Psychoanalysis, Trauma, and Community: History and Contemporary Reappraisals

Edited by Judith L. Alpert, Elizabeth R. Goren

Psychoanalysis Trauma and Community seeks to correct the misconceptions of what analysts do and debunk the stereotype of psychoanalysts stuck in their offices plying their wares on the worried well. Bringing together a group of eminent contributors, this volume considers how psychoanalysis may best be expanded to help in social and community settings, to understand these wider issues from a psychoanalytic perspective, and provide clear clinical guidance and clinical examples of how best to work in a wide variety of non-traditional ways. The innovative work featured includes taking testimony, in-situ interviewing, documentary film-making, social activism, ethnic and political conflict mediation, on-site workshops as well as direct clinical interventions. The reader is taken from the Holocaust, Hiroshima and the Vietnam War to the Balkan Wars and Palestinian-Israeli conflict, from the political violence of the disappeared in Argentina to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, and from chronic conditions of poverty in India to racism in the post-Jim Crow South. This book offers concrete advice on dealing with intervention issues such as entry and integration, as well as on management of multiple and complex trauma in a non-clinical setting.

Table of Contents:

Foreword xiii

Nina K. Thomas

Notes on contributors xvii

Introduction: Expanding our analytic identity: The inclusion of a larger social perspective 1
Judith L. Alpert, Elizabeth R. Goren, and Andrea Rihm

Part I

Receiving testimony 25
1 Reestablishing the internal “Thou” in testimony of trauma 27
Dori Laub
2 Dwelling at the thresholds: Witnesses to historical trauma across concentric fields 43
Judy Roth

Part II

Therapeutic encounters outside the frame 67
3 The multiple traumas of Hurricane Katrina as witnessed by a psychoanalytic first responder 69
Laurel Bass Wagner

x Contents
4 Some dark reality: A community develops skills to cope with shared trauma 85
Ghislain e Boulanger
5 Psychoanalysis in and out of the office 91
Neil Altman

Part III
Facilitating collective mourning 105
6 Intervention strategies for addressing collective trauma:
Healing communities ravaged by racial strife 107
Ricardo C. Ainslie
7 Beyond “thank you for your service”: The creation of post-war
veteran/non-veteran collaborative mourning spaces 122
Donna Bassin
8 Large-group identity and massive trauma 145
Vamik D. Volkan

Part IV
Psychoanalytic scholarship and activism 163
9 The analyst as witness, historian and activist:
A conversation with Robert Jay Lifton 165
Eli zab eth R. Goren an d Judit h L. Alp ert
10 My Fulbright journey 188
Mary-Joan Gerson
11 Social trauma, politics and psychoanalysis:
A personal narrative 194
Nancy Caro Hollander
12 Institutional betrayal and the case of the American
Psychological Association: The role of psychoanalysts and
psychoanalysis in challenging it 214
Eli zab eth Hegeman

13 Robert Jay Lifton: A witness and prophet who feels
deeply and assaults our minds 231
Lewis Aron

Conclusion: Psychoanalysis, trauma, and community:
Lessons learned 238
Alis on Lak e, Eli zab eth R. Goren, an d Judit h L. Alp ert

Index 253

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