

3rd Symposium

The Maternal Function in Psychosomatic Clinical Practice



Pasteur Institute Auditorium

127, Vassilissis Sofias avenue, 115 21 Athens

Saturday November 1st, 2025

P r o g r a m

9.00-9.30 Reception of participants

9.30-11.00 Speech 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**

11.00–11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 Discussion of the D. Tabacof's presentation

Panos Aloupis and **Fotis Bobos**

Discussion with the audience

Session chaired by **Denny Panitz**

13.00-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-16.00 Clinical workshop

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, Alkis Tsiantis**

16.15-17.45 Clinical workshop

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

“The body communicates through mobility and disease: deficiencies and/or failures of the protective shield and maternal function in the case of a patient with an autoimmune disease”

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 €** .

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