

History of Porto Alegre Psychoanalytical Society - SPPA – Brazil

Psychoanalytical ideas arrived to *gaúcho* lands in the 20's, when Freud's work was made popular in the medical and intellectual environments. The conferences given by the gynecology professor Martins Gomes, at the Medical School, attended by Mário Martins, Cyro Martins, and Lino de Mello e Silva, pre college students, were some of the drivers of it.

In the 30's the psychiatrist and writer Dyonélio Machado already used psychoanalytical principles in his practice and when teaching Clinical Psychiatry, having translated Edoardo Weiss' "*Elementi di Psicoanalisi*", first psychoanalytical work published in our environment.

Along the same lines, Celestino Prunes – professor of Forensic Medicine of the Medical School of Porto Alegre – in 1934 began to give an annual course on psychoanalytical elements as an introduction to the study of criminology and forensic psychiatry.

Later on, in 1944, Professor Décio de Souza came back after studying in Jules Masserman clinic in the US, and took over the discipline of Psychiatry doing so until 1950 when he left to be trained in the UK.

Coincident to the arrival of Décio de Souza in 1944, Mário Martins, pioneer and founder of the psychoanalytical movement in our state, left to Buenos Aires with his wife Zaira Bittencourt Martins, for their analytical training, being there analyzed respectively by Angel Garma – Theodor Reik's analysand -, and Céles Ernesto Cárcamo, during the years of 1945 and 46, returning to Porto Alegre in March 1947.

Mário Martins return really demarcated the beginning of the organized psychoanalytical movement in our environment, being the first officially trained analyst to practice in Porto Alegre.

José Lemmertz, coming back from Buenos Aires in 1949 where he was analyzed by Luiz Rascowsky; Celestino Prunes in 1952 returning from Rio de Janeiro where he was analyzed by Werner Kemper, from the Berlin Psychoanalytic Institute, and Cyro Martins in 1954 also coming back from Buenos Aires and having been analyzed by Arnaldo Rascowsky, soon joined Mario in the task of taking psychoanalysis even further.

Around Mário, Zaira and Lemmertz, gathered Ernesto La Porta, Paulo Guedes and David Zimmermann, soon followed by Günther Würth, Roberto Pinto Ribeiro and José Maria Santiago Wagner.

Along with Celestino and Cyro, Sérgio Paulo Annes, José de Barros Falcão, Avelino Costa, Manoel Antônio Albuquerque, Luís Carlos Meneghini, Leão Knijnik and Fernando Guedes joined forces to found in 1957 the Psychoanalytical Studies Center of Porto Alegre, constituting the core of founders, and produced the first formal document of the psychoanalytical movement in Porto Alegre.

After founding the Study Center, a struggle began for its recognition by IPA, what happened in 1961 as a Study Group, at the 22nd International Psychoanalytical Congress in Edinburgh, sponsored by the Rio de Janeiro Psychoanalytical Society. This certification involved much discussion and consultations between members and candidates. After two years the Study Group was officially recognized as Society in the 23rd International Psychoanalytical Congress in Stockholm. During these 47 years of existence the Society has always been in close relation with the university services of Psychology and Psychiatry, where many of its members and candidates are clinicians and professors.

Currently SPPA has a total of 201 members: 38 full, 61 associated, and 102 aspiring members, among them 130 psychiatrists and 71 psychologists. The Training Course for Children and Adolescents Psychoanalysts has been offered since 1997, now counting with 15 graduated analysts and 41 in training. In 1989

the participation of psychologists for psychoanalytical training at the SPPA was approved.

The structure of psychoanalytical training of the Psychoanalysis Institute of the Psychoanalytical Society of Porto Alegre is based on the Eitinger model. Before starting the seminars, one year of didactic analysis is required with four sessions a week that must continue until the end of the supervision of the first case. Selection is done through three interviews and curriculum analysis. The standard training includes four years of theoretical classes and two psychoanalytical cases are required, with four sessions a week, each one of them being supervised for 100 hours. To be trained as children and adolescents psychoanalyst it is necessary to accomplish the theoretical seminars of the standard training period and two years of theoretical seminars, plus two cases in analysis, one of a child and one of an adolescent, supervised for fifty hours each.

The pillar of training in our setting is the chronological study of Freud's work. The interest for the kleinian ideas was brought from Argentina by Mário Martins, Zaira Martins and Cyro Martins. Celestino Prunes, although training as classical analyst in Rio de Janeiro, also had great influence in this sense. We also had the participation of kleinian analysts at the dawning of the Society, through exchanges with Arnaldo Rascowsky, Leon Grinberg, Willy Baranger and Horácio Etchegoyen.

SPPA was predominantly kleinian at its origins and, along time, the presence of the French and American post kleinian authors grew. In the papers presented in the last five years for the title of associate member, the most cited authors were Freud, Klein, Bion, Winnicott and Meltzer.

The modern psychoanalytical streams have had influence on the SPPA since the kleinian development through the work of Hanna Segal, Bion, Meltzer, Winnicott, etc. Our Society has received, throughout the years in its scientific activities, exponents of psychoanalytical thinking such as: Leon Grinberg, Betty Joseph, Ruth Malcolm, Elizabeth Spillius, Christopher Bollas, Stefano Bolognini, Antonino Ferro, among many others.

The evolutions of ego psychology were added to the teaching curriculum from the beginning, through the work of Hartmann, Kris, Loewenstein and Margareth Mahler. The contact of the Society with the French school was incremented from André Green's visits to São Paulo in 1976 and Porto Alegre in 1994; Janine Chasseguet-Smirgel and Bela Grunberger in 1978 and 1987; René Diatkine in 1981.

Specially during the last five years, the study of the authors of the French School and of the intersubjectivity stream, have been more carefully considered inside the training program ratifying the importance, of the concept of analytic field, created by the Baranger couple in scientific thinking. Such themes officially becoming part of the curriculum of the fourth year or training at the Psychoanalytical Institute, which also included original texts by Lacan.

Generally speaking we can say that the main working line in our society focuses on stressing the clinical fact always taking into consideration the biological roots of human beings, with its instinct vicissitudes and the primitive object relations as a determinant model of the development of the psychic reality. As a link between those two poles we emphasize the concept of unconscious phantasy. The consequence of that concept for our clinical practice has been, independent of individual theoretical stances, to ratify the importance of preserving the setting, the method of free association, the use of interpretation, and the reconstruction of systematic and early analysis of the transference neurosis and of the use of countertransference. These pillars allowed for the careful inclusion of new concepts and more contemporary techniques of intersubjectivity.

Since 1993 the Society has had its own Journal of Psychoanalysis, published every four months, distributed to subscribers and as a courtesy for congenerous institutions and universities. The news from the institution is made public by means of a printed newsletter, published every six months, a weekly electronic newsletter and a website constantly updated.

The Psychoanalytical Service (CAP) provides psychoanalytical assistance to the people from the community who need analysis and who cannot afford the usual cost of such treatment.

Within the objective of applicability of psychoanalysis, the Society develops different activities with the community, such as: Assistance Program to the less favored schools of the municipality (SMED), many cultural activities focused on literature, movies, and the theatre, as well as scientific activities opened for the community, and study groups focused on university students.

The Association of SPPA Candidates was created in 1998 and is very active to these days, integrated to the institute, organizing an annual Symposium, and since 2006 having annual publications of papers written by the candidates.

The full member and teaching analyst Cláudio Laks Eizirik, was elected president of the IPA for the term from July 31st, 2005 to July 31st, 2009

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