

The International  
SOCIETY FOR GESTALT THEORY AND ITS  
APPLICATIONS



in cooperation with  
Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Educazione e della Formazione



UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI  
DI MACERATA

15<sup>th</sup> 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 Gestalt theory application in psychotherapy and clinical psychology (Aula Magna, Macerata University)  
Organized by the psychotherapy section of the GTA, open for all conference participants.  
Chair: R. Kaestl (Lindau, Germany), E. Wagner-Lukesch (Vienna, Austria)  
Lectures: R. Kaestl (GTA, Lindau, Germany) and Margherita Spagnuolo-Lobb (Istituto di Gestalt H.C.C. Siracusa, Italy)
- 19.00 Inauguration of the Exhibition  
"Manfredo Massironi. Arte e ricerca visiva. Ricerca visiva e arte"  
"Specula" di Palazzo Mozzi Borgetti - (Pinacoteca e Biblioteca Comune Macerata)
- 20.30 Welcome evening with Dinner for all participants, Restaurant "Da Secondo" – please register for this separately, dinner is not included in the participation fee!

**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 Applications)
- 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*): Introductive 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

AULA VALLEBONA

Chair: 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. Kubovy (*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

AULA VALLEBONA

Chair: 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

AULA VALLEBONA

The Relevance of Metzger's View of Early Child Development

Chair: P. E. Ricci Bitti (*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 (*OeAGP, Vienna, Austria*): Attachment theory and Gestalt psychology

Action-Research

Chair: P. Amerio (*Department of Psychology, Torino University, Italy*)

AULA VALLEBONA

- 15.00-15.30 L. Migliorini, N. Rania, P. Cardinali (*Department of Anthropological 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 magna Macerata University

## Saturday 26 May

### MORNING (9.30-13.00)

- 8.15 *Bus from the hotels to the conference location*
- 9.00 -9.30 *Poster* ATRIO Vallebona
- P. Kadivar, E. Niazi (*Teheran, Iran*): The effect of cognitive strategies in writing and reading performance of disabled students
- R. Fusaroli, C. Vandi (*Bologna University, Italy*): Semantic perception and semiotics: Language as an object of perception
- A. Bramucci, R. De Leonibus, D. Tamanti, B. Montanini, G. Crispolti, F. Nicoletti (*Cultural Association Ciformaper, Urbino, Italy*): The Fields of Self methodology by Gestalt-Ecology
- A. Schepis (*Macerata University, Italy*), T. Agostini (*Trieste University, Italy*): The organization of chromatic patterns in art and visual perception
- R. Petruzzi, G. B. Vicario, L. Zanuttini (*Udine University, Italy*): Counteraction in visual phenomena: Further measurements on Zöllner illusion
- R. Burro, U. Savardi (*Verona University, Italy*), Ivana Bianchi (*Macerata University, Italy*): Unidimensionality of opposites?
- K. Jinsook (*Institute of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, USA*): Constructing a system framework to investigate perceptual dominance among motion-grouping principles as an application of a theory of motion-gestalt for motion-involved design on screen
- A. Gargano, M. P. Scialdone (*Macerata University, Italy*): "Gestalt": from lexeme to meaning
- G. Gallii, P. Marchegiani (*Macerata University, Italy*): Phenomenology and dynamics of the compassion
- M. Armezzani (*Padova University, Italy*), G. Gallii (*Macerata University, Italy*), M. Paduanello (*Padova University, Italy*): Metzger's theory of structural centering and the phenomenology of the person
- M. De Lotto, R. Burro, A. Galmonte, D. Bressanelli, U. Savardi (*Verona University, Italy*), I. Bianchi (*Macerata University, Italy*):

### Session A: PERCEPTION

#### Perceptually-based Classifications of Graphic Images.

AULA VALLEBONA

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

- 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

AULA VALLEBONA

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

- 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*), C. De Micheli, C. Galimberti (*Communication Psychology Lab, Catholic Sacred Heart, Milano 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

AULA VALLEBONA

Chair: J. Petófi (*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*): Multi level categorization Visualization based on Gestalt Perception Model
- 11.00-11.30 *Coffee break*
- 11.30-12.00 J. S Petófi, 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

AULA VALLEBONA

Chair: 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 mathematic 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. Mazzone, 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

AULA VALLEBONA

Chair: 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. Guberman (*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 San Paolo, Brazil*): Starting from the immediateness
- 17.30-18.00 F. Orilia (*Department of Philosophy and Human Sciences, Macerata University, Italy*): Ontology and the phenomenology of Perception
- 18.00-18.30 Discussion

## Session B: LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

Conversational Happiness and Prägnanz

AULA VALLEBONA

Chair: 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

AULA VALLEBONA

Chair: 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's and Wertheimer's view
- 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)

AULA VALLEBONA

Chair: G. Stemberger (*Vienna, Austria*), D. Beneder (*Kottingbrunn, Austria*), R. Valdevit (*Munich, Germany*)

- 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*), A. R. Ravenna (*Rome, Italy*), 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– open for all conference Participants  
(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 (*Montreal, 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*), F. Herget (*Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, Germany*)  
Session C: Developmental Psychology and Pedagogic
- (12.00-12.20)     H. Metz-Göckel (*University of Dortmund, Germany*) Session D: Social Psychology