



ISPSO 34th Annual Meeting, Copenhagen 3rd - 9th July 2017: Dreams always take place: Spaces, Places, Rooms, and Furniture, inside and around us

**PARALLEL PAPERS VI**  
**SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 1100-1215**  
**ROOM I - 7.0.01**

**Franca Fubini**

*Dreams, space, context and identity in  
the workplace, and not only*

*'Towns are mostly unconscious processes'*  
(C. Bollas)

*'These are concrete places that solicit the  
senses, against whose disarming material  
reality the fabulous arrogant figurations of  
myth come undone'* (L. Micotti)

The paper will deal with the material of an institutional supervision to a department within the National Health Service, where three independent services - each one located in a town miles apart from the other two - had to merge under one department. As it could well be expected there were strong conflicts and waves of resentment.

There were real fears of losing work identity and rigid defences in the attempt to preserve it. Both an official management and a very powerful shadow

one emerged in competition for the governance. The combination of the two, was grossly undermining the work offered to the public. In spite of the obvious request from the chief consultant to invite the three services to develop collaboration and the expectation that supervision would offer whole group intervention, initially it was decided to tackle the identity issue and to work with each service in its own location. The supervision made use of a combination of events from the GRC approach and from the clinical case supervision; a social dreaming matrix was a regular feature

What emerged was extremely interesting: the physical and geographical location, the dreams offered in the matrix, the way in which individuals interpreted their own work role and the kind of patients who came to the service, were in some way consistent with a distinctive and mythical, almost archaic image which was permeating the functioning of the team. Each one of the services had a *genius loci*, revealing the existence of a mythical foundation image, which was acting as a catalyser for the identity of the group involved.

Through the above clinical material I shall explore the wider connection between space and unconscious, architecture and dream; the concept of container/ contained and that of the images which shape inner and outer landscapes.

The capacity to relate learning to the context wherein it takes place is an essential element of relatedness: the paper will touch on the importance of keeping in mind the relationship with the context where human activities take place, whether geographical, historical, social or political.

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