

# FIELD -THEORY IN THE STUDY OF COMPASSION

## Phenomenology and dynamics

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*"The dynamics of the processes is always to be derived from the relation of the concrete individual to the concrete situation, and, so far as internal forces are concerned, from the mutual relations of the various functional systems that make up the individual."* (K. Lewin 1935)

According to Lewin the dynamics of compassion derives from the relation between the *requiredness* of the situation, in the sense of Wertheimer and Köhler, and the *internal world* of the individual who experiences compassion.

According to Heider, we believe that insights concerning interpersonal relations are embodied in literary texts and in other artistic works; for this reason we will analyse the text of *Philoctetes* by Sophocles: and Kieślowski's movie: *Decalogo V*. We consider the characters of the story as personifications of the internal forces of the individual. In the play of Sofocles, we will analyse the compassion on a sick person; in the film by Kieślowski, the compassion on a guilty person.

We define compassion not only as a feeling of sympathy for someone but as a commitment to take care of the person. At the opposite there is the repulsion and the abandonment or the destruction of the person. After a global examination of the two stories, we can elaborate the following diagram that presents two situations: that of the sick person and that of the guilty person. In both situations there are characters in which compassion can be analysed in its inhibiting or promoting factors.

