



Cultural psychiatry in a timeline perspective

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The current issue that readers may look at today is the result of a vision, a program and an editorial project strongly promoted by our friend and mentor Wen Shing Tseng, and was conceived as a sort of ideal legacy for future generations of psychiatrists. The first concern approaching this issue is therefore for him, his geniality and talent, especially in overlooking the needs of the present and predicting the problems of the future, in field of psychiatry just like in the whole society. I remember an afternoon meeting in London, at the 2012 World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry, when Wen Shing addressed the topic of a special issue on the history of cultural psychiatry. He did not proposed just a chronological review, he wanted to trace a timeline in which the past, the present and the future would share a common scope, an evolutional route and a consistent development. This history would make sense to the pioneers, the scholars and the trainees.

The contributions in this issue are therefore sequenced through this timeline, starting from *The early history of cultural psychiatry*, described by Wolfgang Jilek, a pioneer of transcultural studies who have long experienced field researches worldwide with his wife Louise Jilek-Aal. Jilek is a prominent figure in cultural psychiatry, shares a methodological rigour with Wen Shing in approaching key historical passages, contextualizing the process and painting even the smallest detail of the whole picture.

The second paper from W.S. Tseng, W. Jilek, G. Bartocci and K. Bhui comes to *The recent history of cultural psychiatry* and represents the viewpoint of four of the most important cultural psychiatrists in the world, describing the critical transition from pioneering experiences and first attempts of conceptualizing and differentiating our discipline, to the modern conception of cultural psychiatry with a wider horizon and a greater potential for the whole society. A key role in this passage and for this scope is played by the international scientific societies, among which the prominent role of World Association of Cultural Psychiatry cannot be ignored.

The third paper provides the readers an unusual point of view, *The future of cultural psychiatry* as proposed by Wen Shing Tseng. Bartocci introduces this paper by *A brief note* including personal and historical details; what can be said here is how hard and challenging has been the approach to such a dense, brilliant and thought-provoking manuscript without dealing with the first Author. Nevertheless, I believe that the most genuine thought of our friend has come to light by a formidable group work and the constant concern with the mission Wen Shing had outlined.

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I hope that this could be the turning point of our Journal, which has recovered a great past in order to trace a new line for the future, after a very critical time on the editorial side.

I owe this to many friends who have left us a rich legacy, and to many psychiatrists and trainees who may benefit from this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. De Luca', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vittorio De Luca, MD

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Editor in Chief