



# Psychoanalysis, Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Much More...<sup>1</sup>

## Grostein S\*

Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo, Brazil

**\*Corresponding author:** Sandra Grostein, Rua Cardoso de Almeida 60, Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo, Brazil, Tel: (11)9832-0033; Email: sgrostein@uol.com.br

### Book Review

Volume 5 Issue 4

Received Date: December 16, 2020

Published Date: December 31, 2020

DOI: [10.23880/pprij-16000260](https://doi.org/10.23880/pprij-16000260)

<sup>1</sup>Book by Durval Mazzei Nogueira Filho (forthcoming)

What's in common between the brain and the unconscious? Nothing! This is what the work program prepared by the European Community of the World Association of Psychoanalysis proposes. There is nothing in common, they claim. It is the task of this group, therefore, to find the arguments that support this statement.

For the author of this book, however, this question serves as a guiding principle from beginning to end, and constitutes the deep research developed on these two fields of knowledge: psychoanalysis and neuroscience.

Even if European colleagues start with the assumption that there is nothing in common between the brain and the unconscious, this disjunction is neither evident nor consensual among researchers, to the point that we find many works searching for the intersection points between a field of study and the other. Many of these studies are presented and discussed throughout this book, addressing different perspectives of approximation and distancing between the two themes.

In this sense, the author reveals his rebelliousness against any passivity with respect to the discussion that comes when such approaches are sought, favoring wide debate, in addition to organizing for the reader quite a number of references that enhance the premises present in the debate.

It is common knowledge that both Freud and Lacan, each in his own way, sought to include psychoanalysis in the field of science of his time. Saying that there is nothing in common between the brain and the unconscious does not necessarily mean removing the points of intersection between psychoanalysis and neuroscience.

The book is divided into five chapters that seek to emphasize the similarities and distancing between psychoanalysis and science nowadays.

The first chapter - "Moira and Science: a reinterpretation of "The Future of an Illusion"" presents an absolutely current discussion about the relationship between man and the virtual world. By means of a fictitious patient, the author highlights the difficulties currently faced in making the subject connect with his desire.

Leads the debate to the second chapter - "Does the virtual object count?" in which, from the ironic title, Freud recovers in the "Project", to emphasize that the demands of life, especially those regulated by culture (rules of kinship, rules for nourishment, rules for sexual performance) divide the being and remove it from innate biological operability.

The debate *Nurture versus Nature* so present in the 19th century is reinstated this time in the relationship between the biological and the virtual and the author seeks to extract from this discussion the consequences for psychoanalysis and psychiatry.

Following this logic, the third chapter questions the possible link between psychiatry and neuroscience as it moves away from psychodynamics and comes closer to its place first, that is, a medical specialty, centered on the biological body and building theoretical and practical potency on the basis of that reference.

One more round operates in the fourth chapter where another issue is raised: "Psychoanalysis and Science: Does Neuroscience challenge?" Once again, the approach developed by the author retrieves references in Lacan

to affirm with which Lacan breaks the direct bond with the analogy of neuronal traits, considering that Freudian mnemonic traits are not inscribed in the nervous system and are signifiers that must be linked to the living being system.

Closing down this set of texts, articulated around the same issue - the relationship of the Freudian unconscious with the brain of neuroscience - whose complexity intensifies when crossed by the developments of psychiatry as a medical specialty, the author names the chapter with one more question: "There is no zero and one. Is everything allowed, then?".

It finishes, thereby, with the particularity of psychoanalysis in addressing the different contemporary symptoms in a radical manner, in sustaining that the analytical discourse takes anatomy as a failing destiny, that is, when considering that the genitals, object of nature, does not count for anything, in the definition of human sexuality.

The essential of this book is the abundance of details that compose the contemporary scene of the debate between psychoanalysis and psychiatry, psychoanalysis and science, through a ludic journey, while being very rigorous in conceptual terms, making reading a moment of joy.

