

3rd Symposium

The Maternal Function in Psychosomatic Clinical Practice



Theoharakis Institute Auditorium

9, Vassilissis Sofias avenue, Athens

Saturday November 1st, 2025

P r o g r a m

9.00-9.15 Reception of participants

9.15-10.45 Conference of **Diana Tabacof**

From Excitation to Drive : The Maternal Function at the core of clinical transformations.

Discussion with the audience

Session chaired by **Iacovos Cleopas**

10.45–11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.45 Discussion of the D. Tabacof's presentation

Panos Aloupis and **Fotis Bobos**

Discussion with the audience

Session chaired by **Denny Panitz**

12.45-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-17.15 Clinical workshops

Workshop I **child clinics**

Coordinator: **Denny Panitz**, Presentation: **Nancy Taloumi**

“When the psyche transforms certain physical manifestations, painful and non-painful, into its messengers. (In the case of an eleven-year-old boy)

Discussed by : **Ariadne Tsagada**

Workshop I **adult clinics**

Coordinator: **Vassilis Dimopoulos**, Presentation: **Maria Lazaridou**

“Deficiencies and weaknesses of maternal functioning in the case of a patient with an autoimmune disease and the difficulties of the therapeutic relationship”

Discussed by : **Christina Michalopoulou, Maria Chatziandreou**

17.45-18.00 Closing of the Symposium

Simultaneous translation into greek and english

ARGUMENT

The concept of the maternal function refers to childhood and the overall role of the mother in her relationship with the child. P. Marty attributed to the maternal function—through the mother's tenderness toward the child—a narcissistic investment in the body, which plays a significant role (positive or negative) in the development of bodily functions and the psychosomatic maturation of the subject. M. Fain's notion of the "censorship of the lover," as an aspect of the maternal function, opposes this narcissistic investment and introduces conflicts by bringing in the erotic third and the primal scene. A. Green also considers the maternal function a necessary condition for the representation of the subject's framing structure.

The analyst occupies a position analogous to the maternal object, with its dual aspects of narcissistic investment and the "censorship of the lover": on one hand, the analyst is attentive and physically present during the session, offering meaning and serving as a protective shield against overstimulation for the analysand; on the other hand, the analyst interrupts the session by determining its end and is absent during vacations, pursuing his own libidinal desires with a third party. These two poles of the analytic function make the analyst an "ethical subject." Resistance to the analytic-maternal function—by both analyst and analysand—represents the emerging bedrock of repudiation toward passivity and femininity-motherhood in both sexes, as Freud emphasized in his 1937 text.

In psychosomatic clinical work, the maternal function according to P. Marty, when faced with patients who may present somatic illnesses, places the analyst in the position of a responsible and concerned mother regarding the psychosomatic health of her child—something that also echoes D. W. Winnicott's notion of primary maternal preoccupation.

P. Aloupis, F. Bobos

INSCRIPTIONS

Full price : until **September 30th** : **60 €**, after : **70 €**.

Candidates: until **September 30th** : **50€** after **60 €**.

Students : **30 €** .

Deposit to :

IBAN: **GR5001403410341002002011216** Alpha Bank

Participants

Diana Tabacof : psychologist, member of the Paris Psychoanalytical Society, psychosomatician, training member of the IPSO Paris, president of the IPSO Paris, and vice-présidente of the Internationale Psychosomatic Association Pierre Marty (AIPPM). Co-chair of the Committee "Psychosomatics in contemporary psychoanalysis" of the EPF.

Panos Aloupis : PhD, psychiatrist, member of the Paris Psychoanalytical Society, psychosomatician, training member and general secretary of the IPSO Paris and of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics. Member of the AIPPM.

Fotis Bobos : psychiatrist and training and supervising psychoanalyst of the Hellenic Psychoanalytical Society, psychosomatician, training director of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics, and member of the IPSO Paris. Member of the AIPPM.

Maria Chatziandreou : psychiatrist and training and supervising psychoanalyst of the Hellenic Psychoanalytical Society and candidate of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics.

Iacovos Cleopas : PhD, neuropsychologist, member of the Hellenic Psychoanalytical Society, psychosomatician, training member and president of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics, and member of the IPSO Paris. Member and general secretary of the AIPPM. He is professing psychosomatics and health psychology, Master in Clinical Psychology, University of Athens.

Vassilis Dimopoulos : psychiatrist and training and supervising psychoanalyst of the Hellenic Psychoanalytical Society, psychosomatician training member of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics and member of the IPSO Paris. Member of the AIPPM.

Maria Lazaridou : psychiatrist, candidate of the Hellenic Psychoanalytical Society and of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics.

Christina Michalopoulou : psychologist, candidate of the Hellenic Psychoanalytical Society and of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics. Member of the Société Française de Psychothérapie Psychanalytique de Groupe and of the Hellenic Society of Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy of Group.

Denny Panitz : PhD, clinical psychologist and training and supervising psychoanalyst, child and adolescent psychoanalyst of the Hellenic Psychoanalytical Society, psychosomatician, member and general secretary of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics. Member of the AIPPM. Chair of the Committee "Psychosomatics in contemporary psychoanalysis" of the EPF.

Nancy Taloumi : psychologist and a child and adolescent psychotherapist. Training member and supervisor of the Hellenic Society of Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy of Child and Adolescent. Scientific associate of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics.

Ariadne Tsagada : clinical psychologist, candidate of the Hellenic Psychoanalytical Society and of the Athens Institute of Psychosomatics