscious even for the analyst in question. But the famous in-fighting (Breuer-Freud, Freud-Jung, Freud-Adler/Stekel, etc.) have continually developed new directions, not only for the departing members of the psychoanalytic community but also for the representatives of the mainstream who remained.

In 1924, a long debate broke out over two books: Otto Rank's *The Trauma of Birth* and Sándor Ferenczi – Otto Rank's *The Developmental Aims of Psychoanalysis*, at the end of which Otto Rank left the psychoanalytic community and Freud's friendship. The debate, documented in letters and the so-called *Rundbriefe*, occurred within the secret committee, with Karl Abraham and Ernest Jones on one pole and Otto Rank and Sándor Ferenczi on the other. Freud found it challenging to come to a definite opinion. Still, his views on *The Trauma of Birth* and the therapeutic principles derived from it by Rank became increasingly critical. In his book, Otto Rank focuses on the mother and the preoedipal period and questions the father's primary role, castration, and the Oedipus complex in general. Instead, he makes an actual event, the birth, i.e., the birth trauma, the explanatory principle. In this spirit, he practiced a new, active therapy based on the memory of the birth, an abbreviated therapy that anticipates the time of closure. This concept was unacceptable to Freud. Ferenczi believed in Rank's concept for a while, but in the course of the debate, he saw its flaws. As a rebel and heretic, Otto Rank left the psychoanalytic movement at the end of 1924.

Keywords: Otto Rank, Sándor Ferenczi, Sigmund Freud, trauma of birth, active therapy, castration anxiety, Oedipus complex

ROBERT KRAMER: Discovering the Existential Unconscious: Rollo May Encounters Otto Rank

Rollo May always acknowledged that encountering Otto Rank in the mid-1930s altered the trajectory of his life. Until now, however, few scholars have understood how significant Rank was for Rollo May. In this article, drawing on Robert Abzug's new biography of May, Kramer tells the full story.

Keywords: Rollo May, Otto Rank, existential unconscious

MARCELO D. GOMES: Projective Identification, Empathy, and the Analytic Work

In 1957, Klein argued that envy is the princeps agent of the death drive. When envy is overwhelming, it intensifies paranoid-schizoid anxieties, and projective identification will appear as a central defense mechanism. As a result, significant confusion between the Self and the object will occur. The result will be a notable weakening of the Ego and severe impairment of object relations. In post-Kleinian psychoanalysis, the second generation of theorists will propose a different perspective on the mechanism of projective identification (Ogden, 2014) – not as a defense mechanism to schizoid-paranoid anxieties, as we see in Klein’s work, but as a primary mental activity to communicate emotions (Klein, 1957). These ideas would create significant intersections addressing other components of the analytical work as the field theory and projective identification as primitive form of communication (Baranger, 1961; Bion, 1962). In this perspective, new clinical avenues paved by Klein’s (1957) thought would amplify and expand the understanding and praxis of psychoanalysis in the context of postmodernity.

Keywords: projective identification, intersubjectivity, object relations, representation, psychoanalysis

LAJOS HORVÁTH: Retroactive Trauma and Re-enactment in the Light of the Phenomenology of Retroactivity

The paper examines two rival psychoanalytic models of the retrospective constitution of the traumatic past and compares them with the phenomenology of retroactive awakening. In the first part, I briefly summarize the phenomenological idea of the retroactive constitution of the past. The second part explores the problem of retroactive trauma (*Nachträglichkeit*) based on Freud’s early ideas and the case study of *The Wolf Man*. In the third part, I will explore Jung’s concept of retroactive fantasy (*Zurückphantasieren*) that is also illustrated by the debate around the case study of *The Wolf Man*. The aim of the paper is to examine what kind of mechanisms and metaphors were employed by Husserl, Freud, and Jung to describe the peculiar case where a memory or fantasy seems to have a greater affective impact on the self than the underlying perception. Finally, the paper attempts to integrate the conflicting views on retroactive trauma into a general phenomenological framework.

Keywords: phenomenology, psychoanalysis, retroactivity, retroactive trauma, affectivity

CSABA PLÉH: Action gratuite as a challenge for the psychologist

Since the early 20th century, art has been haunted by the belief that we have unmotivated actions. From Gide’s Lafcadio to Camus’s Meursault, we can list the notable examples. For the psychologist interpreting art, the challenge is twofold. What do the actions presented as unmotivated tell us about the general organisation of the narrative? To what extent can the classical narrative be seen as the unfolding of a transparent schema of action (who, what, why)? On the other hand – and this is where the psychoanalyst comes into play – the author may want to make feel that the hero does not know his/her own motives, and thus to make the reader a naive hermeneutic

looking for the hidden desires, the motive.

Keywords: action gratuite, literature, narrative, motives, Gide, Camus

ARCHIVES

OTTO RANK: The “Play” in “Hamlet”: A Contribution to the Analysis and Dynamic Understanding of Poetry

According to Freud, Hamlet’s inability to avenge his uncle’s murder of his father is rooted in his “Oedipal attitude”. This prevents him from killing the man who, fulfilling his own unconscious desires, has driven his father out of the way and taken his place beside his mother. In essence, the whole play consists of nothing more than a masterly delay of action on the part of the hero, which is only revealed at the end of the play, in the great general death. I would now like to show the significance of the much-discussed “theatre in the theatre” scene in this complex system of inhibitions and delays, and how, from this point of view, this scene has earned the title of the explicit climax and turning point of dramatic and spiritual development.

Keywords: Hamlet, Oedipus-complex, theatre

OTTO RANK: Beyond Psychoanalysis

Freud has dethroned the medical materialism with regard to the so-called neuroses, but what we really want to thank him for is, that he failed in the attempt to set up in its place the purely biological and so involuntarily has brought the real psychical into its own again. Finally, the psychoanalytic theory itself has led to the acknowledgment of the fact that along with the biological principle there is operative in mankind an equally strong *ethical principle*. The unconscious, incidentally a purely spiritualistic concept, cannot be entirely reduced to the impulse life. It is even shown that in many human beings the inhibitions manifesting themselves as anxiety and guilt are stronger than the impulses, that these inhibitions themselves, so to say, operate “as a driving force” although in a different way from the biological impulses. In a word we see that the psychical has become a force at least equal to the biological and that all human conflicts are to be explained just from this fact.

Keywords: biological impulses, ethical principle, anxiety, ego, self, other

REVIEW

JÓZSEF KRÉKITS reviews the recent book of Zoltán Kövály: *Bevezetés az egzisztenciális pszichológiába. Történet, elmélet és alkalmazás* (An introduction to existential psychology. History, theory and application), published in 2022.