

International Fall Conference
International Conference in Italian, English and German
on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary
of the International Erich Fromm Society
Productive Orientation and Mental Health

□ ***The idea of this conference***

For Erich Fromm to lead a satisfactory and good life and to achieve well-being depends on three factors: on our biologic and genetic “equipment”, on the psychic, social, economic, cultural and spiritual circumstances in which each of us individually grew up and which permanently affects his life, and on the economic, social and cultural requirements of living together and preserving our social life that molded and still is molding our “social character orientation”.

To lead a satisfactory life and to achieve well-being has a lot to do with the question of bodily and mental health but yet is not the same. We can feel healthy and well although we are psychically ill and mentally insane. We may suffer from a “pathology of normalcy” - as Fromm coined it. And we can suffer from bodily and mental symptoms because our “humanistic conscience”, i.e. our inner knowledge of what is good for our growth and well-being, is in conflict with alienating requirements and needs of the society or social group we are living in.

Of course we all long for bodily and mental health. According to Fromm the decisive question nevertheless is whether we are responsive to our human needs and whether we are able to satisfy them in a productive way. Doubtless, the question of psychic productiveness is crucial in Fromm's concepts of man and society as is the question of mental health for all clinical work.

Due to this Frommian approach to mental health most interesting questions arise and are to be discussed at this conference: What are the needs of our present society and what are the human needs? What are the aims of the dominant social character orientations and what are the aims of productive character orientation? What are or should be the goals of present day psychotherapy? Is there a chance to overcome or to avoid alienation and the "pathology of normalcy" that is typical for most social character orientations, and to reconcile what is good for society and for the individual?

The conference is focused on a main topic of Fromm's ideas: the question, how people of today can develop and preserve a productive orientation in an alienated society (where we all suffer from a “pathology of normalcy”) and what are the impacts of this situation for psychic health and for clinical therapeutical questions.

□ ***We found a lovely place...***

...directly situated on the Lago di Lugano in Switzerland to discuss the problems of productive orientation and mental health and to celebrate a party on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the International Erich Fromm Society. The Centro Evangelico (www.centro-magliaso.ch) is on the way from Lugano to Ponte Tresa, shortly after the little Ticinese airport of Agno. The houses to stay and eat and to participate in the conference are located in a park directly on the Lake of Lugano. Usually the Centro is used for holidays and trainings. It has some main buildings and several smaller buildings with three to five rooms.

□ ***Boarding***

The houses to stay have two classes of comfort (class I = bathroom inside the room; class II = bathroom near the room) in single and double rooms as well as in “duplex rooms” (two beds below and two mattresses in a separate but open room above). Finally there are also some common rooms with 10 mattresses. Here the sleeping bag should be brought. The rooms in class I as well as the single rooms are limited and will be distributed according to the registration. Particularly because of the limitations of class I and of single rooms you should indicate on the registration form whether you also accept class II or prefer a double room used by you alone (for a somewhat higher price). If you order a double room not for you alone but to share it with another person or if you order a duplex (up to four persons in one apartment) but are not accompanied by others, the Centro will inform you about others who would also like to share the room.

□ ***The prices for room and boarding per person and day are as follows:***

- single room: Class I = sFr 96 / Class II = sFr 87
 - double room used as single room: Class I = sFr 104 / Class II = sFr 95
 - double room: Class I = sFr 91 / Class II = sFr 81
 - duplex (from 3 or 4 persons on): Class I = sFr 86 / Class II = sFr 77
 - common room with 10 mattresses: sFr 63 (sleeping bag is to be brought)
- (To give you an idea: 90 Swiss Franks are 60 Euros and about 75 US-Dollars.)

□ ***Stay longer...***

The conference starts on Saturday evening, October 29, with the dinner and comes to an end on Tuesday morning, November 1st, with the breakfast. Due to your early registration and the available rooms the Centro offers the boarding at the same conditions already from Saturday evening, October 22, until Thursday morning, November 3rd, latest. If you want to prolong your stay for vacation please fill in the registration form the day of your arrival and departure and the respective first and last meal.

□ ***Registration***

Please download the Registration form. We recommend you to send this registration form as soon as possible directly to the

Centro Evangelico, via Bosconi 11, CH-6983 Magliaso / Switzerland;
Phone: +41 (0) 91 606 1441; Fax +41 (0) 91 606 1443; E-mail: centro-magliaso@bluewin.ch.

We do not charge any conference fee but we want you to make your registration sure by simultaneously giving us the data of your credit card (VISA or MASTERCARD) or sending the amount of Euro 50 to the International Erich Fromm Society (Account No. 254 313 Kreissparkasse Tübingen (IBAN: DE 63 641500200 000 254313 - BIC: SOLADES1TUB). This amount will be settled against payment for boarding at the conference. If you cancel your registration after August 20, 2005, this amount is not refundable or we will charge this sum to your credit card. Until August 20, 2005 you can cancel your booking without disadvantages for you. (If you have transferred money to the Fromm Society we will send it back again.)

Please send the registration form only to the Centro in Magliaso!

□ ***How to reach Magliaso***

Aircraft : If you come by plane the nearest (small) airport is Agno (just five km --- from Magliaso). The next international airport is Milano in Italy or Zürich.

Car : Whether you come from the South or from the North the best way is to leave the Swiss highway A 2 in Lugano-North and follow the route to Ponte Tresa. Shortly after Agno you reach Magliaso. At the first crossing you turn left and follow the indications to the Centro Evangelico on a small road for about 1 km.

Train : In Lugano you have to leave the train from Zürich or Milano and enter just opposite --- the main station a local train going several times per hour to Ponte Tresa. You leave the local train in the Magliaso station. From the Magliaso station you have to walk for 20 minutes to the Centro. On request the Centro will pick you up by car for five Franks (phone: +41 (0) 91 606 1441).

□ ***The Organization of the Conference***

We are organizing the conference in a different way from typical academic affairs where one lecture is followed by another. In contrast, we would like to have only six presentations of 45 minutes and two samples of five statements of five minutes maximum in English, Italian or German that discuss the speaker's experience in regard to the subject of the conference (psychic productiveness and mental health). Between these long and short presentations we offer time for discussions in smaller groups (differentiated according to languages and interests). The introductory presentation will be given by Lawrence Friedman from Bloomington University who is working on a biography on Erich Fromm (after he has written biographies of the Menninger Family and of Erikson). The last lecture on Monday evening will be presented by Jean Martin Moncéro and two of his students from the Scuola Teatro Dimitri near Locarno.

All presentations (except the last one) will be translated in advance in the respective other conference languages and distributed in written form.

Doubtless the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the International Erich Fromm Society on Sunday evening, October 30, will be a highlight of this conference.

□ **Program**

Saturday, October 29, 2005 :

until

18:00 arrival at and check in the Centro Evangelico in Magliaso

18:30 dinner

19:30 Opening of the conference

Sergio Caruso (OPIFER) and Rainer Funk (Fromm Society)

20:15 Recovering Erich Fromm's Life: Some Dilemmas and Preliminary Solutions

Lawrence J. Friedman, Bloomington

Sunday, October 30, 2005 :

09:00: The Search for Identity in the Being Mode

Romano Biancoli, Bologna / Ravenna

10:00: The Psychodynamics of the Postmodern "I-am-me Orientation"

Rainer Funk, Tuebingen

11:00: Coffee break

11:30: Discussion in different groups

13:00: Lunch

Sunday afternoon:

No official program

Occasion to go for a walk Visit the nearby Hesse Museum in Montagnola

Sunday, October 30, 2005 (evening):

19:00: Dinner and party on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the International

Erich Fromm Society (Retrospective view back on 20 years of the International Erich Fromm Society and contributions by the participants)

Monday, October 31, 2005 :

09:00: Leading a Productive Life in Postmodern Society?

Conditions, Chances, Empirical Findings

Gerd Meyer, Tuebingen

10:00: From the Alienated Self to the Authentic Self.

The Development of Productive Orientation in the Analytic Process

Enzo Lio, Bologna

11:00: Coffee break

11:30: Discussion in different groups

13:00: Lunch

15:00: Human Productivity and Mental Health

Five minute statements

(1) Fromm's Work Ethic (Sandra Buechler, New York)

(2) Liberty from Technical Constrictions and Therapeutic Productivity

(Manuela Salmi, Bologna)

(3) The Skin - A Mirror of Psychological Disorders? Postmodern Character Orientation and Skin Disease (Armin

Bader, Bochum)

(4) Fromm's Relevance Today (Harold B. Davis, New York)

(5) From Super-ego to Super-se (Sergio Caruso, Florence)

(6) From pathogenic consumerism to sustainable consumption

(Burkhard Bierhoff, Cottbus)

(7) Learning to be Creative. Impressions from the Erich Fromm

Seminary in Pécs (József Koch, Pécs)

(8 and 9)) Masks - Guides to Biophilia (Otto Lüdemann and Jürgen Kalcher, Hamburg)

(10) A decisive encounter (Gérard Khoury, Aix en Provence)

16:30: Coffee break

17:00: Discussion of the statements in different groups

18:30: Dinner

20:00: Inner perception and its transformation into artistic productive enactment

Jean Martin Moncéro and two students of the Scuola Teatro Dimitri, Verscio

Tuesday, November 1, 2005: Departure after breakfast

□ The Lecturers

Bader, Dr. Armin, Bochum

Armin Bader, Dr. phil, Psychotherapist and Co-founder of the International Erich Fromm Society. He wrote his dissertation about Erich Fromm's concept of Love and productivity. Until the end of 1999 he worked as Therapist with HIV-infected people in Stuttgart. Since 2000 he is the head of the Department "Psychosomatic Dermatology" at a Clinic of the University of Bochum that is specialized to treat patient with chronic dermatological problems as well as with HIV and AIDS. He is engaged in the section "Psychology and Social Science" (PSYSOZ) of the German AIDS Society.

Biancoli, Dr. Romano, Bologna / Ravenna

Romano Biancoli, born 1940 in Ravenna (Italy), studied philosophy and psychoanalysis in Bologna, Florence and Mexico City. Training and supervising analyst and director of the Istituto Erich Fromm of Bologna, he is a member of the International Erich Fromm Society, of the IFPS (International Federation of Psychoanalytic Societies), of the OPIFER (Organizzazione di Psicoanalisti Italiani, Federazione e Registro) and of the IARPP (International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy). He published several articles on the Frommian view of psychoanalysis.

Bierhoff, Professor Dr. Burkhard, Cottbus

Burkhard Bierhoff (born 1950) is Professor for education and training of pedagogues and social workers at the University for Applied Sciences Lausitz in Cottbus and the University of Dortmund. He is particularly interested in the theory of education and the theory of the subject. His special research and projects refer to the critique of consumerism and to education for sustainable consuming. Publications on Fromm, particularly on his social character theory. Co-founder of the International Erich Fromm Society.

Buechler, Dr. Sandra, New York

Sandra Buechler, Ph.D. is a Training and Supervising Analyst, and on the faculty of the William Alanson White Institute. She also supervises at the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy and Columbia University's psychology internship program. A member of the editorial boards of Contemporary Psychoanalysis and the International Forum of Psychoanalysis, she has published papers on the role of neutrality in psychoanalysis, the analyst's mourning experiences, loneliness in both analytic participants, instigating hope in treatment, Fromm's spiritual values, and many other topics. Her book, *Clinical Values: Emotions That Guide Psychoanalytic Treatment*, was published by Analytic Press in July, 2004. It deals with courage, curiosity, integrity, the sense of purpose, and other values as they affect psychoanalytic experience.

Caruso, Professor Dr. Sergio, Florence

Sergio Caruso, born in Firenze 1946, is full professor of „Philosophy of Social Sciences“ at the University of Florence. Psychologist and psychoanalyst, he has been „visiting scientist“ to the Tavistock Clinic (London 1982); is now an honorary member of the Istituto Fromm (Bologna), the current President of OPIFER, and a member of IFPS; author of many essays in social philosophy and political theory, and several articles on scientific journals, such as „Eating and Weight Disorders“, „Età evolutiva“, the „Journal of the AAPDP“, „International Forum of Psychoanalysis“.

Davis, Dr. Harold B., New York

Harold B. Davis, Ph.D., ABPP is a supervisor at the New York University Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, faculty and supervisor at the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy, and in private practice in New York City. This year he is the past president of the International Federation for Psychoanalytic Education. He has published an article on Erich Fromm and Postmodernism.

Friedman, Professor Dr. Lawrence J., Bloomington

Lawrence Jacob Friedman was born in 1940 and received his doctorate in American intellectual history from UCLA in 1967. Professor at Bowling Green State University 1971-1993; currently Professor of History and Philanthropy at Indiana University, where his concentrations are in American and European intellectual and cultural history, philanthropy, and American studies. - Author of *Menninger: The Family and the Clinic* (1990) and of *Identity's Architect: A Biography of Erik Erikson* (1999), which received a Library Journal „Best Book of 1999“. In 2003 he was designated to be the „Writer of the Year“ for 2003 by the International Biographical Center at Cambridge, United Kingdom. Since 2003 he works on a forthcoming biography of Erich Fromm.

Funk, Dr. Rainer, Tübingen

Rainer Funk was born in 1943 and is practicing as psychoanalyst. He wrote his dissertation about Erich Fromm's humanistic ethics and was Fromm's last assistant from 1972 thru 1980. He is Fromm's sole literary executor, the editor of his writings and owner of the Erich Fromm Archive in Tuebingen. Co-founder of the International Erich Fromm Society and member of the Executive Board. Author of „Ich und Wir. Psychoanalyse des postmodernen Menschen“

(München 2005).

Kalcher, Professor Jürgen, Hamburg

Jürgen Kalcher, Social Worker, Psychologist, Groupworker AASWG. - Taught Psychology and methods of social work at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences until his retirement in 2000. Activities in the fields of residential child care, public education, social work with groups, intercultural work, creative work with masks. Published a number of articles and lectured on residential care, social group work and social psychological themes. Still active in social work with groups and mask making in cross cultural settings.

Khoury, Dr. Gérard, Aix en Provence

Gérard D. Khoury, born (1938) in Lebanon, lives in Aix en Provence since 1973. During his University's studies, he reads Erich Fromm's books, writes to him expressing his interest and admiration, and meets him in Mexico in 1960. B.A. and Master in Economics. Ph.D in History. He has published several books - novels, essays, history - and many articles. In 2000, a book on Erich Fromm "Revoir Freud, pour une autre approche en psychanalyse" is the occasion to publish a translation of lectures on the Unconscious by Erich Fromm and a conversation with him about his psychoanalytical method and his ideas. (Locarno-Muralto, 1978-1979).

Koch, Dr. József, Pécs

József Koch, born 1945 in Paks, Hungary, is teaching at the University of Pécs German History of Culture and „Geistesgeschichte“. His hungarian habilitation thesis of 1990 discussed „The Nature and Future of Man according to Erich Fromm's theoretical writings“. From 1990 thru 1994 he was member of the Enlarged Board of the Internationale Erich Fromm Society.

Lio, Dr. Enzo, Bologna

Psychoanalyst, member of OPIFER and the International Erich Fromm Society. He was trained in the Istituto di Psicoterapia Analitica di Bologna and was cofounder, in 1988, of the Istituto Erich Fromm di Psicoanalisi di Bologna, where he remained until 1997, working as a teacher, training analyst and supervisor. He presented several papers on Fromm's thought in conferences and seminars organized by the International Erich Fromm Society, and related in particular to the topic of the Magliaso conference, is his paper of 1988 on The concept of alienation in Fromm and Marx.

Lüdemann, Professor Dr. Otto Hamburg

Otto Lüdemann, born 1941, since 1990 Jean Monnet-Professor at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Department of Social Work and Care. Main interests in Creativity in Social Work as well as international and cross cultural learning.

Meyer, Professor Dr. Gerd, Tuebingen

Gerd Meyer was born in 1942 and studied in Hamburg, Tübingen und at the Freie Universität Berlin. Since 1977 he is Professor at the Institute for Political Sciences at the University of Tübingen. His is particular interested in political psychology (civil encouragement, Erich Fromm, authoritarianism), political culture and the political systems in Middle and East Europe. Guest Lecturer in USA, Russia, Poland, Hungary. Since many years actively in the International Erich Fromm Society and the Enlarged Board.

Moncéro, Jean Martin, Scuola Teatro Dimitri, Verscio

Trained as actor and working in different groups of French speaking Switzerland Jean-Martin Moncéro was more and more interested in finding new methods of training actors by using particular techniques of improvisation to transform creativity into artistic productive enactment. Since many years he teaches at the Scuola Teatro Dimitri in Verscio near Locarno and is the head of the department for improvisation.

Salmi, Dr. Manuela, Bologna

Psychotherapist, Psychoanalyst, Psycho oncologist. Member of the Board of Directors - Erich Fromm Institute of Bologna, Italy; Supervisor of Psychotherapy and Teaching Faculty - Erich Fromm Institute; Group Therapist - Erich Fromm Institute, Bologna, Italy Community Organization - Director of Human Services and Outreach and Supervisor of Social Service Counselling. Delegate of the International Federation of Psychoanalytic Societies (IFPS).