

Book Review

Giving in Times of Crisis

Towards a psychology of recognition

By Molinari Enrico, Cavaleri Pietro Andrea

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Giving and the attribution of meaning are the key concepts of E. Molinari's and P.A. Cavaleri's new book, which explores an unusual aspect of psychotherapy from the perspective of relational psychology.

In acknowledging the value of human bonding the authors observe that, in this difficult period of crisis, human relationships can be illuminated through a gift that is inherently present in the mere recognition of the other subject. Resorting to different theories from those that comprise the authors' conceptual paradigm, one might say that the Other is something that goes beyond the physiological narcissism of man, beyond conflict as an antithesis of necessarily divergent interests, and that is rather more than sheer sharing of typological affinities. The authors' reflections include the evolutionary observation through which the recognition of the Other has become an anthropologically integral part of our personality and diversity has become synonymous with human enrichment.

In the chapter entitled "Towards a psychology of giving," the authors explore what makes giving possible, that is, recognition and empathy. Citing a plethora of research, they demonstrate the significance of these aspects in contemporary psychology, referencing also the field of neuroscience, in the effort to provide an interdisciplinary exegesis.

Profound and comforting is the chapter on forgiveness. The final reflection on the *homo reciprocus* is the logical conclusion of this emotional journey that justly avails itself of the superlative introduction written by the living eminent phenomenologist: Eugenio Borgna.

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