The Aesthetic *of* Otherness:

meeting at the boundary in a desensitized world

A joint AAGT and EAGT Gestalt Conference at the crossroads of civilisations

22nd-25th September 2016
Taormina (Sicily),
Hilton Hotel

The conference theme focuses on some cornerstones and growing edges of Gestalt Therapy theory and practice. We will explore the aesthetic dimension of otherness in the contemporary world that seems characterized by a high degree of desensitisation.

Aesthetic comes from the Greek, meaning 'perceived by senses'.

Otherness refers to a process of emerging subjectivities, a process of mutual **co-creation at the contact-boundary**. In this process are rooted the ethical, clinical, social and political dimensions of experience. How is this process supported or prevented in a **desensitized world**?

How does this affect our practice when occurring in therapy, in organisations and communities, in learning and teaching, in social and political dimensions? We will be inspired by Dostoyevsky's provoking question: "will beauty save the world?" And which beauty? We will explore these themes, raise our awareness, make new contacts and develop ourselves in the process of meeting each other. And we will discover these together at the historic crossroads of civilizations – the Hellenic, Roman, and Islamic.

A scientific focus: a focus on the developments of GT in different domains (application of GT in clinical, organisations, research, education, arts, politics, etc.)

A social focus: a focus on how we meet each other in a learning and teaching community, and a focus on the situation of GT in the actual society and wider field.

A political focus: a focus on the social situation in the actual world, starting from the local situation in Sicily. It is a living laboratory at the crossroads of civilisations experiencing the challenges of immigration and integration.

The proposals for lectures, workshops and posters will be processed by peer blind review. **Deadline for presenting the proposals is October 31st 2015**.

Join us in this passionate and exciting experiment in co-creating a learning and teaching community in Taormina, one of the most beautiful historical places in the world, a real crossroad of civilisations!

The Hilton Hotel offers special room rates for conference registrants
www.taorminaconference2016.com

Conference Registration Fees (in euros)	Students	AAGT, EAGT, SIPG members	non members
Before Sept. 30th 2015	180	280	330
Before April 30th 2016	230	330	380
Before August 31st 2016	280	380	430
After August 31st 2016 and at the conference	310	410	460

The AAGT and EAGT will be providing support to those people who need financial assistance to attend the conference. Scholarship funds will be available.

The registration fee covers participation in the conference, dinner on Thu 22nd, lunch on Fri 23rd and Sat 24th, and the social dinner on Sat 24th at the Hilton Hotel Taormina. It does not include dinner on the 23rd and lunch on the 25th. Lodging costs are separate and conference participants must make their own arrangements.

This is the first AAGT and EAGT joint Conference:
a unique opportunity for the two main international associations for Gestalt therapy to meet and learn from each other!

Taormina, May 7th, 1787
"...though from the neighbouring country we felt it impossible to part before sunset. Infinitely beautiful was it to observe this region, of which every point had its interest, gradually enveloped in darkness."

W. Goethe, Italian Journeys

Planning and Scientific Committee

Claire Asherson Bartram, Dan Bloom, Michele Cannavò, Dominique Chabre, Gail Feinstein, Gianni Francesetti, Cathy Gray, Elena Guerri, Perry Klepner, Roberta La Rosa, Burt Lazarin, Nurith Levi, Jack Van Liesdonk, Sue O'Rourke, Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb, Silvia Tosi, Jelena Zeleskov-Djoric

Local Organizer
SIPG (Società Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt)

More info:
www.taorminaconference2016.com

Conference conveners
Gianni Francesetti, Burt Lazarin, Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb, Jelena Zeleskov Djoric

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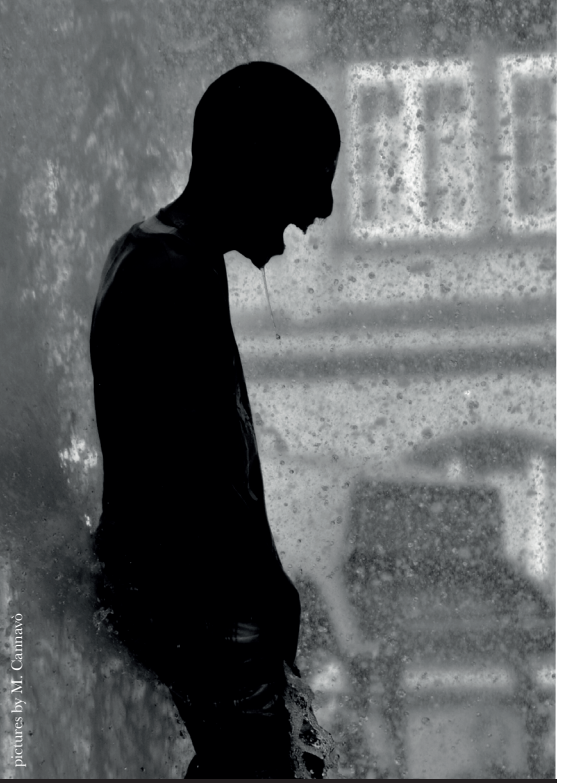

pictures by M. Cannavò

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