**President’s letter**

It seems a long ago since I wrote the last president’s letter; looking back at this last two years I became aware who much the world changed. In April 2015, we had our study day in Turku, a calm city in southern Finland and it seemed that migration hasn’t reached yet the North as in the south of Europe, especially Italy. Some month before there was the terrible terror attack in Paris on Charlie Hebdo; it was horrible but it seemed that it was a reaction to the publication of a cartoon, in other words, we thought we had an explanation.

But then with the terror attacks in Paris in November 2015 another quality became obvious, terror began to become a regular, every-day madness which can happen everywhere; not only in the Middle East or Pakistan, Afghanistan or some other country outside of Europe. Most of the attacks where reclaimed by the so-called Islamic State but sometimes also by right-wing extremists. In other words, terrorism has become part of everyday life, just regular, every-day madness.

With our study day 2016 in Paris in collaboration with the Société Française de psychothérapie Psychanalytique de Groupe (SFPPG) we tried to reflect on these events. Philippe Robert gave a very stimulating presentation talking about “frontiers to think, external realities and psychic realities”. Looking back from the afterwardsness or “après coup” this title feels like a prediction of what we need in today’s world to not get lost in a world where destructive persons greedy for power become presidents of countries like the USA, Turkey, Russia etc. and the so-called war on terrorism is used to reject refugees and to build walls between countries. These frontiers exclude and demean the others and imped constructive reflecting on the changing world.

As Silvia Amati-Sas says, we all tend to “adapt to what so ever” to survive traumatic situations unless we find a way to reflect our situation. Philippe Robert pointed to the fact that we need basic security to be able to think. This we find it first in our primary group of belonging and later in groups of affiliations. EATGA’s aim is to reflect and question the changing outer reality and to try to understand how it affects the intrapsychic, the intersubjective and transsubjective space by considering the differences in cultural background. This common objective makes it a group of affiliations, a place where we can reflect together on a theme by considering our diverse backgrounds.

The idea of having our study days and workshops each time in a different place should help to realize how the environment affects the group process. The upcoming study day in Lyon “Un Updated Map of Transcultural Group Analysis; The mind/culture relationship in perspective of places, living spaces and landscapes” will focus on this issue to become aware of the impact of the setting in a broader sense on our clinical and theoretical activities.

As the executive mandate of the actual board is finishing this year we must think about the (re)elections which gives us the opportunity to discuss the future of the society, what the goals and aims could be and how we will continue; a question which came up every so often since the beginning of EATGA. It is an important question since the board needs the support and approval of the members to fulfil its task. I am curious where EATGA will go in a critical time.

Warm regards

Ruth Waldvogel