

between 1 month (T2) and 3 months (T3) following surgery. At baseline (T1), BES scores indicate possible binge eating symptoms in 24.24% of patients; On the EDI-3, mean scores fall within a high clinical range on subscales: Bulimia (M=64.13, DS=7.24), Personal Alienation (M=61.71, DS=10.53), Interpersonal Insecurity (M=63.05, DS=8.35), Interpersonal Alienation (M=61.65, DS=9.80), Interoceptive Deficits (M=62.92, DS=9.14), Emotional Dysregulation (M=77.62, DS=7.73), Perfectionism (M=61, DS=9.46) e Asceticism (M=66, DS=8.42). Repeated measures analysis of variance from T1 to T3 indicates: significant reduction in BMI averages [F (2, 52) = 96.25; P <.001] and in BES scores [F (2, 48) = 18.24; P <.01]; significant increase in almost all subscales of SF36 [F (2, 48) = 30.77; P <.001] and in some subscales of EDI-3 [F (2, 48) = 19.97; P <.001]. This study confirmed binge eating and eating disorder relevant psychological trait to have a high prevalence among bariatric surgery candidates. On post-operative follow-up, despite the net reduction of weight and binge eating, increase: drive for thinness, tendency to think bouts of overeating, body dissatisfaction, sense of being out of control. General health improves, but are unchanged social functioning and limitations due to physical and emotional problems. More research is needed to investigate whether the emerging factors can influence the long-lasting weight reduction.

FOLLOWING THE POST-ADOPTION PATH, SUGGESTIONS FROM THE RESEARCH

Proposer: Cordella Barbara (1)

(1) Dipartimento di Psicologia Dinamica e Clinica, Facoltà di Medicina e Psicologia, Sapienza, Roma

Discussant: Zurlo Maria Clelia (2)

(2) Università di Napoli - Federico II

The international literature about adoption believes that special attention should be paid to the post-adoption path, promoting the integration process that the new family faces. Adopting one or more foreign children, sometimes late-adopted, imply the need to deal with the issue of the unfamiliarity in its various forms. Taking into account the fear, the disapproval, the rejection, and all those experiences related to this issue may be problematic in a situation that is supposed to solve the mutual deficiencies. This is why, it is useful to think about a follow-up extended over time in the different places that form the new family reception network. The absence of a previously settled intervention model paves the way for a fruitful encounter between the research and the clinical intervention. The first provides different and useful tools and new approaches and the latter is interested in identifying strategies of innovative intervention. According to this the Symposium presents four reports. Piermattei, Pace presents a research involving 20 families with "late-adopted" children investigating both the correlation of attachment in adoptive dyads and the relationship between the representations of the attachment and the quality of parent-child interactions. Greco, Comelli, Cordella presents a research exploring the representations of the main characters of the tales written by adults and children on the topic of international adoption, showing the characteristics and differences. Molina, Casonato, Ongari analyse the level of behavioural adjustment of intercountry Italian adoptees and compare it with that of their non-adopted peers. Cordella, Carleschi, Pibiri presents a new narration tool to be used during the period when parental couples live in the child's home country.

**PROTAGONISTS' AND ADOPTIVE PROCESS
REPRESENTATIONS IN ITALIAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS ON
INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION: A QUALITATIVE STUDY**

Greco Ondina (1), Comelli Ivana (1), Cordella Barbara (2)

(1) Università Cattolica Milano

(2) Università di Roma Sapienza

This qualitative study aims at identifying the main representations of the international adoption process through a comparative analysis of 62 Italian fairy tales and stories about international adoption (52 written by adults and 10 written by some primary school children). Content analysis involves the use of thematic analysis as well as computer assisted text analysis. Results show that adoption is represented varying from a polarization in which ‘the positive’ is situated in the ‘adoptive world’, while ‘the negative’ pertains to the world of the origins, to a more integrated representation in which both the adoptive context and the origins entail positive aspects.

**LATE-ADOPTIONS: ASSESSING PARENT-CHILD
RELATIONSHIP THROUGH FREE-PLAY INTERACTION AND
ATTACHMENT REPRESENTATIONS**

Piermattei Claudia (1), Pace Cecilia Serena (2)

(1) Department of Dynamic and Clinical Psychology, Sapienza University of Rome

(2) Department of Educational Sciences, University of Genoa, Genoa

As suggested by various studies (Barone and Lionetti 2011; Ongari and Tomasi 2013; Pace et al. 2015; Steele et al. 2008), a secure maternal attachment state of mind can represent a protective factor against adverse outcomes associated with emotional deprivation and trauma, confirming adoption as a potential catch-up opportunity. While attachment assessment allows to evaluate the internal representations of children and parents about their relationship, the observation of their interaction allows to focus on the

dyadic quality of parent–child relationship (Sander 2007). Up to now, only a few studies have explored the quality of caregiver–child interaction in adoptive families (Garvin et al. 2012; Altenhofen et al. 2013; Van den Dries et al. 2012) and an even smaller number did so by involving the paternal figures. To deepen the understanding of the relational functioning of families with late-adopted children, the aim of this study was to evaluate both the concordance of attachment in adoptive dyads (mother–children and father–children) and the relationship between attachment representations and parent–child interaction. The sample was composed of 20 Italian adoptive families recruited through health services and authorized agencies for international adoptions. Children were aged between 4.5 and 8.5 years and the time spent in the adoptive family ranged from 1 to 3 years. Dyadic emotional availability was assessed through the Emotional Availability Scales (EAS), adult attachment through the Adult Attachment Interview (AAI) and children attachment through the Manchester Attachment Story Task (MCAST). Our results pointed out the presence of a relation between attachment representations of late-adopted children and their adoptive mothers (75%, $K = 0.50$, $p = .025$). In addition, we found that both insecure children and mothers showed lower levels of EA than secure ones. Some explanations are presented about why, in the early post-adoption period, child attachment patterns and dyadic emotional availability seem to be arranged on different frameworks for the two parental figures.

BEHAVIOURAL ADJUSTMENT OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOLESCENT ADOPTEES: A COMPARISON WITH A CONTROL GROUP

Molina Paola (1), Casonato Marta (1), Ongari Barbara (2)

(1) University of Turin

(2) University of Trento

Meta-analytic studies have underlined that while international adoptees show more behaviour problems than their non-adopted peers, these differences are mild, both on internalizing and externalizing behaviours (Juffer & van IJzendoorn, 2005). The modest rate of agreement between self-reports and parent reports of adolescents' behavioural adjustment is widely reported across countries (Rescorla et al., 2013), thus a multi-informant perspective should be applied. Recently it was shown that both adopted and control adolescents reported problems more frequently, if compared to their parents (Roskam et al., 2016). We will analyse the level of behavioural adjustment of intercountry Italian adoptees and compare it with that of their non-adopted peers. Also, the level of agreement between self- and parent-reports will be reported. Finally, possible connections between behavioural adjustment and factors connected to pre-adoption and to the adoptive family will be explored. The sample is composed of 51 adolescents (27 ADoptees+24 COntrols; 52% boys; Mean age 13.1; SD 1.5) and 41 mothers (26 AD and 15 CO). Their self-reports (YSR) and parent-reports (CBCL) were analysed through T-tests and correlations. We will refer to the cross-cultural norms of CBCL (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2007). Overall, teenagers scores are higher than mothers' ones. By comparing AD and CO, adoptive mothers tend to highlight more behavioural problems than the control ones. On the contrary, adopted adolescents do not perceive themselves as more problematic than their non-adopted peers ($p>.05$). Connections between pre-adoptive history and later adjustment will be discussed. Adoptive mothers tend to see their children as more problematic than the control mothers. However, intercountry adoptees show a good level of behavioural adjustment. If we consider the experiences prior to adoption, these results show the potential of recovery linked to adoption.

THE APD: THE ADOPTIVE PATH DIARY

Cordella Barbara (1), Carleschi Alessia (2), Piribiri Marzia (3)

- (1) Dipartimento di Psicologia Dinamica e Clinica, Facoltà di Medicina e Psicologia, Sapienza, Roma
- (2) Ente Pro I.C.Y.C, autorizzato per le “Adozioni Internazionali”, sede Roma
- (3) Dipartimento di Psicologia Dinamica e Clinica, Facoltà di Medicina e Psicologia, Sapienza, Roma

The bond building process between the parents and the adoptive child/children begins when all the involved actors meet in the child's home country. Nonetheless, the literature does not seem to present many tools to explore the events of this period. Even though it is possible to use the P.A.D. (Parent Attachment Diary) for the young children adoption, the most frequent situation of the late-adoption does not seem to have tools. For this reason, our study has used a modified version of the PAD (Stovall, Dozier, 1997; Molina, Casonato, 2013) in the preliminary phase of the research. The PAD is a daily diary written by the primary caregiver and is used with early childhood children to explore episodes related to three specific areas: fear, pain, and separation. In our research the PAD was entrusted to the adoptive parents while they were going to the home country of the late adopted child. As the diary writing was strongly discontinuous, it was not possible to evaluate narrations with the PAD coding modality. Nonetheless, the collected material seems to highlight a prevalence of fear-related episodes. In addition, the parental couple showed difficulties in looking for episodes related to fear, pain, and separation. The writing interruption was followed by reporting of episodes considered more significant by the parental couple. This has led to a new diary called APD, for which the family was asked to write a self-selected daily episode, describing the context of the selected episode, the episode and its consequences. The caregiver was also asked to report the emotions involved and their intensity for each episode.