

NEWS

- *Solution focused therapy: the miracle of collaborative conversations with children, adults and families*, a 20-hour in-service training took place on 2-3 September 2016 in Cluj.
- the 9th Conference of the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA) took place in Athens from 28 September to 1 October 2016.
- on 27 October a new foundation course in systemic family therapy started with 9 trainees.

ORIGINS AND ORIGINALITY IN FAMILY THERAPY AND SYSTEMIC PRACTICE

Pictures about the Athens 2016 EFTA Conference



"My name is Aristotle, and this is not a joke!"

Guided tour for conference attendees around the Acropolis, led by Aristotle, the archeologist, who seemed to know everything about Athens's complex history.

The opening ceremony at the Dora Stratou open air theatre on Filopappou Hill, near the Acropolis. One of the highlights of this evening was the concert by Maria Farantouri, Greece's living legend.



Psychologist Nikolaos Gionakis, director of a mental health unit for migrants and refugees in Athens, with David Amias (UK) and Mina Polemi-Todoulou (Greece) at the symposium *“Working with the refugee crisis: holding on to hope”*. From the perspective of the workers directly involved in refugee work none of the widely circulated words (refugees, migrants) seems adequate. The title of Gionakis’s presentation: *Not just refugees, mainly humans*.



“When the death of a child leaves a family speechless”, an experiential workshop presented by Marie-Jeanne Schon (Luxembourg) on the use of buttons in therapy for supporting bereaved families. A good example of the originality referred at in the title of the conference. You can read more about Marie-Jeanne’s approach in

Schon, M. J. (2014) Family sculptures with sewing buttons. An innovative therapeutic tool. *Human Systems: The Journal of Therapy, Consultation and Training*, 24:76-84.

Zoltán, Ágnes and Ștefana Ghita enjoying the sunshine at the top of the conference building. Ștefana started her family therapy training in Cluj and finished it in Switzerland where she presently works as a psychiatrist and systemic psychotherapist.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“When considering the actual living conditions of present-day civilized humanity from the standpoint of even the most elementary religious commands, one is bound to experience a feeling of deep and painful disappointment at what one sees. For while religion prescribes brotherly love in the relations among the individuals and groups, the actual spectacle more resembles a battlefield than an orchestra. Everywhere, in economic as well as in political life, the guiding principle is one of ruthless striving for success at the expense of one’s fellow-men. This competitive spirit prevails even in school and, destroying all feelings of human fraternity and cooperation, conceives of achievement not as derived from the love for productive and thoughtful work, but as springing from personal ambition and fear of rejection.

There are pessimists who hold that such a state of affairs is necessarily inherent in human nature; it is those who propound such views that are the enemies of true religion, for they imply thereby that religious teachings are Utopian ideals and unsuited to afford guidance in human affairs. The study of the social patterns in certain so-called primitive cultures, however, seems to have made it sufficiently evident that such a defeatist view is wholly unwarranted. Whoever is concerned with this problem, a crucial one in the study of religion as such, is advised to read the description of the Pueblo Indians in Ruth Benedict’s book, *Patterns of Culture*. Under the hardest living conditions, this tribe has apparently accomplished the difficult task of delivering its people from the scourge of competitive spirit and of fostering in it a temperate, cooperative conduct of life, free of external pressure and without any curtailment of happiness.”¹

(Albert Einstein)

Programele de formare în terapia familială sunt coorganizate de către ATFSC
și Fundația AGAPE pentru Ocrotirea Vieții.

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Redactat de Ágnes Kónya și Zoltán Kónya

¹ Source: Einstein, A. (1946) *Ideas and opinions*. New York: Bonanza, quoted by Davies, J. (2012) *The importance of suffering. The value and meaning of emotional discontent*. London: Routledge.