

Carlos Morra and Mateo Kreiker: General Psychopathology

9. Thomas A. Ban: General Psychopathology

Seminar 2. Basic concepts

GENERAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

For Residents in Psychiatry

Eight Seminars

1994

February 17 – March 9

Thomas A. Ban, MD, FRCP(C)

Professor of Psychiatry

BASIC CONCEPTS: THE PSYCHIC REFLEX

Second Seminar

UNIT

Elementary Unit:

Psychopathologic

Symptoms

Pathologic Subjective Experiences

Signs

Abnormal Objective Performances

Psychopathologic Symptom:

Content

Concept

and

Form

Content is derived from past experience (subject matter a person talks about)

Form is characteristic of illness (**how a** person is talking, i.e., process)

PHENOMENOLOGY

Deals with the Pathology of Subjective Experiences in Karl Jaspers' General Psychopathology

Conceptual Development

KANT Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804)
 Critiques of Pure Reason 1781
 Critiques of Practical Reason 1788

Experience through senses provides only the surface of things

PHENOMENON

Transcendental leap through the mind to know "the thing in itself"

NOUMENON

Knowledge is the result of sensations and the activity of the mind that organizes them in time and space with the help of a prior categories: quantity, quality, relation, modality

CATEGORIES

HUSSERL Edmund Husserl (1859 -1938)

1913. *Ideen zu einer reinen Phänomenologie und phänomenologischen Philosophie. Erstes Buch: Allgemeine Einführung in die reine Phänomenologie*
 Phenomenology, or the study of subjective experience is the science that preceded all others
 Phenomenology describes the form and content of subjective psychological experiences
 Psychology "explains these experiences" and their "causal relationships"

DILTHEY Wilhelm Dilthey (1833 -1911)

Introduced the concept of understanding in psychology
 Pointed out the need to understand individual as a whole
 Contrasted "understanding" with analytical explanatory methods of natural science

DISCIPLINES WHICH DEAL WITH CONTENT

Empathic Psychology	"must think ourselves into his/her situation or try to understand why he/she is behaving in certain way"
Interpretative Psychology	"ideas which have been obtained by empathizing with patients are formulated in terms of some general theory"
Psychoanalytic Interpretative Psychology	"understanding of patient is formulated in terms of general theory"
Existentialist Interpretative Psychology	derived to some extent from mythology "understanding of patient is formulated in terms of general theory"
Psychology (Binswanger 1958)	derived from the philosophy of Heidegger (1889 - 1976)

CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY:
DEALS WITH ABNORMAL FORMS OF SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE

DEFINITION: Mode -- perception, thought -- by which subject is presented with object

EXAMPLE: Hypochondriacal complaints, a content may appear in the form of bodily hallucinations, compulsive ideas, hypochondriacal delusions, etc.

PATIENT: **deals with CONTENT**
(Lay Person)

PSYCHIATRIST: **deals with FORM**
(Diagnostician)

Psychic life: total relational context in constant flux with patients conscious state and mood simultaneous presence (or quick succession) of same content in varied forms not an agglomeration of isolated phenomena

Mental status: separates form from content
identify all different forms in which content (behavior) is presented to and (experienced or displayed by) the patient
forms relevant to patient's illness clearer and sharper than others

REFLEX: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

DESCARTES	1649	Introduced term (Des Passions de l'Âme)
WHYTT	1751	Adopted term into Physiology (On the Vital and Other Involuntary Motions)
GRIESINGER	1843	Described Psychic Reflex
SECHENOV	1866	Extended concept of psychic reflex to include all activities of the brain (Reflexes of the Brain)
WERNICKE	1899	Adopted psychic reflex as the functional unit of psychiatric disease

WERNICKE'S CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Psychosensory Path

hyperesthesia
paresthesia
anesthesia

Intrapsychic Path

hyperfunction
parafunction
afunction

Psychomotor Path

hyperkinesia
parakinesia
akinesia

Consciousness

Integrating Function

Body

Somatopsyche

External World

Allopsyche

Personality

Autopsyche

NYIRO'S SYNTHESIS
(1958)

WERNICKE	1899 (1900)	Psychic Reflex (psychosensory, intrapsychic and psychomotor)
PAVLOV	1900	Conditional Reflex (differential and retarded inhibition)
JASPERS	1913	General Psychopathology (phenomenology)

MENTAL STRUCTURE

COGNITIVE (Psychosensory)	RELATIONAL (Intrapsychic)	ADAPTIVE (Psychomotor)
Abstract Ideation	Ethical, Moral & Social Emotions	Automatisms
Concrete Ideation	Intellectual Emotions	Voluntary Coordinations
Image Formation	Sensorial Emotions	Instinctual (Emotional) Stereotypes
Differentiated Perception	Vital Emotions	Uncoordinated Activities
Diffuse Sensation	Undifferentiated Primitive Signal	Simple Autonomic Reflexes

CONSCIOUSNESS**SCREENING**

Awareness – lowered
clouded
narrowed

Attention – concentration
vigilance
tenacity

INTEGRATION

Self – identity
integrity
boundaries

Memory – acquisition
retention
recall

PSYCHOPATHOLOGIC SYMPTOMS: BIOLOGIC SUBSTRATE

Recognition that psychopathologic symptoms are accessible to pharmacologic manipulation and control by psychotropic drugs

Psychotropic drugs are substances with an effect on the transmission of impulses at the synaptic cleft

Psychopathologic symptoms are manifestations of pathology in the processing of experience in the brain

Recognition that the grouping of psychopathologic symptoms at a particular point in time alone does not express mental illness as a whole