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Are there differences between young women and men's life projects?
Studying the psychosocial field with David Liberman algorithm (DLA)
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I. Problem: To study the differences between young women and men's life projects.

II. Sample: 44 women and 49 men, age between 20-30 (years 2000 and 2002).

During 2000-2002, Argentinean population suffered a severe economic, political and social crisis, leading to the collapse of the Argentinean currency, the peso, increasing unemployment, the weakness of political authorities and the mistrust of social leaders.

III. Tools:

Tool for collecting material: The white sheet of Phillipson test

Tool for analyzing material: David Liberman algorithm (DLA), designed for detecting libidinal fixations, the defense and its state in the discourse.

Erotogenicities

- IL Intrasomatic libido
- O1 Primary oral
- O2 Secondary oral sadistic
- A1 Primary anal sadistic
- A2 Secondary anal sadistic
- UPH Urethral phallic
- GPH Genital phallic

Defenses

Main defense	State		
	Successful	Failed	Both
In accordance with the goals, creativity and sublimation			
Repression			
Disavowal			
Foreclosure of the reality and the ideal			
Foreclosure of the affection			

Among the DLA tools, we applied the grid for the analysis of narration (Table I, below) and the sequence of steps for the research of the defenses (Table II). In narration level, the state of the defense (successful, failed, both) can be detected taking into account the type of story. If the speaker narrates changes, the defense can be either successful or failed; if the speaker describes states, the defense is successful/failed.

Table II: Overview of the steps in research of the main defenses

Problem	Procedure
1. To decide which defense prevails	Detecting which is the dominant language
2. To decide whether the defense is repression, disavowal, foreclosure or creativity / sublimation	Detecting whether the language contained in the scene narrated harmonizes with the context
3. To decide whether the defense (repression, disavowal or foreclosure) is functional or pathological	Detecting whether one language dominates the others, or uses them and becomes hypertrophied
4. To decide whether the pathological defense is failed, successful or both	Detecting the position of the narrator and the prevalence of actions or states

The research of the erotogenicities allows to infer the specific type of value, group-representation, Weltanschauung, etc., of the speaker. The research of the defense allows us to detect the speakers position in relationship with his value, group-representation.

IV. Analysis

Among the answers, a group of them reflects just the visual impact of white sheet ("I see just a white sheet", "I see a white, brilliant wall", etc.).

	Men		Women	
	Year 2000	Year 2002	Year 2000	Year 2002
Narrations	91%	84%	95%	90%
Visual white impact	8%	16%	4%	10%

The stress of that visual impact indicates the relevance of IL and failed normal foreclosure of the affect. In the rest of the answers, the same scenes (and the corresponding erotogenicities) dominate.

Erotogenicities	Manifestations
O2	Couple or family relationship
UPH	Routine/ambitious advance
GPH	Aesthetic harmony

In both groups the defense in accordance with the goals prevails. Nevertheless, some differences appear when comparing the type of story.

	Men		Women	
	2000	2002	2000	2002
Type of story				
States	83%	72%	37%	45%
Transformations	8%	12%	58%	45%

Differences among types of stories indicate differences referred to the same defense: "State" is an expression of successful/failed mechanism, and "Transformation" is a manifestation either of the success or of the failure of the defense. It's possible to assemble both samples (years 2000-2002).

Samples 2000—2002

Erotogenicity	Scene	State of the defense	Scene	State of the defense
	Men 77% Women 42%	In accordance with the goals	Men 10% Women 51%	In accordance with the goals
O2	Paradisiacal situation	Successful failed	Couple with affective projects	Successful failed
UPH	Routine	Successful failed	Ambitious advance	Successful failed
GPH	Aesthetic harmony	Successful failed	Promise	Successful failed

Summarizing, women emphasize mostly processes, men stress states. The project of maintaining the same state (men) differs from the project of change (women).

The contrast between Transformations and states + visual white image in both samples indicates more clearly the differences between women and men's answers.

	Men	Women
Transformations	10%	51%
States+ white visual impact	90%	49%

Discussion

Despite the size of the sample (N: 93), the results allow us to suggest that women's and men's life projects coincide regarding erotogenicities (O2, UPH, GPH) implied but differ regarding the state of normal defenses accompanying them. Besides, answers referring just to the impact of white indicate the lack of symbolic resource for dealing with an uneasy economic, politic and social reality. This psychosocial pilot study of late adolescence shows that women have a more positive attitude than men concerning their insertion in the adult world of work and affective commitments. These conclusions can be contrasted with those resulting from the study of the same sample years later and of the samples of other ages.

Conclusions

1. During the economical, political and social Argentinean crisis occurred between 2000-2002, women between 20-30 years old showed a more positive attitude than men concerning their insertion in the adult world of work and affective commitment.
2. The differences between the samples don't involve the erotogenicities (expressing certain common values, Weltanschauungs, etc.) but the state of the prevalent normal defense.
3. DLA shows its usefulness for the analysis of psychosocial processes and for detecting its nuances.

Table I. Scenes and erotogenicities

EROTOGENICITY SCENE	GENITAL PHALLIC	URETHRAL PHALLIC	SECONDARY ANAL SADISTIC	PRIMARY ANAL SADISTIC	SECONDARY ORAL SADISTIC	PRIMARY ORAL	INTRASOMATIC LIBIDO
Initial state	Aesthetic harmony	Routine	Hierarchic order	Natural legal equilibrium	Paradise	Cognitive peace	Equilibrium of tensions
First transformation = Awakening of desire	Desire for aesthetic completion	Ambitious desire	Desire to dominate an object in the frame of a public oath	Desire driven by thirst for justice	Temptation Expiation	Abstract cognitive desire	Speculative desire
Second transformation = Attempt to consummate desire	Reception of a Power or Gift	Finding the mark of the father deep inside the object	Discerning that the object is faithful to corrupt subjects	Revenge	Sin Reparation	Access to a truth	Gain in pleasure through organic intrusion
Third transformation = Consequences of the attempt to consummate desire	Pregnancy Aesthetic disorganization	Challenge of adventure Challenge of routine	Virtue recognized Social condemnation and moral expulsion	Leadership formally recognized and honored Being unable to move; being locked away and humiliated	Forgiveness and loving recognition Expulsion from Paradise	Recognition of genius Loss of lucidity; the other enjoys objective cognition	Organic euphoria Asthenia
Final state	Shared harmony Lasting feeling of disgust	Adventure Pessimistic routine	Moral peace Moral torment	Evocation of heroic past or Return to lasting peace Lasting resentment	Vale of tears Recovery of Paradise	Bliss in revelation Loss of the essence	Balance of tensions with no energy loss Lasting tension or asthenia

