"Il centenario di *Psicologia delle masse e analisi dell'Io*"

A cura di Roberto Finelli e Luca Micaloni

Editoriale

Monografica

Abstract: Re-reading Freud masterwork on Mass Psychology, the article explores the transformations of some analytical categories as "mass", "individual", "fetish object", with an emphasis to the contemporary Italian context and, more generally, to the turning point of late capitalism. Fetishism is seen in relation to the Aestheticization of daily life and to the process of transitional agglomeration around a temporary ideological target.

Keywords: Freud; Adorno; Fetishism; Capitalism; Aestheticization.

Abstract: The essay intends to critically examine the difficulties of the passage in Freu- dian thought from individual psychology to collective psychology. The basic thesis is that in the thought of the Viennese master there is too easy a projection of the first on the second. The thesis of the primitive horde and the dominant male configures, according to the author, a birth of the history and primitive socialization of human beings established on physical force alone. In this way, and in a paradoxical way for Freud's own humanism, a magical-symbolic-cultural component of the beginning of civilization is completely neglected, as the anthropological work of Levi-Strauss has on the contrary well indicated. But what is most surprising, in the author's opinion, is that in this way Freud, in the need to expand the

imperialism of psychoanalysis on all the human sciences, first and foremost, the historical ones, returns to a theorization of "scene real "which he had completely abandoned in favor of a" scene of seduction only fantasmatized "precisely in the original founding act of psychoanalysis.

Keyword: Imperialismus of Psychoanalisys; Origin of History; The Name of Father; Primary Scene; Levi-Strauss; Lacan.

p. 47 Jens de Vleminck, *Peace Through Law? Freud, Einstein, and Kelsen on the Violence of Right*

Abstract: This article scrutinizes Sigmund Freud's *Why War?* (1933) by taking it as the focal point to explore the Freudian conception of violence. According to Freud, violence is intrinsically connected with the constitution of right. What is at stake in Freud's reflections is this very specific dynamic relation of violence and right, being equally important in his dispute with Albert Einstein. The debate between Freud and Einstein is problematized by confronting it with the legal philosophy of Hans Kel-sen. Special attention is given to Kelsen's critical review of Freud's *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego* (1921) as a landmark text of Freud's investigation of both man as a social being and the preconditions of human society. It is argued that Freud subscribes to both Einstein's and Kelsen's liberalism in order to radically criticize it. Based on his own conception of right as a temporary incantation of violence, Freud subverts the liberal thesis of *Peace Through Law*.

Keywords: Violence; Right; War; Peace; Freud; Einstein; Kelsen.

p. 77 Ana Meléndez, *La dinámica del trauma en relación a la identidad colectiva*

Abstract: This articles attempts to show how the discovery of the "death drive" is central to understand the Freudian conception of the human condition: to this drive can be attributed the source of destruction that threatens coexistence – when it goes outward – , as much as the possibility of it and a kind of pathological suffering – when it goes inward as a moral conscience. This will guide Freud not only towards a new understanding of trauma, but also towards a novel reinterpretation of social life. In his late work Freud encourages the probability that collective experiences also manage to be preserved by the group in a darkened and disfigured state, being able to break in and become traumatic for a new generation. Regarding the latter, Freud is not only anticipating the use that, since the eighties, is given to the concept of trau-ma to analyze historical and political phenomena so devastating for the members of a

community that strongly mark their memory, transforming their cultural identity. Freud also inaugurates an image of historical time as something that is not apprehen- ded by modern conceptual production.

Keywords: Subject; Trauma; Time; Collective Memory.

p. 105 Leonardo Diprima, *Mass Manipulation and Group Performance. Adorno's 'Freudian' Theory of Fascism*

Abstract: This article provides an overview of Adorno's adoption of Freudian group psychology in "Freudian Theory and the Pattern of Fascist Propaganda" and other works – and the application of its tenets to fascism and fascist propaganda. Adorno conceives of the latter as the artificial, instrumental activation of collective psychology for political purposes. Fascist leaders employ rhetorical techniques that are devoid of programmatic content, but that are modeled after Freudian psychology. Adorno also revisits Freudian psychology: he sticks to its central theoretical tenets but applies them to fascism against the backdrop of a wider sociological framework. On the one hand, Adorno understands individual psychology as activated, manipulated by the agitator for political ends and in a way abolished to the extent that it is manipulated; on the other, he underlines that this manipulation occurs in the specific context of modern mass society, in such a way that the group is destructive, self-destructive and irrational because the (artificially created) libidinal bonds which ground it are recognized by all parties as purely *performative*. Individuals, in other words, play a part in the process of their own subjugation. Adorno thus employs psychoanalytical tools while providing an explanatory framework that is much more concerned with the sociological presuppositions for the effectiveness of the psychology under exam than the original. While Freudian psychology is confirmed as substantially correct, it is applied to a certain extent against Freud, or at least as a complement to Freud's arguable lack of interest in the social and political consequences of his theory.

Keywords: Freud; Adorno; Fascism; Authoritarianism; Group Psychology.

p. 131 Marco Solinas, *Il populismo come regression. Sull'attualità della psicoanalisi politica di Franz Neumann*

Abstract: The paper aims to give an account of the actuality of Neumann's conception of the forms of psychological and political regression in relation to the thematization of populism. In particular, the paper aims to develop a conception of populism as regression starting form Neumann's theoretical insights. The psychoanalytical sides of Neumann's political theory is here analyzed starting from his essay *Angst und Pditik*. Neumann's conception of the forms of

political anxiety in the contest of right radical political movements is developed looking at the current debate on the forms of contemporary populism, including the conception of Chantal Mouffe and his interpretation of Carl Schmitt's theory of political.

Keywords: Populism; Regression; Political Anxiety; Franz Neumann; Theory of Conspiracy.

Abstract: Beginning with Freud's treatment of identification as an ambivalent pro- cess, we explore identification's polarization between narcissistic idealization and melancholic division. While narcissistic identification can be seen as a strategy adopted by the ego to avoid the educational development of its drives and to maintain itself either in whole or in part in an infantile state, melancholic identification activates a tension between the ego-ideal and the real ego at the expense of the latter. After discussing the ambivalence of identification, we review Freud's discussion of mass formations as group identifications, arguing that the work of facilitating a productive sublimation of the drives cannot be reduced to a strengthening of the artificial masses represented by social institutions such as the church and the educational system. Instead, the difference between mass formations allowing for collective sublimation and those suffering from narcissistic or melancholic blockages must be found in the productive qualities of the mass itself. In closing, we outline a few ways in which we might begin to understand the political contribution of masses to the maturation of human drives.

Keywords: Freud; Mass Psychology; Identification; Sublimation.

Abstract: The Primal Horde theory, first mentioned by Freud in *Totem and Taboo*, plays a fundamental role in his *Massenpsychologie*. Developed from Charles Darwin's writings on *The Descent of Man* and influenced by the patriarchal theories of Atkin- son and Lang, the image of the horde, regardless of its anthropological validity, can still be an excellent tool for investigating the contemporary masses. It should also be recognised, however, that Freud owes an important philosophical debt to Hobbe- sian philosophy: for both thinkers, society is founded on a negative ground, on the threat of a destructive Desire that makes paternal repression necessary. To imagine a positive ground for society, it is then necessary to

demonstrate the possibility of an alternative, constructive Desire. However, the hypermodern masses, far from having freed themselves from the Oedipal bond, still seem destined to come to terms with Thanatos, the Death drive.

Keywords: Primal Horde; Desire; Thanatos; Marcuse; Hypermodern Masses.

p. 209 Anna Sabatini Scalmanati, *Tempo dell'urgenza, tempo del dolore, tempo del pensiero: tre volti del presente*

Abstract: The subject of the article is the influence of social history on the history of the private, from the 'discontents' voiced by Freud to the 'malaise' of Kaes. Ac-celeration of 'doing' without limits which, deaf to the interdependence which links the living, leaves in the psiche fears that go beyond the threshold of thought and obscures the sphere of affections. 'Doing' which forces human beings, while they are afraid of the faces of their neighbours, the critical thought, blame, troubles and pain, project international space stations and new nuclear bombs. Schism between nature and culture which places humanity at the point of losing the world in order to deal exclusively with itself.

Keywords: Freud; Civilitation; Civility; Discontents; Nature; Culture.

Varia

p. 223 Mario Pezzzella, *Sacrificio a un dio oscuro. Céline dal* Voyage au bout de la nuit *all'antisemitismo come stato d'animo*

Abstract: *Bagatelle for a massacre* and Céline's anti-Semitism. The first novels. *Journey at the end of the night*. The trauma of war, colonialism and the Fordist factory. *Death on credit*. The disintegration of the patriarchal family and the loss of the father figure. Orphanhood as an obsessive metaphor. The passage from nihilism as an object of de-scription to nihilism as a self-destructive drive. The influence of Freud and *Beyond the pleasure principle*. Céline as a mirror of the collective unconscious and of the affective tone of fascism. Psychological reasons for anti-Semitism. The novels of the second postwar period. From the description of personal trauma to collective trauma. The bombing and destruction of cities as an obsessive metaphor. Céline "chronicler" of the self-destruction of Europe.

Keywords: Céline; Antisemitism; *Voyage au bout de la nuit*; Adorno.

Abstract: The article is a contribution to the analysis of some of the many Lebnizianthemes that have contributed to animate and shape the structure of Pierre Bourdieu's social theory. In particular, the article examines some elements of contact and affinitybetween the Bourdieusian concept of habitus and the Leibnizian concept of monad, as well as between the system of the correspondence between first- and second-orderobjectivity developed by Bourdieu and the model of harmony theorised by Leibniz.

Keywords: Bourdieu; Leibniz; Habitus; Monad; Harmony.

Abstract: The essay proposes to extend the paradigm of Real Abstraction to the sphere of the Theory of Need. Previous studies have dealt with needs in a Marxist key(Heller, Keucheyan), attempting to define how to recognize which ones are authentic. Nevertheless, they haven't got rid of the antinomy between luxury and frugality, which the same Marx in the *1844 Manuscripts* considered typical of bourgeois economists. Taking suggestions from the pages on *Needs, Production, and the Division of Labor*, this paper aims to define use value as general need: to work properly, thefirst thing capitalism must produce is in fact a state of need in itself. As a result, we can identify as "consume fetishism" this inversion between supply and demand. Extending Finelli's reflections on the persistence of the *Gattungswesen* paradigm, wecan hence describe the evolution of Marx's thought as an overturning of the same antinomy from one opposite to the other. In his early writings, he criticized money for being a general need and magnified the general nature of human labor. In the *Grundrisse*, on the contrary, he criticized general labor for crushing the singularity of the workers, while praising the capacity of capitalism to make man's needs more general. As a result, we may have to put in doubt the classic paradigm of the contradiction between Capital and Labor. Maybe the core conflict to face is between an economy of abstract needs and a politics of concrete needs.

Keywords: Theory of Need; Theory of Value; Real Abstraction; Fetishism; Roberto Finelli.

Abstract: The author, drawing on her own experience as a psychoanalyst, focuses ina few lines

on the dynamics peculiar to all conflicts, both personal and collective. She assumes a reading in which the internal and external worlds reflect each other, just as the universal reflects the personal. Wars, all wars, starting with the war in Ukraine, should be approached in the same way as a child disputed by parental 'superpowers', by considering and understanding the reasons of all the parties involved in order to avoid any form of totalitarian Manichaeism. Children caught up in conflicts risk not realising that they are actually serving the will to power of this or that parent. The war is not about who 'wins' the child but between the parents who use the child to wage war on themselves. As long as the movements of the psyche do not enter the field of collective awareness, no form of real pacification will be able to prevail over the games of force always fuelled by the use of weapons, real or metaphorical.

Keywords: Ukraine-War; Manicheism; Internal World; Collective Awareness; Metaphorical Weapons.

Recensioni e segnalazioni