

Call for Papers

Dear colleagues,

the first four-section conference of the EFPP (together with the DGPT, DPG, DPV, DGAP, DGIP, VAKJP, D3G, BVPPF) will take place in Berlin, Germany, from June 26th to 28th, 2015. The theme will be

BEYOND BABEL? ON SAMENESS AND OTHERNESS

You are invited to participate in a reflection and discussion of an old and yet modern topic. Babel still stands as a synonym for exile, slavery, godless- and sinfulness. Challenging questions may arise from it. Have we overcome Babel? How are we dealing with communication and its difficulties, the confusion of tongues and loss of common ground within our community? All this inevitably relates to the confusion and feared loss of values which are a main part of our daily work as psychoanalytic psychotherapists.

Babel is not only a metaphor for mangled communication, for alienation, division and distraction as contrasted by cultural and linguistic homogeneity. It is also about the acceptance or rejection of differences between ourselves and the other.

We could conceive of Babel also as a parable about the dismanteling of dogma. The idea of a stairway to heaven to be closer to God or indeed to be godlike leaves no space for otherness and leads to hatred and destruction. This might be replaced by a confusion of tongues, a multilingual community and the necessity to come to a mutual understanding through dialogue. In relating to others we create something third and new, diversification enriches communication. The search for unity ends in mystification or simplification and may exclude others. Not reduction is the aim but gaining complexity. This needs communication.

What maintains communication, what threatens it? What about similarity which stands between sameness and otherness? Is the other only conceivable as the opponent or even the enemy? Same and other can create a fruitful mixture - as in the "unio mystica" of the opposite sexes, but can also become deadly enemies.

We welcome topics relating to these themes and want to offer a few ideas in a general sense, meant to inspire your creativity:

Europe: an entity with different cultures, different languages – what is the common ground?/ Narcissism of the small differences/ New families, changing families: sameness or otherness/ Beyond Oedipus? Are theories timeless?/ Changes in theories/ plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose?/ Communication/ Internet/ communication breakdown/ Gender and communication/ Challenges and complexities of childhood and adolescence today/ Historical reflections and historical narratives/ etc..

Abstracts (in English, max. 300 words) are welcome for paper presentations (30min.), for workshops (a short introductory presentation followed by a discussion), and poster presentations. Please indicate your preference in the abstract which should be sent

until Sept 30th, 2014 (deadline)

to aschloesser@t-online.de. The scientific committee will decide on the papers and workshops of the conference program. Please note that by offering your contribution you agree that it may be included into a publication within the EFPP book series at Karnac's, London. Please also take care that there are no publication rights standing against that and that your text has not been published elsewhere. For any questions please contact us.

Looking forward to cooperating with you in creating an inspiring conference,
with best wishes,

Anne-Marie Schloesser Karla Hoven-Buchholz Hansjoerg Messner

on behalf of the Scientific Committee for the EFPP Berlin conference 2015

May 2014