



edited by Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb
with Dan Bloom, Jan Roubal, Jelena Zeleskov Djoric,
Michele Cannavò, Roberta La Rosa, Silvia Tosi, Valentina Pinna

The Aesthetic of Otherness: meeting at the boundary in a desensitized world Proceedings

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A joint AAGT and EAGT Conference at the crossroads of civilisations Taormina (Sicily), 22nd-25th September 2016 Proceedings

This book gathers proceedings from a conference of more than 1000 participants from across the world: the first joint AAGT (Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy) and EAGT (European Association for Gestalt Therapy) conference - with the organizational support of the Italian association, the SIPG (Società Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt).

The conference theme, “The Aesthetic of Otherness in a Desensitized World,” expressed how the interests of the international Gestalt therapy communities converged in the last few years. This theme brought together three principal concepts from the wide range of developments in Gestalt therapy literature, practice and teaching. They were the “aesthetic values in psychotherapy” our “interest in the “other” and our concern for “changes in society”.

What new ways have Gestalt psychotherapists developed that help clinicians to understand and address the needs of this world where we live?

Authors have contributed different types of articles - workshop narratives, panel or plenary presentations, and didactic papers.

Now, looking over the table of contents of this book, seeing all the countries where the authors live and practice, we are especially happy and proud of our work of editors.

As in the international conference at the crossroads of civilizations, you will “hear” different voices as you read different styles: a wonderful experience in which people transcended professional, personal and theoretical differences - to meet and value the otherness of the other.

The major success of this conference confirmed that Gestalt therapy is a lively and developing approach well-grounded in theory and practice, addressing itself more and more to research.

Dear readers, welcome to what has been called the “Taormina wave”!

From the Introduction by the Editors

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The Istituto di Gestalt series of Gestalt therapy books emerges from the ground of a growing interest in theory, research and clinical practice in the Gestalt community. The members of the Scientific and Editorial Boards have been committed for many years to the process of supporting research and publications in our field: through this series we want to offer our colleagues internationally the richness of the current trends in Gestalt therapy theory and practice, underpinned by research. The goal of this series is to develop the original principles in hermeneutic terms: to articulate a relational perspective, namely a phenomenological, aesthetic, field-oriented approach to psychotherapy. It is also intended to help professions and to support a solid development and dialogue of Gestalt therapy with other psychotherapeutic methods.

The series includes original books specifically created for it, as well as translations of volumes originally published in other languages. We hope that our editorial effort will support the growth of the Gestalt therapy community; a dialogue with other modalities and disciplines; and new developments in research, clinics and other fields where Gestalt therapy theory can be applied (e.g., organizations, education, political and social critique and movements).

We would like to dedicate this Gestalt Therapy Book Series to all our Masters and colleagues who have sown fruitful seeds in our minds and hearts.

Introduction by the Editors

Plenaries

A. My Other's Keeper: Resources for the Ethical Turn in Psychotherapy, by Donna M. Orange

Comments by Dan Bloom; Lynne Jacobs; Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb.

B. A Gestalt Research Program: Politics and Purity, by Leslie Greenberg, introduced by Jan Roubal

C. Atmospheres and Pathic Aesthetics, by Tonino Griffero

Comments by Monica Alvim Botero; Gianni Francesetti; Jean-Marie Robine.

Workshops by (see titles in the site www.gestaltitaly.com)

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