

Mediterranean Journal of Clinical Psychology

MJCP ISSN: 2282-1619

VOL. 5, N.1 (2017)

Book Review

To the origins of psychosis Study paths between clinic and culture

AMELIA RIZZO

Psychologist, PhD in Psychological Sciences, University of Messina

Email Corresponding author: amrizzo@unime.it

The volume, edited by Daniele La Barbera, Luigi Baldari and Lucia Sideli, deals with the extended contributions of the Italian Society of Medical Psychotherapy Congress, which took place in April 2015 in Messina. Original title: “*Alle origini della psicosi. Percorsi di studio tra clinica e cultura*” Editor: Nuova Ipsa Editore, 2017 N. of pages: 159 Language: Italian. The papers exposed have been focused on various topics related to psychosis, analysed from several scientific points of view with a common thread.

Psychotic diseases represent one of the toughest challenges for psychiatry and clinical psychology because of the heterogeneity of psychopathological manifestations, the degrees of disability in the global functioning, caregivers burden and high costs for society.

Several lines of scientific evidence support the presence of psychotic symptoms in the general population, suggesting the existence of a spectrum which spans from subclinical psychotic experiences to psychotic and affective disorders (Van Os *et al.*, 2009). For this reason in the last few years there is increasing scientific and clinical interest - as suggested in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition (DSM – 5) - (1) in the recognition of the prodromal symptoms and the intake of attenuated psychosis syndrome (APS) and (2) in all those bio-psycho-social factors that may precipitate the onset of the psychotic features in

predetermined individuals, including stressful life events such as: interpersonal traumatic experiences, communication disorders and dissatisfaction with family life, migration process and social isolation, substances consumption or cannabis and stimulants abuse (Howes et al., 2012).

From a clinical point of view, the progressive commitment to developing methodologies and protocols addressed to all those patients labeled as psychotics and traditionally considered not suitable for psychotherapeutic treatment should be considered. This, of course, has increasingly enriched the experience of clinicians for the peculiarities of the content offered by these patients and the resonance they produce both on the relational and emotional side. It is no coincidence that Jung, sensing in a unique way the latest neurobiological theories (Kapur et al., 2005), realized that psychotic disorders were characterized by a polarization on the deepest anthropological and existential themes, whose increased salience seems to correspond to hyperactivity of the subcortical regions (Silverstein, 2014).

To know and to understand a complex psychopathological theme it is necessary to scan it in all its aspects, from the most easily visible and superficial to the hidden and deep ones. Dealing with psychosis means to speak of the indissoluble bonds that these conditions have with the personality (see Muscatello *et al.*), with the emotional and relational experiences (see Ferraro *et al.*) and with all his trans-personal and trans-generational baggage (see Frigione) made of stories and, often, with decisive family dynamics (see Marchese *et al.*)

In a complex and multiform view, it is important to consider the relationship between psychosis and other psychopathological manifestations (see Baldari) and, in addition, the relationship with internal or external key risk factors, such as possible neuropsychological alternations (see La Cascia *et al.*) or a history of drug abuse (Pomar *et al.*). The interest of psychiatry and clinical psychology cannot ignore the consideration of the socio-cultural context, in which the most varied forms of psychosis are manifested. Despite their importance focusing on purely theoretical contributions and studies is insufficient; it is rather necessary understanding the concrete relationships between psychotic experiences and the anthropological and cultural aspects (see English, see Guarneri and Pitti), by realizing the impact that these pathologies have on contemporary reality. An impact that finds tangible representation in many cultural references (see Furchi), particularly in the post-modern literature (see La Barbera and Taffaro) and the cinematographic world (see Inguglia).

The approach to psychotic disorders must also include the study of experiences and inner dimension, so that the increased knowledge could indicate effective pathways of care and recovery (Settineri *et al.*, 2015; Rizzo *et al.*, 2015). For these reasons, it is crucial to try to fully understand psychotic experiences, thanks to the availability of different models and

theoretical approaches (see Sartorio and Marinaro), producing a substantial starting point for the progressive improvement of clinical practice (see Rizzo and Mento), of internal experiences of residential structures (see Sideli et al.) and of rehabilitation activities (see Sartorio et al.).

Overall, the whole set of contributions contained in this book could facilitate mental health professionals to take a multilateral and multi-faceted vision, able to unify the most different aspects that contribute to determining psychotic conditions and improve treatment paths.

Table of Contents

Daniele La Barbera

Introduzione / *Introduction*

Luigi Baldari

Condizioni dissociative e psicosi / *Dissociative conditions and psychosis*

Daniele La Barbera, Luciana Taffaro

L'esperienza psicotica nella letteratura post-moderna da Philip K. Dick a Murakami Haruki / *The psychotic experience in post-modern literature from Philip K. Dick to Murakami Haruki*

Francesco Furchi

La scissione: dai racconti di Poe a esempi tratti dalla clinica / *The split: from Poe's stories to examples from the clinic*

Maurizio Guarneri e Gaetano Pitti

Le origini, la psicosi e la "soluzione integralista" / *Origins, psychosis and the "integralist solution"*

Maria Rosaria Anna Muscatello, Giuseppa Gallo, Viviana Carlotta, Manuela Crucitti

Le origini personologiche delle psicosi / *The personological origins of psychoses*

Salvatore Inglese

La follia ricombinante. Riflessioni etnopsichiatriche sulle modalità transculturali di esistenza psicosica / *Recombinant madness.*

Ethnopsychiatric reflections on transcultural modes of psychotic existence

Michele Inguglia

Cinema e psicoanalisi di gruppo. Funzionamento mentale psicotico di gruppo: "L'Onda" / *Cinema and group psychoanalysis. Psychotic Group*

mental functioning: "The Wave"

Tiziana Frigione

Trans-personale e trans-generazionale nell'esperienza psicotica / *Trans-personal and trans-generational in psychotic experience*

Amelia Rizzo e Carmela Mento

Schizofrenia e Psicoterapia: focus sulla metodologia / *Schizophrenia and Psychotherapy: focus on methodology*

Fulvio Marchese, Caterina La Cascia e Lucia Sideli

Patriarcato e Matriarcato sullo sfondo del processo psicotico / *Patriarchate and Matriarchy in the background of the psychotic process*

Laura Ferraro, Sonia Balatti, Fabio Seminerio e Daniele La Barbera

Il riconoscimento delle emozioni facciali all'esordio psicotico / *The recognition of facial emotions at the psychotic onset*

Crocettarachele Sartorio e Anna Maria Marinaro

Le esperienze psicotiche: uno sguardo gestaltico / *Psychotic experiences: a gestaltic look*

Caterina La Cascia, Giada Tripoli, Erika Loi e Lucia Sideli

Working memory e jumping to conclusions: possibile correlazione al primo episodio psicotico / *Working memory and jumping to conclusions: Possible correlation to the first psychotic episode*

Lucia Sideli, Antonio Francomano, Caterina La Cascia, Loredana Barrale, Carmela Teresi, Maristella Messina e Daniele La Barbera

Vita di comunità, emozioni e trame relazionali. Un'indagine qualitativa sulla vita quotidiana in Comunità Terapeutica Assistita / *Community life, emotions and relational patterns. A qualitative survey on everyday life in Assisted therapeutic community*

Marta Pomar, Alice Mulè, Daniele La Barbera

Cannabis e psicosi: un contributo di ricerca / *Cannabis and psychosis: a research contribution*

Crocettarachele Sartorio, Caterina La Cascia, Antonio Francomano, Lucia Sideli, Daniele La Barbera

Il lavoro di rete in Riabilitazione Psichiatrica: appunti sul gruppo "Albatros" / *Networking in Psychiatric Rehabilitation: notes on the "Albatros" group*

References

Van Os, J., Linscott, R. J., Myin-Germeys, I., Delespaul, P., & Krabbendam, L. (2009). A systematic review and meta-analysis of the psychosis continuum: evidence for a psychosis proneness–persistence–impairment model of psychotic disorder. *Psychological medicine*, 39(02), 179-195.

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM-5®). American Psychiatric Pub.

D Howes, O., Fusar-Poli, P., Bloomfield, M., Selvaraj, S., & McGuire, P. (2012). From the prodrome to chronic schizophrenia: the neurobiology underlying psychotic symptoms and cognitive impairments. *Current pharmaceutical design*, 18(4), 459-465.

Kapur, S., Mizrahi, R., & Li, M. (2005). From dopamine to salience to psychosis—linking biology, pharmacology and phenomenology of psychosis. *Schizophrenia research*, 79(1), 59-68.

Rizzo, A., Della Villa, L., & Crisi, A. (2015). Can the Problematic Internet Use evolve in a pre-psychotic state? A single case study with the Wartegg. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 51, 532-538.

Settineri, S., Dritto, I. P., Morabito, V., Mento, C. (2015). The Self Representation in Schizophrenic patients: Considerations on the Draw a Tree Test. *Mediterranean Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 3(2).

Silverstein, R. M., Webster, F. X., Kiemle, D. J., & Bryce, D. L. (2014). *Spectrometric identification of organic compounds*. John Wiley & sons.

© 2014 by the Author(s); licensee Mediterranean Journal of Clinical Psychology, Messina, Italy. This article is an open access article, licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. Mediterranean Journal of Clinical Psychology, Vol. V, No. 1 (2017).

Doi: [10.6092/2282-1619/2017.5.1526](https://doi.org/10.6092/2282-1619/2017.5.1526)