



English Summaries

Delivery and Birth

ESSAYS

ROSEMARY BALSAM: On the natal body and its confusing place in mental life

The study concerns ongoing confusions in holding together the gestalt of the natal body, sex, gender, and procreation. Highlighting theoretical confusions is the shifting history of relations among the material body, the “psychoanalytic body,” sex, and gender. Studying these confusions and collecting more data may help the field advance where a rush to theoretical foreclosure will not. Observe, for example, how commonly foreclosing are the terms “masculine” and “feminine” when automatically applied to the merely biological attributes of a sexed body. More confusions arise from theorizing gender identity using split-off images of body parts divorced from any natal referent. In a published clinical case, for instance, the role of the procreative body is characteristically ignored in gender theorizing. Apparently unspeakable horrors of the female body come with its birthing potential and may be a motive for erasure. Julia Kristeva, an exemplary writer, accepts simultaneously a sexed, procreative, and gendered layering in the mind. Her account of the “abject” can shed light on the suppressive horror in our field, which remains almost silent on the body’s procreative potential in everyday life. By contrast, even Ice Age sculptors were engaged with procreative female bodies.

Keywords: procreative body, psychoanalytic body, natal body, sex and gender, resistance to female body, language for body, uterophallic vs. phallic, Kristeva, abjection, *khôra*

ANDREA ANDREK: The importance and results of prenatal attachment research

From conception onwards, humans are actively involved in their relationships with their immediate and wider environment, and the interaction experiences in utero form the foundation of all subsequent relationships and lay the foundations for attachment behaviour. The paper reviews the emergence of the concept of prenatal attachment and attempts to define it from a historical perspective. It takes stock of the most commonly

used scales for measuring prenatal attachment and their characteristics. The major socio-demographic, psycho-social and relational factors that have significant predictive power for the intensity of mother-fetus and father-fetus attachment are presented. The conclusion of the study is that the prenatal attachment system is co-created by parents and their fetus and that this attachment system should be viewed as embedded in the couple-relationship and, through it, the intergenerational/transgenerational system. Parents who are “primed” along anticipatory and mentalising experiences that unfold during pregnancy understand and interpret their child easier, which contributes to the development of the child’s secure attachment working model.

Keywords: prenatal attachment, attachment theories, parent-fetus relationship, psychosocial factors, transgenerational system

JÚLIA FRIGYES: Birth, childbirth, trauma and trauma therapy – possible paths to healing

In my paper I think over the different and common and rhyming characteristics of birth and childbirth and trauma and psychotherapy. While we want to understand we must accept some paradoxes and even ultimate unknowability. To be born, to give life, to be traumatized, and to heal – these basic experiences of life are very different and yet bear many similarities. I am looking for answer to the question of what the sources of traumatization and sources of healing in these basic life experiences are. Where these experiences meet and where they separate from each other. Psychoanalytic-philosophical theories, experience reports, and certain details of my own therapeutic cases serve as the guiding thread of my train of thought.

Keywords: birth, childbearing, trauma, psychoanalytic birth theories, trauma theories

BARBARA KISDI: Motivations and reflections on choosing a doula

In Hungary, the familiarity and recognition of doulas is still in its infancy, which is why it is an interesting question how the women who choose a doula before the birth of their child think, what motivations, expectations, and ideas they have about this issue. Due to the multifaceted support provided by doulas, the expectations of mothers are also diverse, moreover, the biopolitical and knowledge-policy field in which these horizons of expectations appear are themselves complex and rapidly changing. Accordingly, the differentiation and clash of knowledge accepted as legitimate in childbirth cultures, as well as the critical autonomy of lay people forcing reflexivity, determine the norms and possible fields of action of those participating in childbirth in a very complex way. In my study, starting from the self-reflections on the mothers’ knowledge and expectations, I try to interpret the motivations and reflections of the choice of a doula in the framework of biopolitics and knowledge-policy.

Keywords: birth, doula, modern and postmodern birth culture, knowledge-policy, biopolitics

ARCHIVE

We publish two manuscripts from the legacy of the psychoanalyst **GYÖRGY HIDAS** (1925–2012), the influential initiator of the Hungarian Society of Pre- and Perinatal Medicine, about the mother-baby relationship analysis, introduced by **VERA BÉKÉS**. During the relationship analysis, the analyst teaches the mother to communicate with the foetus, while helping her to face her own traumas and strengthening her in her role as a mother.

REVIEW

Barbara Kulig's detailed review of Zsófia Székely recent book: *State of each other: Experiences of obstetricians, midwives, and doulas about the helping relationship*.

* * *