

REPORTS

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Ruth Waldvogel

Summary of the discussion re the paper of Juha-Matti Toivola

The summary of our discussion of Toivola's paper is not an easy task considering the richness of the different contributions. After looking through my notes I decided to give an overview of the different themes approached. My notes of the discussion can be read like the minutes of a group session even more so as we discussed the paper in the way of free association and the paper itself gives an account of associations to the name of our organisation. I will give an account of the discussion in order to recapture the different themes discussed.

We started the discussion with a comment made by Silvia about the importance of the paper as being the expression of thinking about what we are doing, an important task in our time of confusion. The uselessness of EATGA is psychoanalytic; giving up the uselessness would be a question to be discussed.

Throughout the whole discussion the point of the inner and outer worlds was strengthened. EATGA as a closed group can't survive, we have to open up and become aware of the changed world, include the effects of globalisation and the economy on our work. If we don't ask questions we won't get answers. On the other hand the link between us is the relationship, not a value outside. Pilgrimage is an individual position, yet there is the intersubjectivity, the network we are creating by sharing our thoughts and reflections. Transculturality is sharing experiences and the question arises about what we share, how we include the societal. Religion was mentioned as a link which might also serve as a defence.

An important point which came up from time to time was how we behave in groups, and the danger of just being nice with each other in order to avoid discussing the differences. Peer-differentiation is a difficult task; it would mean including the outer world, the diversities and the competition between the group members. The question arose about why our group meetings were so important for each of us. After the meetings we return to our everyday life, our therapies using our varying methods and techniques, we are doing a search, a research and not a pilgrimage. EATGA can be seen as a container of collective research for solutions of our everyday life and work. Globalisation invades us through TV, the Media etc. and it is important to resist being overwhelmed and to go on thinking. The theoretical frame is psychoanalytic and the group-work the tool as the present discussion shows.

The importance of words and understanding their meaning was emphasized at different moments and by different people. Words can be seen as a frame with which to communicate and to understand the other, as an inherent task of a group, but also as an instrument to

understand the changes of our times. The paper deconstructs the words like children deconstruct a watch in order to understand time. We need the language to share our thinking, which aids our understanding of one another.

I hope my account of the discussion helps you to remember our very lively discussion which I consider an important contribution to the question” what is EATGA?” .

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Christoph Rosemberger

Members present: Antonio d'Angio, Silvia Amati-Sas, Velia Bianchi Ranci, Dorothy Brown, Giovanna Cantarella, Bettina Fink, Alessandra Manzoni, Christine Schwankhard Perez de Laborda, Christoph Rosenberger, Giuseppe Ruvolo, Marlene Spero, Mary Spreng-Courtney, Juha Matti Toivola, Ruth Waldvogel, Elio Vera, Mary Bruin Wooster, Gerald Wooster, Anna Checchi, Maria Silvera.

Exchange of information: Elio Vera presented a brief resume of his organization, which has about 5000 members all over the world including 750 members in Germany and is business-oriented. An intercultural conference of SIETA is going to be held in Lille at the end of October.

Ruth described a series of transcultural psychoanalytic seminars in Basel with participants such as Michel Luc, Annette Simon and some colleagues from East-Berlin.

Gerald reported on a current series of conferences in London, organized by the Freud Museum since July 2010 with themes such as Psychotherapy and Climate Change“ and Psychotherapy and money“. There would appear to be a new interest in the relationship between power, money and psychotherapy.

Some EATGA-members have tried to communicate via the Internet with listed members of IAGP, but very few were ready to interact and the response was disappointing.

On transcultural work: The comment of Silvia Sas-Amati on study-day 3/2010 about the uselessness of EATGA came into focus once more. Juha Matti described it in his paper as a protection against self-destructive forces. Whereas Marlene Spero conceived it as a provocative statement, that enabled her to clarify the position of a working group (in the sense of Bion). She illustrated this by comments to her distributed paper“Culture and Organization-a working note“. There she described her involvement over a year with a British company in the defence and security industry, which had been taken over by its earlier, larger Italian competitor. She