

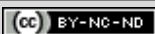
Presentation of “Psychoanalysis and Interpretation”

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## Presentation of “Psychoanalysis and Interpretation”

The first version of this interview was published, in Italian, in 2006. It forms part of the book, *Psicoanalisi ed ermeneutica. Prospettive continentali (Psychoanalysis and Hermeneutics: Continental Perspectives)*, edited by Giuseppe Martini and published by the Milanese publishing house Franco Angeli.<sup>1</sup> This book, which is in two parts, features, on the one hand, the discourses of key representatives of hermeneutic philosophy in Italy, such as Domenico Jervolino and Gaspare Mura, who raise questions about “a psychoanalysis resistant to philosophical hermeneutics” and, on the other hand, the contributions of members of the Italian Psychoanalytic Society (SPI) such as Sergio Bordi, Cono Aldo Barnà and Martini himself, who discuss “a hermeneutics resistant to contemporary psychoanalysis.”

The very title of the book tells us a lot more about the content of the interview than the original title, which itself remains very neutral: “Conversazioni sulla psicoanalisi” (“Conversations on Psychoanalysis”). It tells us firstly that it is about the relationship between psychoanalysis and hermeneutics. Then it suggests that it is a “continental” affair. In a sense, it is certainly interesting to note that it would be a question for this side of the Atlantic, because as Martini observes at one point in the interview, many psychoanalysts in North America are already defined as hermeneuts. In Europe, on the contrary, a broad movement would present psychoanalysis as an “anti-hermeneutics,” insisting on the fact that “narrative is, in a way, on the side of the repressed.” As we see it, the whole point of the new title, “Psychoanalysis and Interpretation,” is that it refers to this link between psychoanalysis and hermeneutics while using the term “interpretation,” which is less restrictive than the term “hermeneutics,” insofar as the latter refers to a specific philosophical tradition. Finally, with the subtitle “A Critical Review,” we wanted to highlight the fact that, in this interview, Ricœur casts a critical eye over the work that he devoted to psychoanalysis nearly forty years earlier.

Initially, our intention was simply to provide the French reader with a translation of the text that had been published in Italian. However, thanks to the creation of a small working group, which comprised Weiny Freitas, Alberto Romele and Catherine Goldenstein, and thanks to the support of Giuseppe Martini, we were able to undertake the work of republishing the text. First, we went back to the source: the video recording of the interview, which took place at Paul Ricœur’s home in Châtenay Malabry on the 22nd February 2003, and which is now kept in the archives of the Fonds Ricœur. We transcribed the dialogue again. Then, the new transcript was compared with the transcript that G. Martini had made in 2003, and which he had translated into Italian, after submitting it to P. Ricœur. Lastly, we compared it with the Italian version of the text that was published in 2007. And so we arrived at a final version, in French, where: a) Martini’s questions have been reformulated – made more fluid and occasionally abridged – and then translated into French. In fact, during the interview, Martini asked the questions in Italian, while Ricœur replied in French; b) Ricœur’s replies have been adapted to the written form; [changes] include reformulating certain sentences and eliminating the repetitions that typify the oral form. Of course, all the changes were unanimously approved by the members of our team and by Martini himself.

The text as we now give it to the readers of *Études Ricœuriennes/Ricœur Studies* to read appeared in the December 2015 issue of the French journal *Esprit*. It was our intention to use the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Éditions du Seuil's publication of *l'Essai sur Freud* (1965-2015) as an opportunity to give the French reader a general overview of Ricœur's contribution in the field of psychoanalysis.

By publishing this text in French and English versions, for the first time, our intention is twofold. First, we wish to propose the reading to an audience that is specifically interested in Ricœurian thought, and more precisely in view of the thematic of this issue of *ERRS*, interested in the question of the relationship between Ricœur's thought and psychoanalysis. So, the interview with Martini is, in our view, a fascinating document, because it brings about a return to questions about which the philosopher had neither said anything nor written anything for a long time, but which he still thought a lot about, as can be inferred from this text. Then, we felt that it was most important to facilitate access to all this, offering open access to a French/English bilingual version of this interview through a journal that is jointly managed by the Fonds Ricœur and the Society for Ricœur Studies, and which since 2010 represents a global benchmark in the field of studies on Ricœur.

So, we are anxious to thank the Fonds Ricœur, which through its editorial committee authorized the publication of this interview. Our thanks also go to Catherine Goldenstein, who has been very committed to this work from the beginning, as well as to Giuseppe Martini, who was always available to answer our questions. We would also particularly like to thank Stephanie Arel who graciously agreed to provide an English translation of this interview and without whom our project of a bilingual publication would not have been possible. Finally, we offer our thanks to the editors of *ERRS*, Eileen Brennan and Jean-Luc Amalric, who fully supported this initiative and helped us make it happen. It is our wish that the readers of *Études Ricœuriennes/Ricœur Studies* can now appreciate the whole point of this interview and that they can make use of it to promote new research on Ricœur's thought.

Weiny César Freitas Pinto and Alberto Romele

Translated by Eileen Brennan

- <sup>1</sup> There is a second Italian version of this text, which was published in 2007. The book is entitled, *Paul Ricoeur e la psicoanalisi. Testi scelti (Paul Ricoeur and Psychoanalysis: Selected Writings)*, and it was also published by Franco Angeli under the direction of G. Martini and D. Jervolino.