



THREE PSYCHOPATHOLOGIES

Descriptive, Clinical and Structural
Psychopathology

Psychopathology Course
Chieti University



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- In case you want to quote these slides, please first consult the list of references provided at the beginning of each section, then quote as follows:
- G. Stanghellini, **Psychopathology Course – Academic Year 2014/15** from personal website giovannistanghellini.it



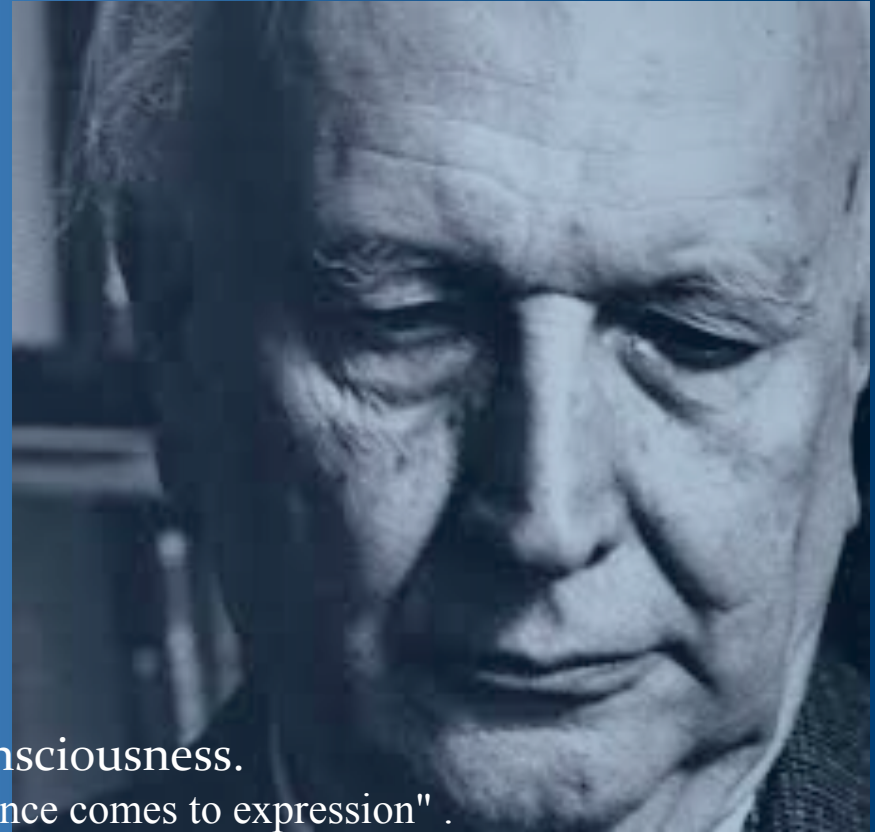
References

- G. Stanghellini, The Meanings of Psychoapthology, CURRENT OPINIONS IN PSYCHIATRY, 2009.
- G. Stanghellini, A Hermeneutic Framework For Psychopathology. PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, 2010.

Descriptive Psychopathology



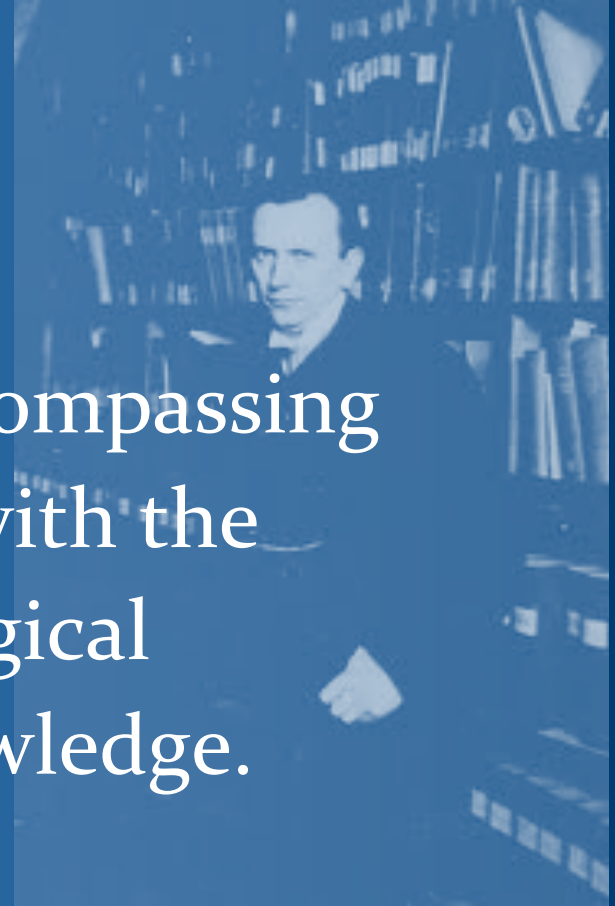
- It *gives a concrete description* of the psychic states that the patients actually experience .
- It reviews the interrelations of these, *delineates* them as sharply as possible and creates a suitable terminology.
- Our chief help in all this comes from the patients' own *self-descriptions*.
- We confine ourselves solely to the things that are present to the patients' consciousness.
 - focusing on "the modes in which the experience comes to expression" .
- Conventional theories, psychological constructions, interpretations and evaluations must be left aside.



Descriptive Psychopathology



- It **does not** aim to an all-encompassing theory of mental disorders, with the ambition to establish nosological and etio-pathogenetical knowledge.
(GP, p. 749/626)



Rather, it supplies clinicians with a **palette** with different qualities and shades of colour



PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

<http://www.bbc.com/1/health/science/2016/01/20160116-periodic-table>

GROUP	1	2	RELATIVE ATOMIC WEIGHTS										18	19
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The clinicians' need to classify phenomena is acknowledged, but this classification must



Clinical Psychopathology

Clinical psychopathology is essentially aimed at the identification of symptoms which are significant in view of nosographical distinctions .

It is of “pragmatic diagnostic use” .



K. Schneider, 1947: *Klinische Psychopathologie*,
Thieme, Stuttgart.

Clinical Psychopathology

- “Psychopathology is still as relevant as ever in a field where all major conditions are not scientifically defined disease entities,
- but exclusively psychopathologically defined syndromes “ (p. 135).

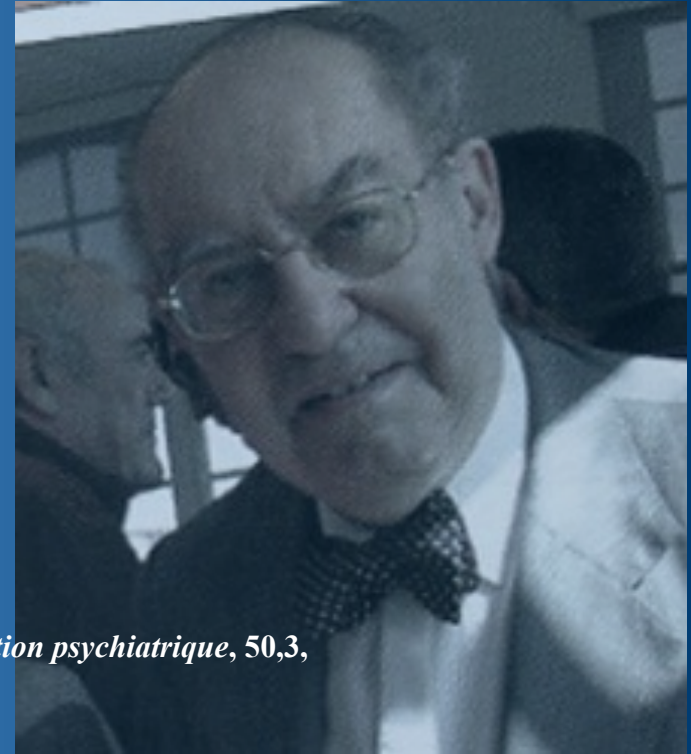


JANZARIK, 1976: *Die Krise der Psychopathologie*, Nervenarzt, 47, 73-80.

Clinical Psychopathology

- “La psychopathologie tend à élire des signes pathognomonique”

LANTERI-LAURA, 1985: Psychopathologie et processus, *L'Evolution psychiatrique*, 50,3, 589-610



Structural Psychopathology

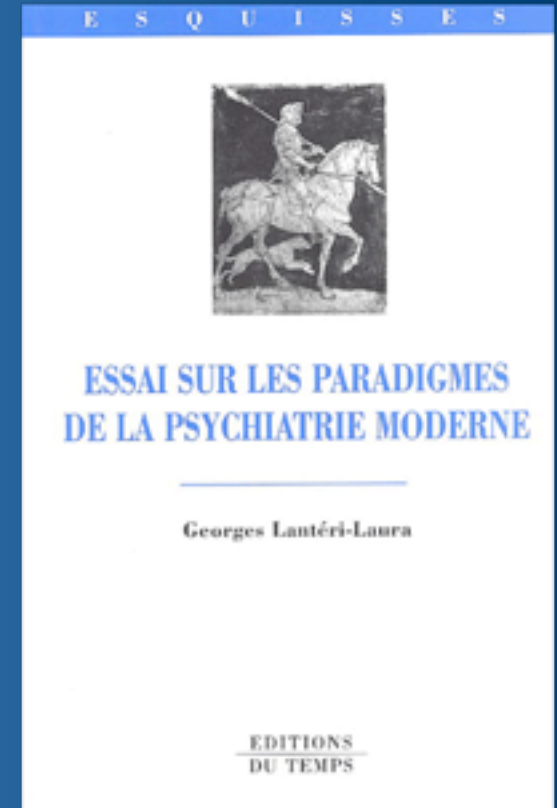
- We assume that the group of phenomena of a given mental disorder is a meaningful whole, i.e. a *structure* (*Gestalt*).



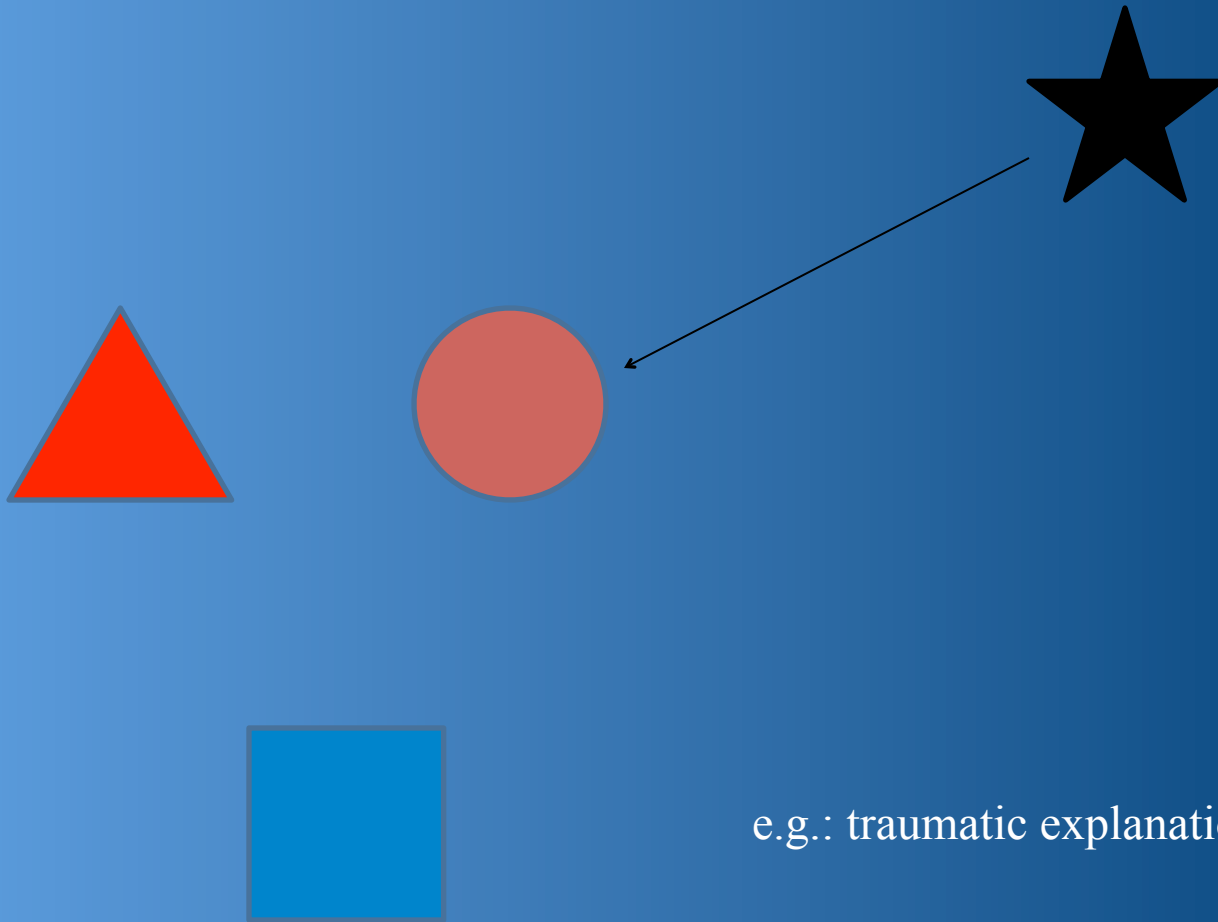
- Structural psychopathology most distinguished figures are Minkowski, Straus, Binswanger, Ey, Tellenbach,

What is a structure?

- “Une entité autonome de dépendances internes”
- *Entité authonome*: Meaningfulness can be found in the structure itself, without involving external elements
- *Dependences internes*:
Meaningfulness emerges from the internal links between the elements of the structure

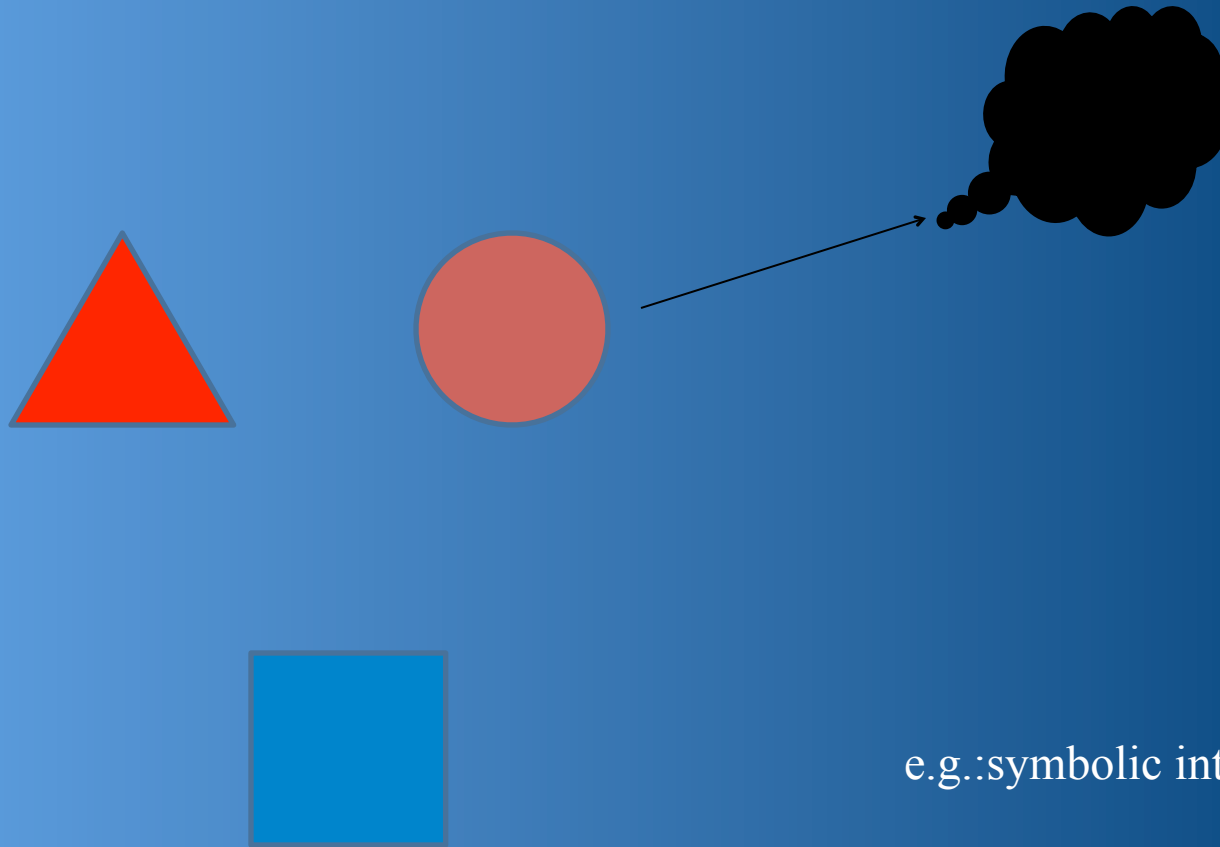


Genetic Implication

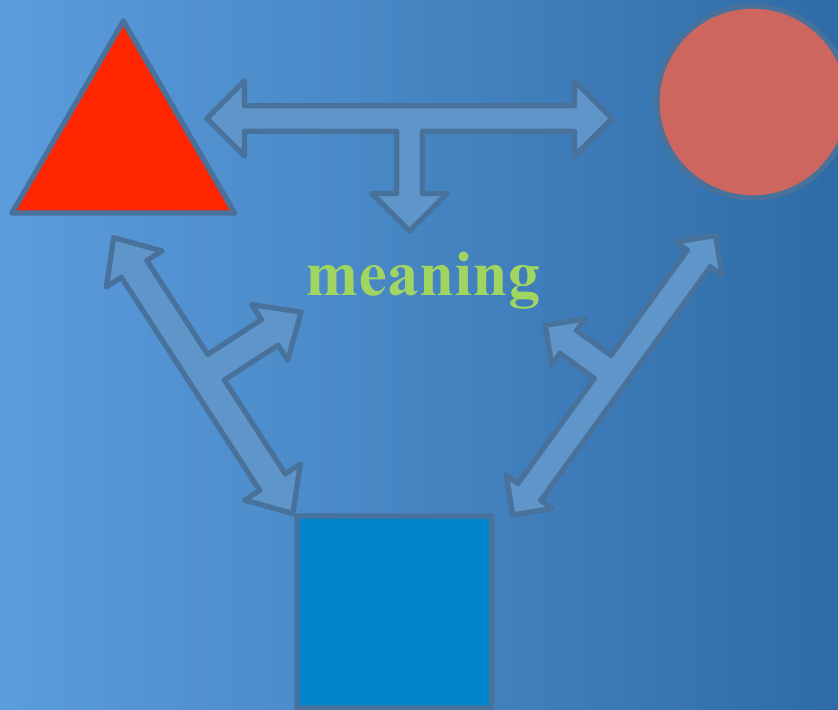


e.g.: traumatic explanation

Paradigmatic Implication



Structural Implication



Structural regime of intelligibility



- Structural analysis makes visible the structures of subjectivity which are the invisible pattern that holds together the phenomena at play.
- Psychopathological phenomena become meaningful when they are seen as parts of a given life-world in which they are embedded – although this is a different regime of understandability from Jaspers’.
- Structural analysis rescues the constitutive forms of subjectivity: time, space, self, body, otherness, etc.

- “ “Synthesis” does not mean a binding and linking together of representations, a manipulation of psychical occurrences”
- “Here the *syn* has a pure apophantical signification and means letting something be seen in its *togetherness* [*Beisammen*] with something “



HEIDEGGER, 1927: *Sein und Zeit*.
Niemeyer, Tuebingen; p. 33.

Three Psychopathologies

- **Descriptive psychopathology:** “ It *gives a concrete description* of the psychic states that the patients actually experience. It reviews the interrelations of these, *delineates* them as sharply as possible and creates a suitable terminology (JASPERS, 1913). ”
- **Clinical psychopathology:** A descriptive tool for “pragmatic diagnostic use” (SCHNEIDER, 1967).
- **Structural psychopathology:** “Au lieu des mesquineries de la sémiotique, l’on se place à un niveau d’intelligibilité globale (...) à un étage de connaissances synthétiques” (LANTERI-LAURA, 1985)