

A generative crossroads for contemporary psychoanalysis: about the IFPS Forum in Bergamo

*Psychoanalysis facing the challenges of postmodern society:
new frameworks, models, and perspectives for navigating complexity*

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The XXIII IFPS Forum, held in Bergamo, Italy, from October 23 to 26, 2024, was much more than a scientific event: it was a dense, generative experience capable of setting thoughts, emotions, and relationships in motion.

With more than 370 participants from over thirty international psychoanalytic societies, the event was a fruitful crossroads of disciplines, cultures, theoretical models, and clinical styles, in which exchange proved to be an engine of collective and personal transformation.

SIPRe played an active and significant role in the work of the Forum, both through the participation and contributions of its members and through the presence of its own institutional representatives.

As delegates of our Society, we had a double experience: the pleasure of being the voice of a cohesive and vibrant scientific community and the opportunity to measure ourselves against different cultural and linguistic contexts, forging bonds that transcend geographical boundaries and stimulate new ideas.

The pre-forum began with the traditional days dedicated to the work of the Steering Committee and the Assembly of Delegates, during which Anna Maria Loiacono of the H.S. Sullivan Institute of Psychoanalysis in Florence was elected as the new IFPS Secretary-General. This appointment is particularly dear to us because of the theoretical and clinical proximity and close sci-

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entific collaboration long contracted between SIPRe and the Sullivan Institute. ICPsyA of South Korea was also admitted as a member of IFPS, a tangible sign of IFPS's increasing openness to new horizons – ethnographic, cultural, and geographical – in view also of the current emergence and 'Westernization' of Far Eastern countries. Also, during the work of the pre-forum, regarding the topic of IFPS's operation and image, one of the most stimulating proposals that emerged was the opportunity to strengthen the IFPS's telematic network, in order to increase international dialogue and visibility of member societies both within IFPS and outside. Coming to the three-day Forum, the presence of internationally renowned speakers with their contributions was able to interweave neuroscience, clinical, and micro-science: Mark Solms took us on a journey about the dreaming brain, Vittorio Gallese explored the Digital Self, Giovanni Lingiardi illustrated the new PDM-III in the context of social metamorphoses, and Massimo Ammaniti reflected on the centers of gravity of the adolescent. Compared to the rest of the papers presented, it seemed to us that a common thread was predominant: dialogue between the neurophysiological dimension of consciousness and psychoanalytic reflection on the contemporary subject. Numerous contributions from SIPRe members enriched the scientific program, starting with those focused on adolescence, temporality, dissociation in the analysis room, and exploring the relationship between the conscious and unconscious in a relational perspective. Deserving special mention were the papers presented by SIPRe alumni, which highlighted their educational quality and their addressing of themes in agreement with current clinical challenges, in accordance with the guidelines of the Forum's title. The section of the Forum dedicated to the recognition given to the best papers presented by the alumni of the schools of the member societies, *i.e.*, the *Benedetti Conci Award*, which represents the institutional commitment of each FORUM, attests to the privileged attention that IFPS has always devoted to the training and contribution of the younger generations, considered protagonists of the future of psychoanalysis. In this regard, we are pleased to mention among the awardees a first-year student of the SIPRe Training Institute.

At this point, it is worth noting that the diversification of thematic fields, which over time index the biennial forums, testifies to IFPS's attention to the trend of social processes and historical dimensions we are experiencing. Consistent with this attitude, the Bergamo Forum also enabled participants to grasp the connection between the transformative process of the world and the dynamic directions of psychoanalytic theories. It is also important to point out that in addition to the scientific dimension, that flavor that makes the Forum really special is what happens in the 'interstitial' spaces, the more 'social' ones, those between one talk and another, between one panel and another, or on even more informal occasions, unforeseen and unpredictable occasions where novel thoughts, new collaborations, and sharing of visions are born.