Psichiatria e Psicoterapia Culturale
Vol. XIII/n.2/January 2026
Versione Italiana di WCPRR curata e diretta dall'Istituto Igiene Mentale Transculturale
WCPRR

INTRODUCTION TO DEDICATED ISSUE ON CULTURAL DELUSION

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ISSN: 2283-8961

This issue of Psichiatria e Psicoterapia Culturale is dedicated to the topic of cultural delusion. This important topic is central to the work of the journal's editor, Professor Goffredo Bartocci. The issue is partly based on a symposium that Prof. Bartocci organized for the 7th World Congress of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry (WACP), held in Tokyo, Japan in September of 2025.

I had the privilege of introducing Prof. Bartocci at that World Congress. That was not the first time, however, that I heard his insights in a presentation on this topic nor the first time WACP members had an opportunity to consider them. Under my presidency of WACP, during the 5th World Congress held in New York in October of 2018, Prof. Bartocci organized a symposium entitled, "Cultural Delusions," and the New Pathologies of the West, together with Drs. Micol Ascoli, Donato Zupin, and Giangiacomo Rovera. It was well-attended and provocative, as this dedicated issue is

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now. He has continued to develop his ideas, and we are fortunate to benefit from that consistent reflection now.

Prof. Bartocci is essential to the origin and development of WACP. He founded WACP along with Prof. Wen-shing Tseng in 2005. They organized the first World Congresses in Beijing (2006) and Norcia, Italy (2009) near his hometown of Torreorsina in Umbria, Italy. He co-founded WACP's journal, World Cultural Psychiatry Research Review, and currently supports its Editor-in-Chief as Honorary Editor-in-Chief. He also remains connected to the WACP officers as a Life Member of the Board of Trustees.

Prof. Bartocci has been a key figure in cultural psychiatry for several decades. He was good friends with that generation of pioneers in our field that included Profs. Tseng, Raymond Prince, Wolfgang Jilek, and Roland Littlewood, among others. Prof. Bartocci is now retired from teaching Transcultural Psychiatry at the graduate Specialization School of Clinical Psychology, in the University of Turin, but he continues to work actively on the influence of magic and religious beliefs on psychiatry, on which he is an international expert.

It is my honor to introduce this dedicated issue of Psichiatria e Psicoterapia Culturale.