

The Psychopathological Fabric of Time: Its Phenomenology and Geometry

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Time is undoubtedly one of the deepest mysteries science has ever faced. Indeed, one would hardly find something that is, on the one hand, so intimately connected with our experience and yet, on the other, so difficult to come to grips with. Nothing, perhaps, can better illustrate this point than a large group of phenomena that are collectively referred to as the *psychopathology* of time, that is, all ‘anomalous/peculiar’ experiences of time as invariably encountered and reported in various mental psychoses, drug-induced states, deep meditative and mystical states as well as in many other ‘altered’ states of consciousness. For this peculiar fabric of psychological time comprises, as we shall demonstrate in great detail in the first part of our contribution, such bizarre, paradoxical and mind-boggling forms as ‘eternity, everlasting now,’ ‘arrested/suspended’ time, time ‘going backward,’ and even ‘disordered/fragmented’ time, to mention the most pronounced of them.

Up to date, there exists no acceptable psychological/neurological model capable of properly dealing with these fascinating time constructs and underpinning any logical classification of them. The reason why this is so rests, in our opinion, upon the following two facts. First, these extraordinary experiences of time (and, of course, space as well) are inherently participatory, non-reproducible and subjective and, so, seriously at odds with current methodologies/paradigms of science, which strives for reproducibility and objectivity. Second, the most pronounced departures from the ‘consensus’ reality are so foreign to our ‘waking’ mind that their properties defy our common sense logic and cannot be adequately communicated in words; an interested scholar has to go through a large number of relevant first-hand accounts/narratives and acquire the ability to read between the lines in order to spot an(y) underlying conceptual pattern. We are therefore convinced that further progress in our understanding of these phenomena will be possible only if 1) entailing a serious shift in the corresponding scientific paradigms, 2) involving inter- and multi-disciplinarity as an essential feature, and 3) being accompanied by the increasing use of sufficiently abstract mathematical concepts to properly grasp their qualitative properties.

Our study of psychopathological (space-)times has, from the very beginning, been pursued in accordance with this strategy. The geometrical model of the psychopathology of time, discussed in the second part of the contribution, thus features not only a fairly high level of abstraction, but it also poses a serious challenge to some generally accepted dogmas in natural sciences. Formally, it employs advanced geometrical concepts, like a projective space and/or Cremona transformations. Conceptually, it relies on a daring and far-reaching assumption that the anecdotal, first-person descriptions of extraordinary states of consciousness are *on a par with* standard observational/experimental evidence in natural sciences. It is this ‘abstract geometrization of the first-person perspective’ that gives our approach a remarkable unifying and predictive power and makes it a very promising conceptual step towards the ultimate unveiling of the riddle of time. The presentation will be focussed on conceptual issues rather than mathematical technicalities, the latter being reduced to the extent that also the reader with a comparatively slight mathematical background can easily follow the main line of reasoning.

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Metod Saniga (Astronomical Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia) and Rosolino Buccheri (Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica del CNR, Palermo, Italy) *The Psychopathological Fabric of Time: Its Phenomenology and Geometry*. Back to the SFFP main page This page modified November 6th, 2003 by Helge Malmgren. Title: *The Psychopathological Fabric of Time (and Space) and Its Underpinning Pencil-Borne Geometries*. Authors: Metod Saniga, Rosolino Buccheri. Download PDF. Abstract: The paper presents, to our knowledge, a first fairly comprehensive and mathematically well-underpinned classification of the psychopathology of time (and space). After reviewing the most illustrative first-person accounts of "anomalous/peculiar" experiences of time (and, to a lesser degree, also space) we introduce and describe in detail their algebraic geometrical model. The model features six qualitatively different types of the internal structure of time dimension and four types of that of space. *Lived Time: Phenomenological and Psychopathological Studies* (Northwestern University Studies in Phenomenology & Existential Philosophy) Hardcover € January 1, 1970. by Eugène Minkowski (Author), Nancy Metzel (Translator, Introduction). See all formats and editions Hide other formats and editions. Paperback. \$41.24. *Selected Philosophical Essays* (Studies in Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy). Max Scheler. 5.0 out of 5 stars 2. Paperback. \$32.95. *Being In The World: selected papers of Ludwig Binswanger* Translated and with a critical introduction to his existential psychoanalysis by Jacob Needleman. Ludwig Binswanger. 4.5 out of 5 stars 2. Hardcover. \$876.68. *The concept of psychopathological field* There are various ways to understand 'field' in psychology and in Gestalt therapy (Cavaleri, 2003; Spagnuolo Lobb, 2013a; Robine, 2006a; Parlett, 1991; Parlett, , 2000; Philippson, 2009; Vázquez Bandán, 2014; O'Neill and Gaffney, 2008; Wollants, 2008). Here, 'we refer to a concept of field that is phenomenological, and hence experiential, but it is not merely a subjective reality' (Spagnuolo Lobb, 2013a, p. 73). Compared to a psychopathology of the isolated individual, to see psychopathology as a phenomenon of relational suffering that becomes real and alive in the therapeutic encounter is revolutionary.