Dr. Martin S. Bergmann’s Last Interview

Presented by
Donna Bentolila, L.C.S.W., Ph.D.

THE PRESENTATION

On January 16, 2014, Professor Martin S. Bergmann granted what was to be “his last interview” to Dr. Mario Beira and Dr. Donna Bentolila. Professor Bergmann passed away a week later on January 22, 2014 just shy of one hundred and one years old.

In this presentation, Dr. Bentolila will first describe her experience of the interview which was profound, moving and thought provoking, illuminating the exchange with an analyst, teacher and mentor who, in spite of his advanced age, still had the capacity to surprise the interviewers with his own questions, commentaries and reflections. Some of the topics of the interview will shed light on what can be considered his last testimony regarding matters of both psychoanalysis and religion, as well as his thoughts and recommendations regarding the training of analysts and the future of psychoanalysis.

The second part of the presentation will address an overview and history of both Professor Bergmann’s most salient published work, as well as his long and successful career as a master teacher and analyst, famous for his classes at the New York University Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, at the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis and at many other psychoanalytic institutions, as well as his own private seminars. Particular emphasis will be given to the question of “time” and the desire of the analyst, especially pertinent since Professor Bergmann was taking new patients well into his one hundredth year.

THE PRESENTER

Donna Bentolila, L.C.S.W., Ph.D., is a psychoanalyst in private practice in both Miami and Boca Raton, Florida. She is a past President and present Member at Large of the Southeast Florida Association for Psychoanalytic Psychology, a member of the Florida Psychoanalytic Center, as well as a member of both the American Psychoanalytic Association and the International Psychoanalytic Association. Dr. Bentolila has received the Distinguished Psychoanalytic Educator Award from IFPE and the Distinguished Analyst Award from SEFAPP. She has also been the recipient of the Erik Eriksen Scholarship at the Austen Riggs Center, as well as the author of numerous articles on varied psychoanalytic topics.
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