2012 SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY REPORT

Juha-Matti Toivola

Eatga AGM Trieste March 11th 2012

Year 2011 was for Eatga a very interesting and fruitful working period. Study Day in Bilbao, Workshop in Palermo and Scientific Meeting in Basel gave us a unique possibility to reflect on transculturality in three so completely different ways in approaching our focus of interest. For me these three events formed also after all a nice continuum in which they support each other.

What make our work in Eatga so interesting, at least for me, are the so many levels of human life, we are studying. We have been discussing capitalism and its effects on human relations in society, we discuss libidinal investments and primitive affects in individuals, we discuss new social media, and we discuss individual or group trauma therapy. All these and much more were present during last year's events.

We are using psychoanalysis and group analysis as the basis of our study. But we lucky enough to be forced to use the help from many more disciplines like history, sociology, economics, organizational psychology, ethnology etc.

Bilbao Study Day

Very interesting Study Day and so many levels! How to help, how to integrate oneself to a new environment? We had two papers. One paper was about a European going to Africa to a place with a very violent history with Europeans and with themselves. The other was about to transfer from abroad a therapy system to an area with a recent history with violence with central government and with themselves. No wonder we were really struggling during the small and large groups? Maybe the question was, like they ask in airport in Israel, what is the purpose of your stay? Maybe we were in touch with chaos, violence, the unconscious in Europe; we like to see it in Africa, in refugees, in minorities, in local conflicts.

Palermo Work Shop

The analysis on Palermo workshop is still going on, but I felt that we were talking there about order vs. chaos, superego vs. id, connection vs. isolation, present vs. poison (gift). What is happening to us in this stage of capitalism? The changing capitalism is restructuring our social basic structure again and again and we have to find our social connections in new forms.

The connection vs. isolation dichotomy brought to my mind the history of Eatga. I was surprised by the fact that many our founding fathers and –mothers were involved so short period with Eatga. It seems to be easier to work on your own than stay connected and build something together.

Basel Scientific Meeting

In contrast to two former events we found us now in very bourgeois surroundings. And that is what they say is ruling in Europe at the moment. Bourgeois means also saving money, working hard and behaving the proper way.

We were struggling to find a form to work together in this Scientific Meeting. Maybe we could have smaller sub groups of 3-4 people working on one theme and presenting later findings and suggestion to later work in future for the whole group.

Maybe we could use our resources in organizational work to reorganize our own meetings.

Most interesting in Basel for me was talk around the history project. Although knowing the human condition I was surprised to learn about the cruel, bloody and violent fights our founding fathers and –mothers have had in the past. So maybe we don't have to be too ashamed about our present difficulties. I felt that we reached depressive position in our way of working in Basel.