



A brief note

## On the future of cultural psychiatry Goffredo Bartocci

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The summary of this paper was given to me by Wen Shing Tseng during the 3rd World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry (WCCP), held in London in 2012. In that occasion, Wen Shing asked me to cooperate in a manuscript providing readers general reflections from the two founders of World Association of Cultural Psychiatry (WACP). He believed that, in addition to the two papers on the past and recent history of transcultural psychiatry, it would be helpful for cultural psychiatrists to read some unrestrained considerations on the future of our discipline: a subject strongly addressed by 3<sup>rd</sup> WCCP. So we decided to work together on an agile and easy paper explaining the innovative potential of cultural psychiatry, as we could experience on the basis of our long professional exercise, clinical activity, field research, congress attendance and international cooperation and friendship with transcultural scholars due to our appointments as president of Transcultural Section of World Psychiatry Association (WPA-TPS) and WACP. We agreed to avoid a purely clinical research, and to display a vision of the possible scenario that is going to occur in the next years to psychiatric science as a whole, based on both tangible and intangible perceptions felt during our institutional appointments. The warm correspondence and active cooperation between us has been interrupted by the premature and lamented Wen Shing's death. While the general layout and structure is still Wen Shing's, many parts of the paper have been completed, emended or updated by myself with important contributions from the other Authors.

The study of interaction between religious factors and mental health was among the hardest parts, and was originally planned for a clarifying discussion between us. Scientific cooperation between us on this subject goes back many years ago, when Wen Shing asked me to act as scientific advisor for the Chapter *Religion, Psychopathology and Therapy* of his *Handbook of Cultural Psychiatry* (2001). I hope to instil into readers the same calm and interest which Wen Shing was going to address this topic with, in the future.

I am honoured to have published this work, staying side to side to my friend Wen Shing again, and having the opportunity of reliving once more so many moments of our collaboration and friendship.

Goffredo Bartocci

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*Past Editor and Founder*

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