15th Scientific Convention
"RELATIONS AND STRUCTURES. DEVELOPMENTS OF GESTALT THEORY IN PSYCHOLOGY AND ADJACENT FIELDS"
Macerata, Italy May 25 – 27, 2007

PRE-PROGRAM: Thursday 24 May

16.00-18.00 Meeting on Gestalt theory application in psychotherapy and clinical psychology (Aula Magna, Macerata University)
19.00 Inauguration of the Exhibition
"Manfredo Massironi. Arte e ricerca visiva. Ricerca visiva e arte"
"Specula" di Palazzo Mozi Borgetti - (Pinacoteca e Biblioteca Comune Macerata)
20.30 Dinner ("Da Secondo")

Friday 25 May

MORNING (9.30-13.00) AULA MAGNA VALLEBONA

8.15 Bus from the hotels to the conference location
8.30-9.30 Registration of participants
9.30-9.45 Official opening: Roberto Sani (Rector of Macerata University) Gerhard Stemberger (President Society for Gestalt Theory and its Application)
9.45-10.15 R. Canestrari (Professor Emeritus, Bologna University, Italy): Lectures: Gestalt Psychology in my scientific training
10.15-10.45 G. Galli (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Introductory Lecture: Relations and structures
10.45-11.15 Coffee break
11.15-12.30 Introduction to contributions
(11.15-11.35) I. Bianchi (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Introduction to contributions on Perception
(11.35-11.50) A. Zuczkowski (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Introduction to contributions on Language and Communication
(11.50-12.10) A. Arfelli Galli (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Introduction to contributions on Early Child Development
(12.10-12.30) C. Scurati (Department of Pedagogy, Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Milan, Italy): Introduction to contributions on Formative Processes
(12.30-12.50) A. Palmonari (Department of Educational Sciences, Bologna University, Italy): Introduction to contributions on Social Psychology
## AFTERNOON  (15.00-18.30)

### Session A: PERCEPTION

**The Perception of the Relationships between Visual Forms**

**Chairman:** T. Agostini (*Department of Psychology, Trieste University, Italy*)

- **15.00-15.30**  I. Bianchi (*Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy*), U. Savardi (*Department of Psychology and Cultural Anthropology, Verona University, Italy*): ‘Oppositeness’ as Perceptual Relationship
- **15.30-16.00**  M. Kubový (*Department of Psychology, Virginia University, USA*): On the place of opposites in a narrative theory of enjoyment and pleasure.
- **16.00-16.30**  Discussion
- **16.30-17.00**  Coffee break
- **17.00-17.30**  J.S. Kelso (*Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences, Florida, USA*): The complementary nature
- **17.30-18.00**  R. Luccio (*Department of Psychology, Trieste University, Italy*): Computational gestalts and Pragnanz
- **18.00-18.30**  Discussion

### Session B: LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

**The Internal Structure of Dialogues**

**Chairman:** J. Skilters (*Center for Cognitive Sciences and Semantics, University of Latvia*)

- **15.00-15.30**  G. Mininni, R. Scardigno, R. Rubino (*Department of Psychology, Bari University, Italy*): The Gestalt quality of discourse
- **15.30-16.00**  R. Ciceri, F. Biassoni (*Communication Psychology Lab, Catholic Sacred Heart, Milano University, Italy*): A multilayer model for the analysis of vocal acts
- **16.00-16.30**  I. Riccioni (*Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy*): The informal counseling sequences as dialogic Gestalt
- **16.30-17.00**  Coffee break
- **17.00-17.30**  L. Anolli, V. Zurloni. (*CESCOM - Centre for Studies in Communication Sciences, Milano University – Bicocca, Italy*): Standard lies within everyday conversation
- **17.30-18.00**  E. Mauri, E. Vegni, E. Moja (*Department of Medicine, Milano University, Italy*): A quantitative study on the verbal communication between physicians and patients in prenatal diagnosis
- **18.00-18.30**  Discussion
Sessions C-D: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, PEDAGOGY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Relevance of Metzger’s View of Early Child Development
Chairman: A. Arfelli Galli (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy)

15.00-15.30 A. Arfelli Galli (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): The relevance of Metzger’s thought on early development
15.30-16.00 P. E. Ricci Bitti (Department of Psychology, Bologna University, Italy): Decoders’ processing of emotional facial expressions: fundamental mechanisms and developmental implications
16.00-16.30 P. Battistelli (Department of Psychology, Bologna University, Italy): Functions of perceptive and cognitive gestalten in the development of metarepresentative thought
16.30-17.00 Coffee break
17.00-17.30 N. Dolcini (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): The Attribution of intentional States to Pre-linguistic Children
17.30-18.00 M. Muzi (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): The structure of Crittenden’s CARE- Index from a theoretical gestalt point of view
18.00-18.30 K. Sternek (Vienna University, Austria): Attachment theory and Gestalt psychology

Action-Research
Chairman: P. Amerio (Department of Psychology, Torino University, Italy)

15.00-15.30 L. Migliorini, N. Rania, P. Cardinali (Department of Antrophological Sciences, Genova University, Italy): Action Research: Enhancing change through the social group
15.30-16.00 E. Crocetti, A. Fermani, B. Pojaghi (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): “To choose or not to choose?” An experience of action-research with adolescents
16.00-16.30 Discussion
16.30-17.00 Coffee break
17.00-17.30 D. Simeone, L. Cadei (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Pedagogical remarks for action-research method
17.30-18.00 H. Fitzek (Institut für Wirtschafts – und Kulturpsychologie, Postdam, Germany): Organizational cultures. Cultural Psychology as research and consultation in private and public institutions
18.00-18.30 Discussion
19.00 Bus from the conference location to the hotels

21.30-22.30 CONCERT: L’arco Musicale di Paolo Bozzi

AULA VALLEBONA
Saturday 26 May

MORNING (9.30-13.00)

8.15  Bus from the hotels to the conference location
9.00 - 9.30  Poster

Session A: PERCEPTION

Perceptually-based Classifications of Graphic Images.

Chairman: R. Luccio (Department of Psychology, Trieste University, Italy)

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9.30 - 10.00  G.B. Vicario (Department of Social Sciences, Udine University, Italy): Optical-geometrical illusions: the nomenclature
10.00 - 10.30  O. da Pos (Department of Psychology, Padova University, Italy): A phenomenological instead of a psychophysical definition of visual illusions
10.30 - 11.00  M. Zanforlin (Department of Psychology, Padova University, Italy): Perceptual Structures and Spatio-temporal Relationships
11.00 - 11.30  Coffee break
11.30 - 12.00  A. Galmonte (Department of Psychology and cultural Anthropology, Verona University, Italy), T. Agostini (Department of Psychology, Trieste University, Italy): Contrast and assimilation: the role of perceptual organization
12.00 - 12.30  Zeynep Mennan (Department of Architecture, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey): The shifting grounds of Gestalt Theory: a problematization of visual perception within the context of self-differentiating forms
12.30 - 13.00  Discussion
13.00 - 15.00  Lunch break

Session B: LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

The Internal Structure of Dialogues

Chairman: E. Moja (Department of Medicine, Milano University, Italy)

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9.30 - 10.00  L. Anolli, O. Realdon, S. Raspelli, A. Ascolese (CESCOM - Centre for Studies in communication Sciences, Milano University – Bicocca, Italy): Optimism, pessimism and regularities in meaning patterning
10.00 - 10.30  A. Manuti, G. Curigliano, G. Mininni (Department of Psychology, Bari University, Italy): Work as an anchor to wellbeing: a study on the dialogic construction of the meaning of flexibility
10.30 - 11.00  R. Bongelli (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Conversations as Gestalten: the use of Pre Term Insertions (PTI)
11.00 - 11.30  Coffee break
11.30 - 12.00  C. Mazzoleni (Department of Psychology, Pavia University, Italy): The analysis of a conversational strategy of attack: from the content to the relationship
12.00 - 12.30  R. Bongelli, C. Canestrari, I. Riccioni (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Conversational discords as Gestalten
12.30 - 13.00  Discussion
Relationship between verbal and non-verbal structures

Chairman: J. Petöfi (Department of Philosophy and Human Sciences, Macerata University, Italy)

9.30-10.00  J. Skilters (Center for Cognitive Sciences and Semantics, University of Latvia): Frames as structured wholes: On the relations between frame theory and figure-ground semantics

10.00-10.30  O. Wiegand (Mainz University, Germany): Formal Mereological Semantics – A Fresh Approach to Semantics based on Mereology

10.30-11.00  T. Mala, T.V. Geetha (Department of Computer Science and Engineering, College of Engineering, Guindy, Anna University, USA): Multi level categorization Visualization based on Gestalt Perception Model

11.00-11.30  Coffee break

11.30-12.00  J. S Petöfi, A. Garbuglia, M. La Matina, G. Pascucci, L. Vitacolonna (Department of Philosophy and Human Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): The Song of Songs. A multimedial semiotic research project

12.00-12.30  G. Galli (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy), G. Pascucci (Department of Philosophy and Human Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Intersemiotic interpretation of the "Visitation"

12.30-13.00  J. Utriainen (Finland): Sound Space and Gestalt Theory - Gestalt Theoretical Exploration in Music Analysis

Sessions C-D: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, PEDAGOGY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Formative Processes and the "Peer Group" Culture

Chairman: F. Carugati (Department of Educational Sciences, Bologna University, Italy)

9.30-9.50  M. Muzi, A. Arfelli Galli (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Perceived World and Represented World. Tools for Communication Training

9.50-10.10  S. Cacciamani (Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Valle d’Aosta, Italy), C. Agodi (Faculty of Educational Sciences, Teacher, Italy): Cooperative Learning and achievement in mathematical problem solving: cognitive and motivational aspects

10.10-10.30  P. Nicolini, T. Lapucci (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy), C. Moroni (Department of Informatic, Management and Automatic Engineering, Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy): The role of cognitive conflict and peer interaction in conceptual change: a course on child observation practices

10.30-10.50  M.C. Matteucci, C. Tomasetto (Department of Educational Sciences, Bologna University, Italy), B. Kopp (Department of Psychology, Munich University, Germany), F. Carugati, P. Selleri, E. Mazzoni, P. Gaffuri (Department of Educational Sciences, Bologna University, Italy): Peer interaction and knowledge construction through e-learning tools

11.00-11.30  Coffee break

11.30-11.50  Discussion

11.50-12.10  A. R. Ravenna (Gestalt Institute, Rome, Italy): Looking at a photo

12.10-12.30  Karel Mls (Faculty of Informatics and Management, University of Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic), Nella Mlsova (Pedagogical Faculty, University of Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic): The Portrait of Italy in Czech Prose – from details to general view with the support of the concept mapping

12.30-13.00  Discussion
AFTERNOON (15.00-18.30)

Session A: PERCEPTION

Grounding Descriptions in Perception: From Gestalt Psychology to Current Ontology
Chairman: F. Toccafondi (Department of Philosophy, Parma University, Italy)

15.00 – 15.30 M. Ferraris (International Center for Theoretical and Applied Ontology): Unamendableness Revisited
15.30-16.00 M. Cristani (Department of Informatics, Verona University, Italy), U. Savardi (Department of Psychology and cultural Anthropology, Verona University, Italy): An experience on meaning binding: theoretical and technological framework against experimental findings
16.00-16.30 S.A. Guberan (Digital Oil Technologies, USA), V.P. Karp (Moscow Institute of Radio and Electronics, Russia): Gestalt and Generalization
16.30-17.00 Coffee break
17.00- 17.30 A. Engelmann (University of Sao Paolo, Brazil): Starting from the immediateness
17.30-18.00 F. Orilia (Department of Philosophy and Human Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Perception and naive ontology
18.00-18.30 Discussion

Session B: LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

Conversational Happiness and Prägnanz
Chairman: G. Mininni (Department of Psychology, University of Bari, Italy)

15.00 – 15.30 I. Poggi, R. Emanuele (Department of Educational Sciences, University of Roma Tre, Italy): The power of the eyelids. A compositional view of gaze communication
15.30-16.00 I. Riccioni, C. Canestrari, R. Bongelli (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): The structure of dialogical attuning
16.00-16.30 H. Metz-Göckel (University of Dortmund, Germany): Closure as a joke-principle
16.30-17.00 Coffee break
17.00- 17.30 C. Canestrari (Department of Educational Science, Macerata University, Italy), S. Attardo (University of Ohio, USA): Humorous syntony as a metacommunicative language game
17.30-18.30 Discussion

Session C-D: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, PEDAGOGY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Lewin’s field theory and its development
Chairman: A. Palmonari (Department of Educational Sciences, Bologna University, Italy)

15.00-15.30 P. Amerio (Department of Psychology, Torino University, Italy): The relevance of Lewin’s thought
15.30-16.00 B. Pojaghi (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy): Majority and minority in democracy: The relevance of Lewin and Wertheimer
16.00-16.30 E. Crocetti (Department of Educational Sciences, Macerata University, Italy), A. Palmonari (Department of Educational Sciences, Bologna University, Italy): Adolescence and emerging adulthood: The relevance of Lewin’s thought
16.30-17.00 Coffee break
17.00-17.30 T. B. Johnsen (Psychometrics Unit, University of Bergen, Norway): Balance in sociometric group structures
17.30-18.00 Discussion
Psychotherapy session (15.00-18.30)

Chairman: G. Stemberger (President Society for Gestalt Theory and its Application)

15.00 – 15.30 N. Andersch (Maudsley Hospital, London, Great Britain): Symbolic Form and ‘Gestalt’ – A Creative Tension. Ernst Cassirer’s Contribution to a Model of ‘Mental Formation’

15.30-16.00 G. Trombini, E. Trombini (Department of Psychology, Bologna University, Italy): Focal play-therapy and eating behaviour self regulation in preschool children

16.00-16.30 U. Wedam (Zebra, Graz, Austria): Relation and Structure in Psychotherapy with Traumatized Asylum-Seekers

16.30-17.00 Coffee break

17.30-18.30 Round Table Discussion: Gestalt Theory in Psychotherapy and Clinical Psychology.
Panelists include: Th. Fuchs (Bonn, Germany), R. Kaestl (Lindau, Germany), M. Spagnuolo-Lobb (Siracusa, Italy), G. Trombini (Bologna, Italy), U. Wedam (Graz, Austria)

19.00 Bus from the conference location to the hotels
19.45 General Meeting of the GTA Members
(Restaurant “da Secondo”, Macerata, via Pescheria Vecchia)

Sunday 27 May

AULA MAGNA VALLEBONA

MORNING (9.30-13.00)

8.15 Bus from the hotels to the conference location

9.00-10.00 Wolfgang Metzger Award 2007
Award Ceremony and Metzger Award Lecture: Dr. Cees van Leeuwen (Riken, Japan)

10.00 - 10.30 GTA honorary member nomination (G. Galli and M. Zanforlin)

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30 Closing session
Conclusions on the topics proposed in each session

(11.00-11.20) M. Stadler (University of Bremen, Germany), G.J. Boudewijnse (Concordia University, Canada): Session A: Perception
(11.20-11.40) J. Skilters (Center for Cognitive Sciences and Semantics, University of Latvia) Session B: Language and Communication
(11.40-12.00) M. Soff (University of Education, Karlsruhe, FRG, Germany) Session C: Developmental Psychology and Pedagogic
(12.00-12.20) H. Metz-Göckel (University of Dortmund, Germany) Session D: Social Psychology