

Virginia Ungar - The New President of the International Psychoanalytical Association

Daniel Benveniste, Ph.D.

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The history of women in psychoanalysis is an interesting one. I won't attempt to review it even briefly but there are a few distinguishing moments in that history worth recalling and one of them happened last month when Virginia Ungar became the first woman to be elected President of the International Psychoanalytical Association.

The first woman to join Sigmund Freud's circle was Lou Andrea-Salome in 1911. There soon followed many others including Hermine von Hug-Hellmuth, Helene Deutsch, and Sabine Schpielrein. The rest of the history of psychoanalysis rings with the names of distinguished women analysts such as: Melanie Klein, Anna Freud, Frieda Fromm-Reichman, Esther Menaker, Susan Issacs, Annie Reich, Eva Rosenfeld, Maria Bonaparte, Karen Horney, Edith Jacobson, Margaret Mahler, Ruth Mack Brunswick, Clara Thompson, Janine Chasseguet-Smirgel, Hanna Segal, Ruth Eissler, Julia Kristeva, Juliet Mitchell, Eleanor Galenson, Joyce MacDougall, Phyllis Tyson, Ethel Person, Elizabeth Lloyd Mayer, Judith Kestenberg, Anni Bergman, Berta Bornstein, Lilli Peller, Betty Joseph, and so many more.

In 1963 Maxwell Gitelson was president of the International Psychoanalytical Association but he died suddenly at mid-term on February 3rd 1965. His position was replaced by two distinguished analysts elected by the Executive Council: Phyllis Greenacre and William Gillespie. They were each elected as Co-Chairman pro tem of the Executive Council. They are listed in the IPA website as sharing the Presidency.

In July 2017 another name entered psychoanalytic history – Virginia Ungar – the first woman to be directly elected to the Presidency of the IPA by the membership. Virginia Ungar is a distinguished Argentinean child, adolescent and adult analyst and a much sought-after speaker. The Vice-President is Sergio Nick, from Brazil, and Treasurer is Andrew Brook from Canada.

It was exciting watching this historic moment in Buenos Aires as the presidency was passed from Stefano Bolognini, of Italy, to Virginia Ungar, of Argentina. Virginia Ungar was trained and currently lives and works in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a city that is famous for good beef, tango and a public with a high level of psychoanalytic sophistication. On July 22, 2017, Clarin, an Argentinian magazine of culture, featured a photo of Virginia Ungar on its cover. The title read:

First Woman Psychoanalyst to Head the IPA:
Virginia Ungar, the entire world on her couch.

The next IPA Congress will be in London in 2019 and the theme will be *The Feminine*.

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LITERATURA

EDUARDO BERTI

El escritor argentino presenta su nuevo libro *Inventario de inventos*, un catálogo de máquinas imaginarias que participaron en ARCOmadrid.

ARTE

APOTEOSIS ARBUS

Entrevista con Jeff Rosenheim, custodio del Archivo Diane Arbus, sobre la muestra que reúne 100 imágenes de la gran fotógrafa estadounidense en Malba.

PRIMERA MUJER PSICOANALISTA AL FRENTE DE LA API

Virginia Ungar, el mundo entero en su diván

La Asociación Psicoanalítica Internacional (API) nuclea a todos los psicoanalistas freudianos del globo. En el 50° Congreso de la institución, que se realizará en Buenos Aires del 25 al 29 de julio, la argentina Ungar asumirá el cargo máximo convirtiéndose en la primera mujer que ocupe ese sillón. Especialista en niñez y adolescencia, define en esta charla las formas de la intimidad hoy, la constitución del adulto y la convivencia de lo real y lo virtual en un presente dominado por pantallas y un aluvión de imágenes. Reivindica a Freud pero lo discute: "vivimos la era del posfreudismo".