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The History of the International Federation of Psychoanalytic Societies (IFPS) in Latin America

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The Foundation of IFPS

The *Sociedad Psicoanalítica Mexicana AC*, under Erich Fromm's guidance and representation, played a central role in the creation of the *International Federation of Psychoanalytic Societies* (IFPS). IFPS was founded on July 30, 1962, "according to the constitutional documents signed in Amsterdam by Werner Schwidder and Franz Heigl (representing the *Deutsche Psychoanalytische Gesellschaft* - DPG), Erich Fromm and Jorge Silva (representing the *Sociedad Psicoanalítica Mexicana*) and Igor Caruso and Raoul Schindler (representing the *Wiener Arbeitskreis für Tiefenpsychologie*)" (Funk 2007, p. 59). IFPS was meant to promote the creation of a non-bureaucratic psychoanalytic association of all psychoanalysts, independent of their beliefs.

Werner Schwidder, who succeeded Felix Boehm as head of the *Deutsche Psychoanalytische Gesellschaft* (DPG), wished to overcome the post-World War II isolation of the DPG (Chrzanowski 1993). He sought to establish international contacts, after the schism in German society that determined the split between DPG and the *Deutsche Psychoanalytische Vereinigung* (DPV), whereby DPV ended its affiliation with the *International Psychoanalytic Association* (IPA). Erich Fromm, also cofounder of the Wil-

liam Alanson White Institute in New York (Chrzanowski 1993), encouraged Schwidder to establish contact with the *William Alanson White Psychoanalytic Society* (WAWPS). Igor Caruso, founder of the Viennese Circle for Depth Psychology, played a central role during the late 1960s in founding and supporting the formation of psychoanalysts in several groups in Brazil, as we will see below.

An initial open international psychoanalytic meeting took place in Amsterdam in the summer of 1960, followed by a second meeting in Düsseldorf in 1961. One year later, the First International Forum of Psychoanalysis was held in Amsterdam, on the subject of "Present-Day Trends in Psychoanalytic Theory and Practice." A number of prominent analysts had agreed to participate at the Forum, among them Franz Alexander, Herbert Binswanger, Médard Boss, Igor Caruso, Erich Fromm, Martin Grotjahn, René Laforgué, Jack Millet, Sándor Rádo, Raoul Schindler, René Spitz, Edith Weigert and Marianne Eckhardt.

On this occasion, a new "Arbeitsgemeinschaft" for promoting a free discussion of psychoanalytic theory and practice (later named IFPS) was founded at a meeting between Igor Caruso, Erich Fromm, Werner Schwidder, and Gerard Chrzanowski. Sándor Rádo, who repre-



sented the *American Academy of Psychoanalysis* (AAP) and its exclusively medical psychoanalysts, withdrew from participation in the organization of the federation.

According to its bylaws, IFPS was created in Amsterdam on July 30, 1962, by the *Deutsche Psychoanalytische Gesellschaft* (DPG), the *Sociedad Psicoanalítica Mexicana A.C.* (SPMAC), the *Wiener Arbeitskreis für Tiefenpsychologie* (WAFT) and the *William Alanson White Psychoanalytic Society* (WAWPS). IFPS sought to achieve an open, plural spirit, not constrained to any single psychoanalytic theory. One of its main aims was to "avoid the bureaucratization of its theory" (cf. A. Millán, 1965). It was clearly intended to be independent from the *International Psychoanalytic Association* (IPA) headquartered in London, from which Fromm and other prominent psychoanalysts had been eliminated (Funk 2000).

IFPS did not intend to turn its back on the statements of early psychoanalysis (Funk 2007); instead, IFPS sought to use them as a basis for proposing and developing the theory of psychoanalysis. These same aims and origins served as inspiration for each of the Latin American societies that would become affiliated with IFPS over the years.

These societies all have in common the precedent of having had an initial contact and final rupture with *International Psychoanalytic Association* (IPA) colleagues or societies, in order to pursue the "free discussion" of psychoanalytic theory and therapy, unconstrained by any single theory or the bureaucratization of its practices. In the following survey, we shall see that the societies also share an evolutionary process whereby each has encountered conflicts, debates and obstacles that nevertheless have served to strengthen the development and individuation of each group's identity in the face of current trends toward globalization.

IFPS in Latin America

1. The *Sociedad Psicoanalítica Mexicana* (SPMAC)

In 1934, some prominent Mexican psychiatrists (e.g. Davila, Gonzalez E. and Millán), all profes-

sors at the Medical School of the *National Mexican Autonomous University* (UNAM), began to be interested in and lecture on Freudian thought. Led by Gonzalez E. through 1937, they organized a permanent seminar for discussing Freud's papers. They were particularly interested in the potential applications of psychoanalytic thought upon socio-cultural phenomena within Mexico (A. Millán, 1965).

In 1949, they learned about Fromm's fortuitous visit to Mexico (J. Derbez, 1980) and determined to establish contact with him. In fact, this encounter would initiate Fromm's subsequent professional visits to Mexico to lecture. These visits later developed into a working relationship that would last for over 25 years (S. Millán and S. Gojman de Millán, 2000). By the end of 1950, Fromm came to live in Mexico and founded a training program for psychoanalysts at UNAM, where he was designated a professorship. He led the training, supervision and teaching of the first classes with the support of visiting psychoanalysts, including Rose Spiegel, Clara Thompson, Nathan W. Ackerman, Michael Balint, O. Spurgeon English, Roy Grinker, Edward S. Tauber; and lecturers from related fields, such as D. T. Suzuki and Paul Tillich (Derbez 1982). The inaugural training program also benefited from the participation of renowned Mexican professors, among them the anthropologist Angel Palerm, the philosopher Ramon Xirau and the neuroscientist Raul Hernandez Peon; as well as collaborating lecturers Ivan Illich, Paulo Freire, and Julio Boltvinic. Later graduates of the training program would include Michael Maccoby, researcher and graduate at Harvard University, as well as Guillermo Davila, Jorge Silva, Alfonso Millán, Fernando Narvaez, Mario A. Reyes, Eduardo Zajur, Aniceto Aramoni, Armando Hinojosa, Jorge Derbez, and Victor Saavedra.

Fromm continued to actively participate in the training of Mexican psychoanalysts, inviting prominent visitors from diverse countries and orientations throughout his tenure in Mexico until 1973. The University's academic support continued until the late 80s. Apart from the core texts on psychoanalysis, the training also comprised an enriching theoretical orientation on sociological, economical and a critical philoso-



phic focus that was then a novelty. It was a precursor of what is today called Freudo-Marxism (V. Saavedra, 1980).

Meanwhile, around 1947, several Mexican medical doctors had gone abroad to Argentina, to the United States or to France to be trained as psychoanalysts. Upon their return around 1955, they found the established training program at UNAM. However, the two groups of psychoanalysts, those trained at UNAM and those trained abroad, were unable to bridge their differences and to form one cohesive Mexican psychoanalytic association. Some of the psychoanalysts who got their training abroad became members of the Argentinean Psychoanalytic Society that was affiliated with IPA. This group would later found the corresponding IPA *Asociación Psicoanalítica Mexicana*.

In 1956, the first graduating classes of psychoanalysts from UNAM's training program founded, along with Fromm, the *Sociedad Psicoanalítica Mexicana A.C.* (SPMAC). Fromm would later represent the SPMAC at the founding of the IFPS in 1962. In August 1969, the SPMAC hosted the Third International Forum of Psychoanalysis in Mexico City. The main themes of the conference included "Indications and success of psychoanalysis," "The interpretation of dreams and technique" and "New contributions of psychoanalysis." Due to Fromm's poor health, Ramon de la Fuente was nominated instead as the President of the Third Forum. The vice presidents were Werner Schwidder and Gerard Chrzanowski; the Organizing Committee was headed by Jorge Silva García.

Jorge Silva García served as a delegate of the SPMAC for many years, and was elected as a member of the Executive Committee (EC) in 1969. In 1975, he resigned from both the SPMAC and the *Instituto Mexicano de Psicoanálisis A.C.* (IMPAC) that had been established in 1963 for facilitating the financial and administrative affairs of the analytical training (Derbez 1982).

Among other issues, Silva faced a profound opposition from some of the Institute's prominent leaders in regard to the international exchange of the Mexican psychoanalysts. In fact, these colleagues had decided to suspend the payment of dues to IFPS, resulting in SPMAC

losing its membership in 1975. By then, the group of newly trained psychoanalysts became active members of SPMAC, and their participation also raised some conflicts and rivalries with the senior professionals who led the Institute's training program. These conflicts led to the virtual demise of SPMAC in 1982.

2. The Instituto Mexicano de Psicoanálisis A.C. (IMPAC)

Sonia Gojman and Salvador Millán, both of whom were members of the faculty at IMPAC working as didactic and supervisory analysts, led their group of newly trained analysts in developing social and participative-action research projects based on psychoanalytic principles. This group had also begun to establish an intense dialogue and exchange with several professional organizations, such as the Madrid *Centro de Estudios y Aplicación del Psicoanálisis* (CEAP) in 1991, the *Internacional Erich Fromm Society* in 1992, The Finnish *Terapeia* in 1995, as well as with colleagues from professional meetings, among them Michael Maccoby from Harvard University and the International Social Character network; Rainer Funk and the Social Character study group of the *Internacional Erich Fromm Society*; Mauricio Cortina of the *Washington School of Psychiatry* who organized the Erich Fromm International Symposium in 1994 (cf. Cortina and Maccoby, 1996); Paul Roazen of the York University; Paul Lippmann from the William Alanson White Institute; David and Jill Scharf of the Institute of Relational Psychoanalysis; Neil McLaughlin from the Department of Sociology of the MacMaster University and John Rickert, a Fulbright Fellow.

In spite of the critical resistance among some of the colleagues at IMPAC which continued to the early 90s, the Institute's director Mario A. Reyes asked Sonia Gojman, the vice-director, to inquire about the possibility of establishing contact with IFPS. Sonia Gojman developed the project during 1992 and the application procedure was followed. Site visits to assess the clinical practice were conducted by Jochen Kemper and Marja Lindqvist. At that time, the clinical cases were presented for discussion by advanced candidates-in-training Ana Maria Barroso, Juan Bustamente, Morales and



Carlos Sierra, who were active in the socio-psychoanalytic research group called the *Seminario de Sociopsicoanálisis* (SEMSOAC). IMPAC was accepted as a full member of IFPS in 1994 in Florence, Italy. Thereafter, Gojman represented IMPAC at meetings of the Assembly of Delegates (AD) from 1994 to 2003; she was elected as a member of the Executive Committee (EC) from 1996 to 2003 and as General Secretary of IFPS from 2000 to 2008.

3. The Seminario de Sociopsicoanálisis A.C. (SEMSOAC)

Since 1987, various difficulties contributed to the gradual independence of the planning and conduct of the socio-psychoanalytic research group's activities. As a result, the *Seminario de Sociopsicoanálisis A.C.* (SEMSOAC) decided to establish a place of its own, started a psychoanalytic clinic and later on founded a training program for analysts with a special attention to the social psychological context of clinical practice.

In 1996, the *Seminario de Sociopsicoanálisis A.C.* (SEMSOAC) gained formal legal status, and thereby received official recognition by the Mexican authorities as well as by the *Mexican Council for Science and Technology* (CONACYT), wherein it was listed as a "Research Center of Excellence." The same year, the *Seminario* was awarded the International Erich Fromm Prize for its socio-psychoanalytic focus in community participative-action research. In 1999, it became an IFPS study group and in 2004, in Belo Horizonte, it finally applied for a change of status and became a full member of IFPS.

The *Seminario* continues its mission to raise awareness of sociopsicoanalysis, as a tool for fostering social change. This is the main purpose of the *Seminario's* numerous participative-action studies and interdisciplinary exchanges. These projects have taken the psychoanalytic view as central to the understanding of social phenomena, and the social frame of reference as central to the understanding and conduct of clinical psychoanalytic interventions.

The participation of renowned scientists such as Alan and June Sroufe of the University of Minnesota, Mary Main and Erik Hesse of the University of California in Berkeley with respect to Bowlby's attachment theory, Maria Eugenia

Sanchez and Eduardo Almeida of Prade with respect to meaningful participative-action research projects have served as constant stimuli for the intellectual development of socially-oriented psychoanalytic projects and scientifically informed community participation activities aimed at promoting the emotional development of children from indigenous *Nahuatl* and other high-risk populations.

4. The Sociedade de Psicanálise Iracy Doyle in Brazil (SPID)

Iracy Doyle was a brilliant psychiatrist from Brazil, who first moved to New York in 1946 to receive training as a psychoanalyst at the William Alanson White Institute (WAWI), where she was analyzed by Meyer Maskin and supervised by Clara Thompson. She began training analysts in Brazil at the *Instituto de Medicina Psicológica* in Rio de Janeiro. The first class was being trained in 1956 when Doyle prematurely passed away and the psychoanalytic training had to be suspended. Horus Vital Brazil, who had been in analysis with Iracy Doyle, and one of the most prominent participants in her group, decided to go to New York himself and also receive training at the WAWI. There, he was analyzed by Clara Thompson and supervised by Gerard Chrzanowski. Back in Rio de Janeiro, the group was reorganized under the name of *Sociedade de Psicanálise Iracy Doyle* (SPID) and it reinitiated the training of psychoanalysts. In 1969, the *Sociedade* became affiliated with the IFPS in Mexico City. Horus Vital Brazil was elected as an Executive Committee (EC) member in 1975 and continued to participate therein until 1984. A meeting of the EC was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1981.

In October 1989, the Eighth Forum of IFPS was hosted by the *Sociedade de Psicanálise Iracy Doyle* in Rio de Janeiro. Horus Vital Brazil served as president of the Forum. The *Círculo Psicanalítico do Rio de Janeiro* (CPRJ) shared in and actively collaborated in the Forum's organization (personal communication of Edson Lannes). It was a "highly successful [Forum] in terms of the number of registrations, the representation of psychoanalytic societies and the high-quality scientific contributions (Horus Vital Brazil, meeting minutes of the AD of IFPS, 1989).



The Forum attracted “more than 1000 participants and was one of the largest psychoanalytic conferences ever held in Brazil” (Liana Brazil in *International Forum of Psychoanalysis*).

5. The Circulo Psicanalítico de Minas Gerais (CPMG)

In 1963, Malomar Lund Edelweiss, who had been analyzed by Caruso, along with a group of psychiatrist and psychologist colleagues, founded the *Circulo Psicanalítico de Minas Gerais* (CPMG). In 1968, Caruso himself was invited and remained in Belo Horizonte for a year and a half to participate with the group in the analysis, training and supervision of candidates (Pimenta 2002; Rodrigues 2008).

In 1969, Caruso accompanied several members of the *Circulo* to the Third International Forum of Psychoanalysis in Mexico. According to Rodrigues, Silva García mentioned to them that the procedures for affiliation had to be followed and, in spite of their disappointment with the refusal of their intentions, they continued to be in contact with Werner Schwidder, who advised them on the corresponding steps required in the formal procedure. In 1971, Werner Schwidder presented their application to the IFPS' AD in Madrid, and the group was formally accepted under the name of *Circulo Brasileiro de Psicanálise*, which comprised several branches of colleagues from diverse provinces. Because of a split or reorganization among the groups and because some of the subgroups eventually discontinued their affiliation with the IFPS, those groups retaining their membership have done so under the umbrella name of *Circulo Psicanalítico de Minas Gerais* since 1999. The *Circulo* is comprised of the four groups, *Circulo Psicanalítico de Minas Gerais*, *Circulo Psicanalítico da Bahia*, *Circulo Psicanalítico do Sergipe* and *Circulo Psicanalítico do Rio Grande do Sul*.

The original theoretical orientation was based on the writings of Caruso, Freud and some Post-Freudians such as Melanie Klein, Winnicott, Greenson, Laplanche and more recently, Lacan (Pimenta 2002, Rodrigues 2008). Javert Rodrigues, Delegate of CPMG, was elected to the Executive Committee in 1994 and has continued to participate therein.

The Thirteenth International Forum of Psy-

choanalysis was successfully held in August 2004 in Belo Horizonte, headed by Javert Rodrigues. The central theme was “The multiple Faces of Perversion?” The Forum was attended by 600 participants from 13 countries: Brazil, USA, México, Spain, Italy, Norway, Germany, Argentina, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Chile and Russia. The colleagues from Brazil came from 13 regions: Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, Bahia, Brasília, Rio Grande Do Sul, Pará, Sergipe, Rio Grande Do Norte, Espírito Santo, Tocantes and Pernambuco. 140 scientific papers were presented by members of IFPS societies. The presentations showed diverse theoretical foundations, cultures, points of view and understandings. The discussions after the presentations confirmed the general interest for building bridges that benefit the development of psychoanalytic knowledge, sustaining the spirit and central aim of the IFPS to facilitate the open exchange of viewpoints on science, and promoting personal contacts and professional relationships among colleagues from the member societies.

6. The Circulo Psicanalítico do Rio de Janeiro (CPRJ)

Malomar Lund Edelweiss, who had initiated the *Circulo Psicanalítico de Minas Gerais* (CPMG), also wanted that the *Circulo Brasileiro de Psicoanálise*—which was affiliated with the Austrian Circle of Deep Psychology and founded by Caruso—would have a representative in Rio de Janeiro. He contacted Katrin Kemper, who remained in Brazil in 1968, after her husband's, Werner Kemper's, return to Berlin in 1967. She resigned from the *Sociedade Psicanalítica do Rio de Janeiro*, an IPA society that she had helped to found and in which she was then a didactic analyst.

Along with Malomar and Caruso, Kemper founded the *Circulo Psicanalítico do Rio de Janeiro* (CPRJ), in the interest of fewer constraints by the rigid institutional rules of IPA. After a schism, the *Circulo Psicanalítico do Rio de Janeiro* separated from the *Circulo Brasileiro de Psicoanálise* and individually applied and was accepted as a full member of IFPS in 1980 in Helsinki. Edson Lannes was elected as an EC member in 1983 and continued in that position

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until 1992. He has also participated as an auditor of the IFPS until the present day.

7. Instituto Chilena de Psicoanálisis (ICHPA)

Until 1989, there was only one Institute in Chile dedicated to the education of psychoanalysts, namely the Institute of Psychoanalysis of the Chilean Psychoanalytic Association, with ties to IPA. In 1989, after a series of processes and reflections, a group of psychotherapists with the participation of Jaime Coloma, an IPA analyst, founded the Chilean Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy and later formed the Chilean Society of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy.

The original intention was to make a psychoanalytic education available to a wider sector of professionals and to provide structure for an area of psychoanalytic psychotherapy that had not previously existed in Chile.

ICHPA has tried through the development of its activities to pursue “a permanent search with regards to the question of how to form an institute where not only psychoanalysis is discussed, but where psychoanalysis itself is allowed to speak” (ICHPA 2000). Psychoanalysis is meant to act in the social realm as a force for change. “A Psychoanalysis with ties to the Freudian critical tradition which gives evidence to the existence of contradictions and its place in society, entails taking a stand for the human being, questioning the reality of what it thinks, exhibiting its active forces, its conflicts and its falsities, not aimed only to the discovery of the phenomena, but also their transformation” (Ibid.).

ICHPA’s training of psychotherapists has been recognized as a valid clinical specialization by the National Commission for Accreditation of Psychologists and Clinical Psychologists. It provides a clinic that offers psychoanalytic attention to persons with scarce economic resources. ICHPA’s activities include conventions, seminars, lectures and introductory classes in psychoanalysis and classes aimed at increasing knowledge about specific authors and subjects (among them Ferenczi, Winnicott, Lacan).

In 2000, ICHPA applied for membership to the IFPS and was accepted in May 2002 in Oslo, Norway. ICHPA is a member of the *Federation of Latin America Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy*

and *Psychoanalysis Associations* FLAPPSIP.

The Fifteenth International Psychoanalytic Forum was hosted by the *Sociedad Chilena de Psicoanálisis* under the central theme “Identity and Globalization: a New Challenge for Psychoanalysts.”

8. Instituto de Psicoanálisis Contemporáneo (IPC)

The *Instituto de Psicoanálisis Contemporáneo* (IPC) initiated its scientific activities in 1989, headed by Julio Villena Aragón, who was trained at the William Alanson White Institute. The IPC started its training program in 1991. Horacio Echegoyen is mentioned as an honorary member of the society.

The *Instituto de Psicoanálisis Contemporáneo* (IPC) applied for an affiliated membership in Florence in 1994 and was accepted as the first IFPS Study Group.

Villena has participated in multiple lectures in Peru, Chile, Uruguay, and Buenos Aires. He presented clinical illustrations of psychoanalytically-oriented psychotherapy for psychiatrists in the panels organized by SEMSOAC on behalf of the IFPS to the World Psychiatric Association, in Cancun, México in 2003. ICP members attended the XIII Belo Horizonte IFPS Forum in 2004 and some of them presented papers at the XIV IFPS Forum in Rome in 2006.

Concluding remarks

Today, IFPS counts six affiliated societies from Mexico, Brazil and Chile, and one Study Group from Argentina among its members. All societies have in common the precedent of having had an initial contact and final rupture with IPA colleagues or societies, in order to pursue the “free discussion” of psychoanalytic theory and therapy, unconstrained by any single theory or the bureaucratization of its practices.

The IFPS Latin American societies share an evolutionary process in which the meeting of the two continents has underscored disparate economic circumstances and, to various degrees, special multicultural and multi-ethnic compositions. These characteristics shape the everyday life experiences of the analysts and their clinical practices, challenging but also perhaps contribut-

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ing to their keen social awareness regarding the development of individual and ethnic identities.

Each of the IFPS Latin American Societies has encountered conflicts, debates and obstacles throughout its development, that have nevertheless served to strengthen the development and individuation of each group's identity in the face of current worldwide trends toward a uniform globalization.

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