9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF INFANT OBSERVATION ACCORDING TO THE METHOD OF ESTHER BICK AND ITS APPLICATIONS

DAKAR 29 OCTOBER TO 3 NOVEMBER 2012

BABIES IN ALL THEIR STATES

INFANT OBSERVATION IN DIFFERENT CULTURAL CONTEXTS (FAMILY, ENVIRONMENT, INSTITUTION...).

SENEGAL, THE LAND OF “TÉRANGA” (WARM WELCOME) IS WAITING FOR YOU!

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION SIGN WWW.PSY-ENFANT-ADO.COM
The method of Infant Observation created by Esther Bick in 1948 represents a fundamental moment in the training for all professionals dealing with infancy and for those who are confronted with primitive and infantile mental states. This training equally permits professionals, who do not ordinarily work with children, to reinforce their capacity to understand deep archaic levels of psychological functioning in all patients.

The observation of babies confronts us with the mystery of the origins of psychological life and its first manifestations, with the body language of babies, with the impact of the arrival of a baby in a family organization and into the psychological life of each family member. With its clinical applications, this method has represented a great opening in baby care centres (maternities, crèches, nurseries …). Indeed observation, because of its richness, is a method which permits working groups to elaborate and think about the “raw” material of the observations and to use these observations to develop and deepen their understanding.

One can also emphasize the scientific contribution of this method to the understanding of the baby’s psychological development and in the prevention of developmental problems that emerge in infancy such as autism and attachment disorders. This method has also brought new understanding of severe pathologies such as autism and psychosis. It has opened the way to the psychotherapy of the parent-baby relation.

For the first time the International Conference of Baby Observation will be held in an African country. Senegal is a pioneer in the experience of baby observation on the African continent. Within this Conference we want to give special attention to babies in developing countries; babies, who are often exposed to the violent changes that their family lives in the passage from a traditional culture to a “modern” culture.

Maternal traditions, which were so vital in African families, have a tendency to be lost, especially in urban setting with the disappearance of the extended family and housing conditions which greatly reduce the possibilities for toddlers to satisfy their vital needs.

We believe that making this method better known and available in Africa will participate in the development of public health and facilitate a greater respect for the rights of children, women and parents.

Each baby confronts us with a past cultural heritage (ours and that of our ancestors) and a future which can be rich in promises…

THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THEIR PARTICIPATION AT THIS CONFERENCE

Andrea Austa, Graciela Ball, Monica Cardenal (Argentina)
Rosella Sandri, Annette Watillon (Belgium)
Nara Caron, Luciane Falcao (Brasil)
Hilda Botero (Colombia)
Jorge Tizon (Spain)
Michel Amar, Pierre Delion, Anne Frichet, Geneviève Haag, Michel Haag, Didier Houzel, Marie-Christine Leguellec
Denis Mellier, Régine Prat, Rosa Mascaro (France)
Luigia Cresti, Suzanne Maiello, Simona Nissim, Francesca Siboni, Anna Tabanelli, Uguzzoni (Italy)
Esperanza Pla, Nohemi Reyes Polanco (Mexico)
Idrissa Ba, Momar Gueye, Oumou Ly Kane (Senegal)
Brian Feldman (USA)