Homosexualities

Psychogenesis, Polymorphism, and Countertransference

Edited by Elda Abrevaya and Frances Thomson-Salo

For the Committee on Women and Psychoanalysis

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HOMOSEXUALITIES

Psychogenesis, Polymorphism, and Countertransference

edited by

Elda Abrevaya
and
Frances Thomson-Salo

A volume in the Psychoanalysis & Women Series
for the Committee on Women and Psychoanalysis
of the International Psychoanalytical Association

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We have dedicated this book to the memory of Alcira Mariam Alizade. She was a most generous and tireless promoter of the activities of the IPA Committee on Women and Psychoanalysis. Her intelligence, passion, and vitality were invested in theoretical and clinical studies of sexuality and gender, where her contribution was most valued. Her original thinking and writing made her a significant person for contemporary psychoanalysis. Mariam Alizade was very creative right up until the end of her life, with many ideas yet unrealised.

We thank the individual authors who have contributed so generously to this book, representing a range of work by a number of European psychoanalysts as well as analysts from North America and Latin America; in exploring and expanding their views about the homosexuality, they have furthered the debate in a way that will always be felt to be respectful, even if not always agreed with.

Finally, we thank the International Psychoanalytical Association for their ongoing commitment to the work of the Committee on Women and Psychoanalysis.
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Ayşe Kurtul is a psychoanalyst and a member of the Istanbul Psychoanalytical Society and IPA since 2010. She has worked as a psychologist in the hospital of Cerrahpaşa Faculty of medicine in the Geropsychiatry Department and the Department for Sexual Dysfunctions. She has been in private practice since 1996 and is particularly interested in female studies.
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Ferhan Özenen has been a member of the Istanbul Psychoanalytical Association and an IPA member since 2008. Her main interests are femininity and sexuality. She has given seminars on femininity and hysteria at Istanbul Psychoanalytical Association since 2009. She organised the International Psychoanalysis Meeting on Narcissism (2009) and has participated in, and contributed to, the organisation of the COWAP meetings (2008 and 2013) in Istanbul. She is on the Cinema and Psychoanalysis Committee, organising discussions on films every year, presenting the relationship between cinema and psychoanalysis. Her papers on various topics have been published in the *Journal of the Istanbul Psychoanalytical Association*.

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Ralph Roughton, MD, is Clinical Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Emory University, a training and supervising analyst, and former Director of the Emory University Psychoanalytic Institute. He was Founding Chair of the American Psychoanalytic Association’s (APsaA) Committee on GLBT Issues and honoured for that work since
1998 by APsaA’s annual “Ralph Roughton Paper Award”. He has served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, on various committees of APsaA and the IPA, and is the author of papers on psychoanalytic process, sexual orientation, and treatment for gay men.

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I am pleased, as the Overall Chair of the International Psychoanalytical Association’s Committee on Women and Psychoanalysis (COWAP), for this book to be included in the growing library of the Karnac series “Psychoanalysis and Women”, which presents revisions to current understandings. Otto Kernberg, when he was President of the IPA, set up COWAP in 1998 to explore scientific and political issues about the differences between women and men. A hallmark of COWAP is always being interested in engaging with other organisations and ideas, and in opening up a reciprocal discussion.

The book is based on a COWAP conference on the theme of “Homosexualities” held on 31 May and 1 June, 2013, in Istanbul. This conference, with its highly complex and quite explosive theme, coincided with the igniting of a social upheaval in support of democratic rights and led to the clinical workshops on the second day of the conference being cancelled. In this sense, the opportunity to realise this book, which includes the theoretical contributions as well as clinical cases and their discussion, is a restitution of what had been disrupted.

The chapters in this book offer a depth, breadth, and vibrancy of creative and scientific interest. The writing is often poignantly
evocative, and powerful, and, as psychoanalytic thinking and work become more complex, our understanding of the analytic process is deepened, with a greater awareness of broader ways of understanding the field. Much creativity has emerged from what has been studied, which we hope will lead, in turn, to a new therapeutic synthesis.

Frances Thomson-Salo
Introduction

Elda Abrevaya

When we study the cases presented in this volume, we note that there is no typical development of homosexuality. In each of them, the object choice can only be grasped by examining its psychogenesis, that is, the psychic history of the subject and its vicissitudes.

Homosexuality in the work of Freud

Freud had, from quite early, approached homosexuality with the scientific rigour and openness that always characterised his work. In this sense, his conception was not moralistic. In the revisions he made in 1910 and 1915 to Three Essays (1905d), he remarked that psychoanalysis had not yet succeeded in obtaining a “complete explanation of the origin of inversion”, but had discovered “the psychic mechanism of its development” (pp. 144–145). In his essay Leonardo da Vinci and a Memory of his Childhood (1910c), he tried to grasp the artist’s latent homosexuality through the understanding of its psychic determinants. He stated in a footnote added to the text in 1919 that

even the most normal person is capable of making a homosexual object choice, and has done so at some time in his life, and either still