



## THE SCHOOL OF “L’IMMAGINARIO SIMBOLICO”

The Itinerant Seminar “L’IMMAGINARIO SIMBOLICO” is an original model of psycho-anthropological group research that, developing a itinerary throughout some places that are symbolic of the matrixes of the *Historical Self*, creates "short-circuit" between the *archetypical collective unconscious* and the *contemporary collective unconscious* that promotes the *transpersonal* and the *transcultural* approach.

### THE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONTEXT

Today "the international community" feels particularly the need to deepen some great problems about the cultural diversity, the vital necessity of their survival, the legitimacy of ethnocentrism.

These waves of attention toward *the Other* are dictated, over that some philanthropic motivations as well by “tactical” need to know, to understand and to communicate with *the Other* also going back to the cultural matrixes that are at the heart of the *Historical Self*. I call *Historical Self* all that can be related to that component of the social identity (*Social Self*) that is *transgenerational* and that every culture hands down by means of symbols, imagos, myths, narrations, archaeological and monumental vestiges, etc.; (see: R. Anania, *Matrici Culturali e Trasformazioni della Comunità*; Psicologia Dinamica; Anno VI, n.1-2-3, 2002).

The renewed aesthetical appreciation for the folklore, the popular traditions and the local customs - in union to curiosity towards everything is naïf and to love for the roots to which the human being goes back to consolidate the bases of own belonging and historical identity - also reveals a greater interest for the *human society psychology*.

Certainly the widening of the “emotional and intellectual moral” (*Wittgenstein*) living space can draw food by the ability to identify oneself with the world of *the Other* both in the horizontal and vertical dimensions. Therefore, it is fundamental to refine more and more models of reasonable set to meet and to understand better *the Other*, and, in conclusion – by means of the study of the mutual similarities and difference in relation to the cultural belonging - also to meet and better to understand ourselves, our cultural identities, our ways of feeling and being in the world.

The Cooperative Society “*Fenorabia Group Europe*”, together with the scientific journal “*Psicologia Dinamica*” and some prestigious Institutions that have patronized the initiative, has set in the course of time an enough seductive model: the *Itinerant Seminar “L’Immaginario Simbolico”* - which is reaching the seventh edition. It allows a group itinerary able to short-circuit the contemporary social world and the cultural matrixes of which everyone more or less consciously is a carrier/representative. It is the useful and suggestive prototype of a scientific research that primarily wants to study and to set the most proper models to create communicational bridges among different cultures.

I have repeatedly signalled that, in a historical period characterized by the epochal turning-point provoked by the *globalization* and *Internet*, the great challenge that the *localism* has to face it is to be able to make sure own survival and glow without dispersing its cultural matrixes. From this view point it appears essential that the “*local*” succeeds in acquiring and maintaining a not-marginal position in the world of the “*global*” communication just by means of the valorisation of its folkloric-historical-cultural patrimony and its cultural and environmental heritages and also developing projects that can qualify “the place” and give it a strong identity without altering the continuity with the cultural matrixes of the *Historical Self*.

To this purpose, in the course of time, we have considered essential, in developing the *Itinerant Seminar “L’Immaginario Simbolico”*, to mostly intermingle the original psychoanthropological dimension, laced to the analytical psychology and the groupanalysis, with other scientific and cultural worlds and to *art-world* in its many aspects.

*The Mediterranean* and, particularly, *Sicily* - which today represents a particularly cosmopolitan geographical crossroad, if nothing else for the complexity of its historical matrixes and the multiplicity of the cultures with which it has had deep connections - are vary privileged areas for projects that want to compare and to approach cultures which are different about cultural-scientific ambit and/or geographical belonging.

Some places, are so particularly rich in archaeological vestiges and folkloric traditions, that appears ideal to apply the model proposed by *Itinerant Seminar "L'Immaginario Simbolico"* and to realize that "melting-pot" that can bring to develop "new" thought.

## **THE OPERATIONAL MODEL**

The *Itinerant Seminar "L'Immaginario Simbolico"* has by now a consolidated cultural and scientific tradition for some peculiar characteristics that countersign it: originality of its formula; carrying out the meetings directly in symbolic places in relation to "*cultural matrixes of the Historical Self*", mythology and folklore; activation of the *imaginal world*; realization, day after day, in a *itinerant way*; psycho-anthropological elaboration in an experiential group context "*working in progress*" without any preordained thematic; the conductors' prominence.

A part of our *Self* is historical, in fact it has also some roots in the collective unconscious of the belonging matrix and whose foundation is not linked only to the places but also to the original "*imagos*", the rites and the myths, over that to the historical events that characterize it. Every culture transmits from generation to generation the folkloric productions, the myths, the symbols, the archaeological finds, the inscriptions, the epigraphs and all that can contribute to recover the ethnic-anthropological matrixes. The *Community of the Post-modern man*, probably also because of the ways of communication of mass, not always shows suitable attention and ability to appreciate the enormous value of the historical-cultural-archaeological patrimony also relatively to the individual and collective "*soul*" dimension.

"*L'Immaginario Simbolico*" probably represents actually the more advanced and original research in the ambit of a current that wants to study models that allow the human progress without lacerating the "soul of the territory", whose needs must absolutely be safeguarded if one wants to protect the individual and collective wellbeing. This research bases on two fundamental axioms: a) what has a symbolic value transcends the reality and the literal meaning to assume a dark sense but universally meaningful since it stimulates a continuous impulse to the interpretation; b) different cultures can find new points of meet through a common study and an analysis of myths, symbols, "imagos" on which the cultural matrixes of the *Historical Self* are founded. The operational tools that are employed for this research are:

- group meetings in "places" that are particularly rich in landscape and cultural fascination, therefore "privileged" places for feeling, spirituality and symbolic production;
- psychoanthropological context that allows the meeting among different cultures through the researchers that represent them.

## **THE FORMATIVE WAY**

In the 2007 we have planned the following development of the *Itinerant Seminar* “*L’Immaginario Simbolico*”

**I part**  
**(Workshop)**  
**The School of “L’IMMAGINARIO SIMBOLICO”**  
**Scientific Research and Formation Models**  
**on**  
**“CULTURAL MATRIXES AND COMMUNITY CHANGES”**  
*Marsala*  
9-11 March 2007  
25 March 2007

**II part**  
**(Applicative Training)**  
**FROM MOTYA TO CARTHAGE**  
*Motya, Kelibia, Dougga, Thuburbo Majus, Kairouan, Carthage, Sidi Bou Said*  
27-30 Jun 2007

**III part**  
**(Itinerant Seminar - Experiential)**  
*Trapani - Erice - Selinunte - Segesta - Levanzo - Isola di Santa Maria - Marsala*  
28-31 August 2007

The **Workshop** on “**Cultural Matrixes and Community Changes**” has the purpose to compare and to transmit scientific research, formative and operational psychosocial models useful to promote the human society and the community development in a compatible way with the cultural matrixes.

The **Applicative Training (Itinerant)** has the purpose to train to the practical application of the formative models proposed by the workshop.

The **Experiential Itinerant Seminar** has the purpose to transmit in an experiential way the prototype of the *Itinerant Seminar “L’Immaginario Simbolico”* model.

By means of these three successive formative moments we want to form experts who are able to elaborate a psychoanthropological interpretation of the local community and to apply, through the équipe work (A. Anania, *The Multimodal Model of Dynamic*

*Psychotherapy*, in <http://www.psicologia-dinamica.it/psysito/ecopsy/psymult.ppt>), the operational models finalized to the social construction of the territory, to the empowerment and the human society and that, also using the most advanced technologies, at the same time effect the valorisation of the cultural, landscape and environmental wealth of the place.

This formative route has a preference for the following disciplines: archaeology, architecture, cultural anthropology, art-therapy, ecology of the environmental and cultural goods, echo-psychology, social empowering, ethnology, ethno-psychology, ethology, groupanalysis, mythology, neuropsychobiology, linguistics, philosophy of the science, psychoanalysis, analytical psychology, community psychology, psychology of art, organization psychology, psychology of cultural tourism, dynamic psychology, semiology, modern history, ancient history, sociology, urbanism.

**Alfredo Anania**

