

Review of: "The Traumas of Displacement and Not Belonging"

Deborah Wisler

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I was pleased to review Susan Schwartz's article, which proposes to look at migratory trauma from a Jungian perspective, echoing J. Kristeva's notion of the abject, and linking trauma conceptualised from the perspective of internal displacement to that resulting from cultural displacement.

The global context of migratory flows and the suffering that accompanies them on multiple levels and aspects confronts psychopathology in the consideration of psychological trauma composed of multiple layers for these individuals. It seems to me that Susan Schwartz attempts here to provide a relevant psychotraumatological reading of it by recalling Jungian concepts that allow the conceptualisation of dissociation taking place precisely at different levels and under various clinical expressions.

I note a few aspects below that perhaps deserve to be reworked or developed by the author, in no particular order:

- the methodology of the proposed study lacks precision in its presentation and then in the use of clinical vignettes used to support the theoretical and conceptual statements. The quality and clinical relevance that could be extracted from the use of patient narratives therefore seem to us to be somewhat lost
- the examples taken from the patients' narratives in the study of the cultural dimension of trauma and the dimension of the collective could have been developed in light of the notion of culture as a set of meanings that serve as resources for the individual to interpret the situations in which he finds himself (cf. Jérôme Bruner).
- although the focus is on psychoanalytical concepts, it is regrettable that links with studies showing how trauma is more closely associated with somatic expression for individuals from non-Western cultures are not proposed (e.g. Teheggen, Stroebe and Kleber, 2001; von Overbeck Ottino, 1999).
- the presentation of the theoretical concepts and the conceptualisation of trauma chosen by the author would have made more sense if it had been posed upstream of the article, according to my expertise, in order to support the clinical elements derived from the narratives and the Jungian and Kristeva reading grid.

In addition, the lack of references in many places in the article should be noted.

- the author posits numerous primordial concepts in the clinic of trauma and dissociation without making them explicit beforehand, whereas there are many debates around the concepts of trauma and dissociation. The lack of links with the Janétian concepts central to the understanding of traumatic dissociation and the issues surrounding traumatic memories

surprised me a little (integration, realisation, synthesis, for example), especially as Jung was clearly influenced by his master. Moreover, the quote from Jung (1934, p.12) on dissociation would have been better placed much higher up in the argument.

- The elements relating to the notion of attachment in connection with the concepts of trauma and dissociation seem to me to be insufficiently developed (e.g. the work of Giovanni Liotti to support the analytical elements taken from Margareth Wilkinson?)

- the Jungian concepts would also have deserved to be more explicit - even briefly - upstream in order to better understand the choice of clinical vignettes.

- the numerous references to dreams in the narratives make one want to go further into the conceptualisation of dreams as reliving and the related Jungian concepts.

Overall, the reading includes reminders of interesting elements for the conceptualisation and treatment of complex trauma according to the analytical and more specifically Jungian approach, with an articulation of basic concepts and more recent works. The proposal to use narratives is pleasant. However, it would be desirable to better introduce the clinical vignettes. Furthermore, the construction of the text should be rethought in order to better grasp the different elements and their coherence as well as the desired link with a basic problematic that is perhaps not sufficiently clearly posed, or insufficiently targeted so as not to get lost in too many axes and contributions?

Finally, I have not found the bibliographical reference for :

- Kimbles & Samuels, 2004

- Solomon, 2004

I hope that my review will offer you some interesting perspectives to pursue your work on this article to make it accessible to more readers.

Deborah Wisler

Switzerland

Psychologist-psychotherapist

Member of the AFTD committee (www.aftd.eu)