

Dear friends ,

I am happy to say that our 2011 work has been marked by interesting experiences and possibilities of group thinking.

We can read about them in C.Rosemberg's report on our Basel scientific meeting (on november) about Bilbao Study day (on march) and Palermo Workshop ( on may) .

Another important event has been EATGA affiliation to IAGP,with the perspective of opening our activities to other organizations interested in transculturality, with which we expect to widen exchanges and continue our participation in international events

Through the work of A.Manzoni , Eatga is also collaborating with Fondazione Cecchini Terranova and participating in a the Congress in London of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry with a paper that you can read in this newsletter issue.

Another point to be considered is that EATGA ,as an institution, is collaborating with an University research (Palermo) and we expect to have other opportunities of this sort of collaboration

Transculturality is a very complex subject that needs constantly to be defined through actual experience. as it is seen in the research about EATGA's past which is lead nowadays through the interviews and testimony of founders .

Our present socio -cultural experience has been conveyed by our Palermitan members offering a workshop about transcultural globalized world in its economic aspects. They propose the problem of "exchange and gift in a globalized world" as it is seen through the eyes of the diverse local cultures and meta- cultures that we all represent.

They have proposed two different new interesting inputs, one is a technical problem about the ws. staff to be more attentive and concerned about the theme of the workshop in their work (I understand this not in the sense of proposing a discussion but as "to be attentive to hear and to be able to include" the ws theme when it appears in the group material). In fact we had observed in several occasions that the announced theme of a workshop or of a Study day was often not included in the groups exchange and interpretations, and that we stay too much in repetitive problems ( language difference for instance).

Their second proposal is a thematic input about the globalized economic problems of the world today (a very actual everyday situation in Europe!!) .

To consider together the technical changes and the new thematic field is a challenge for Eatga , but we are still in "altomare" and need more working through, in particular because we need a common theoretical background in matters where we are not yet enough accustomed to think about. . We need to reflect together and in this sense the scientific meeting produced a lively common reflection although we regret that most of Palermo staff members were missing in Basel.

A net separation between the staff and the participants during a workshop can be a useful technique but this technical splitting cannot be continued when we discuss later the main points of the experience. The importance of the Scientific meeting is to be the useful occasion to discuss a workshop and integrate group experience with the main hypothesis of the research through free “brain storming” sessions.

It is worth to consider that “something” (a dream giving “figures” to the theme of the workshop) happened in Palermo. This dream can be seen as paradigmatic of a transcultural group experience in which we wish to integrate the individual and groupal experience about finding oneself in a somehow new or unknown place and the need to face our own social, cultural or economic prejudices. (See the text and discussion of Juha-Matti’s dream in Rosemberger’s report of Scientific meeting)

We see the unconscious integration of a personal dream with sociocultural facts, the “astonishment” of the dreamer about an imposed abuse avoiding the possibility to give and receive (hand cut) in comparison to the expected economic “normal” or legal exchange. This dream may express the perplexities and suspicion of a whole group about a “hidden culture”.

The Bilbao Study Day has also shown the real difficulties to confront other mentalities, I believe that this problem could not be avoided by organizing procedures, but certainly EATGA’s members knew very little about the historical and ideological background of our hosts.

As our executive mandate is finishing next year we will review and discuss in our next general assembly about our economic resources in view of EATGA’s future workshops and activities. So, let us be rich of these 2011 experiences and go on.

Friendly  
*Silvia*