



The Construction of a “Psychological / Clinical Truth” as Specialist Support within the Legal Process

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The Building of Horrors

- ▶ So-called today the building in Green Park, Caivano (Naples, Italy) which led to the deaths of two children:
 - ▶ June 27, 2013, 3-year-old Antonio Giglio falls out of a seventh-floor window
 - ▶ June 24, 2014, 6-year-old Fortuna Loffredo (“Chicca”) plummets to her death from the 8th floor



The Building of Horrors

- ▶ Also known as the “damned” building because of the sexual abuse on minors going on there:
 - ▶ Evident concealment of the crime during investigations by police and magistrates of the North Naples District Attorney
 - ▶ Results from Chicca’s autopsy
 - ▶ The need of psychological evaluation



The Building of Horrors

- ▶ In the meantime, Antonio's mother (Marianna Fabozzi) was under investigation for manslaughter of her son's death.
- ▶ What's more, Antonio has three sisters and one was Chicca's best friend, 9-year-old Daniela, (also called "Dany").



The Investigation

- Conducted by public prosecutors Claudia Maone and Federico Bisceglia, later assigned to Domenico Airoma
- Collaboration of psychologist-expert Rosetta Cappelluccio
- Questioning of all the tenants of this building
- Evaluation of the drawings of some children living in this so-called “building of horrors”



The Report

Includes:

- Definition of child sexual abuse
- Methodology
- (Psychological) assistance in the interviews of the minors
- Close examination of the documentation provided by the prosecutors (memorandums, home bugging and telephone tapping)
- Filtering of home bugging
- Clinical documentation and cognitive interviews of the minors



The Report

- ▶ Psychological Drawing Tests
- ▶ Disclosure of Psychological Testing
- ▶ Raven 47 Colour Matrix Testing
- ▶ Interviews with minors (friends of the victim who were with her on that tragic day)
- ▶ Psychodiagnostic considerations
- ▶ Conclusions
- ▶ Subsequent Conclusions



Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse cases need:

- ▶ a qualified examiner
- ▶ accurate interpretation of genital findings
- ▶ correct use of STI testing



Child Sexual Abuse

A) EMOTIONAL RESPONSES

- difficulty in expressing emotions

B) DISSOCIATION

- disconnect physically and/or mentally

C) BEHAVIOR

- struggle with self-regulation

D) COGNITION: THINKING AND LEARNING

- difficulty thinking clearly, reasoning and problem solving



Methodology

- ▶ Clinical psychological interviews: to gather information; to understand the minors' attitudes and feelings; to comprehend non-verbal behavior; to collect information about the features of the interpersonal relations
- ▶ Examining legal documentation collected by police and magistrates (including recordings of home bugging and telephone tapping)
- ▶ Standardized psychological tests (i.e. Clinical and Cognitive Interviews of minors; Psychological Drawing Testing; Rorschach testing; Projective testing: C.A.T. and Louisa Düss Fables)



Clinical and Cognitive Interviews (of minors)

Geiselman and Fisher's *Cognitive Interviews* (1984) method

- ▶ Two main principles (mnestic trace and particular cues to non-accessible info)
- ▶ The four mnemo-techniques (retrieve info by recreating and recalling)
- ▶ The important role and behavior of the expert

Therefore the effectiveness of this method is essentially based on the ability of the expert to create a pleasant atmosphere for the child to interact easily and feel free to remember.



Clinical and Cognitive Interviews (of minors): **Disclosure**

The *Cognitive Interview* of
Daniela

(Antonio's sister and Chicca's best friend)

REVEALED

what happened
on the morning of June 24, 2014.



Clinical and Cognitive Interviews (of minors)

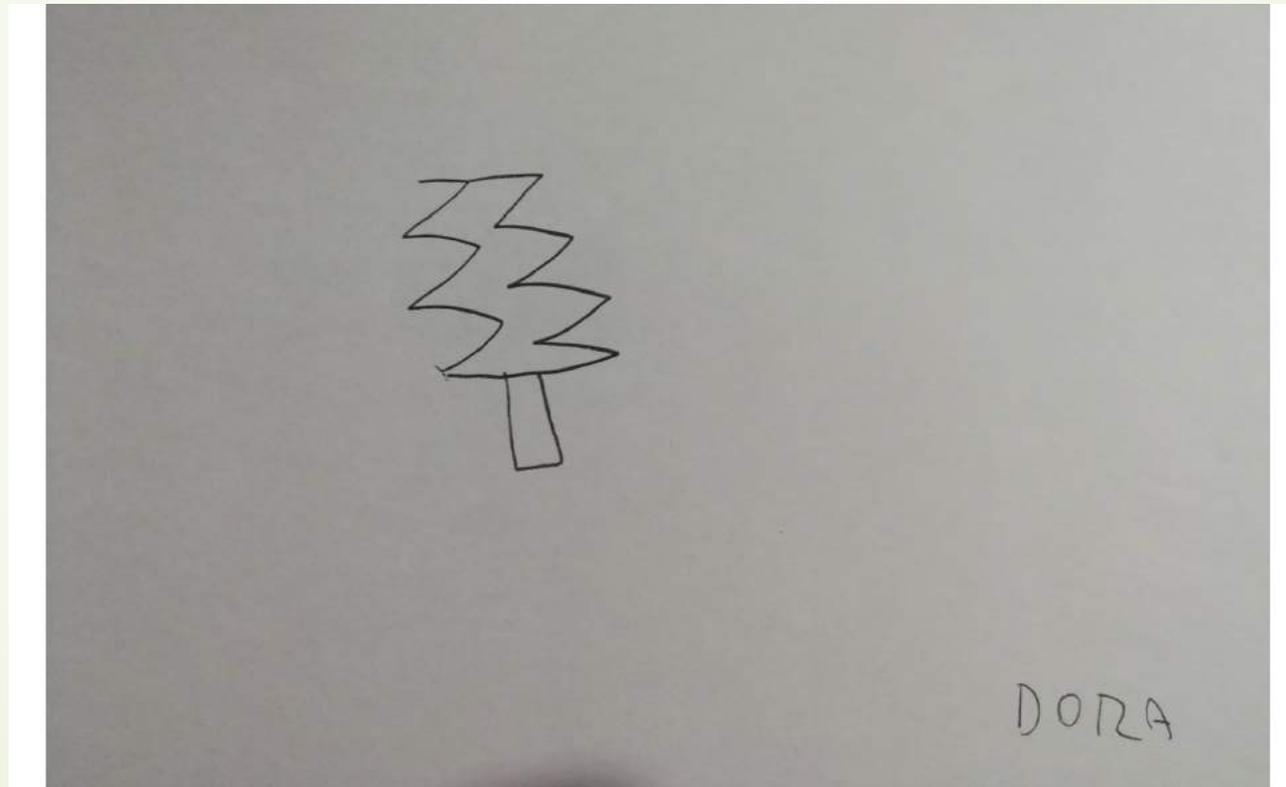
- ▶ In the interviews I used ***The Step-Wise Interview***.
- ▶ It is structured in 9 stages and used on children under the age of eight.
- ▶ Each stage aims at unveiling information inherent to the experience of an alleged abuse, according to the child's individual psychological dimension.



Clinical and Cognitive Interviews (of minors)

- Moreover, in the interviews, the Statement Validity Analysis (SVA) was utilized.
- With young witnesses, the Louisa Düss Fables and puppets were used.

Psychological Drawing Tests: **A) The Tree Drawing by Daniela**



D. Passi Tognazzo,
*Metodi e tecniche
nella diagnosi della
personalità*, 1994.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

A) The Tree Drawing Interpretation



DORA

- The trunk of the tree represents the stable Ego, an area of ideas.
- It is closed shut, thus indicating immaturity, not accomplishing a stable Ego.

Psychological Drawing Tests: **A) The Tree Drawing Interpretation**



DORA

- The foliage represents the ability to reach out to the environment.
- There is disharmony. The foliage is sharp and appears to have jagged edges like a sharp blade.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

A) The Tree Drawing Interpretation



DORA

- The inclination of the entire tree to the left indicating the regression of feelings, a defensive and cautious attitude.
- The hard drawing strokes are a sign of impulsiveness and aggressiveness.

Psychological Drawing Tests: **B) The Person Drawing by Daniela**



D. Passi Tognazzo,
*Metodi e tecniche
nella diagnosi della
personalità*, 1994.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

B) The Person Drawing Interpretation



From the formal point of view:

- having drawn a figure using just under half of the sheet of paper indicates that the subject feels insecure, inhibited, isolated.
- While a drawing, drawn on the left half of the sheet means introversion and attachment to the past.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

B) The Person Drawing Interpretation



From the pictorial point of view:

- There is a strong and decisive trait. This aspect denotes insecurity, impulsiveness, and sometimes even aggressiveness.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

B) The Person Drawing Interpretation



From the point of view of content:

- ▶ The absence of the neck (normal up to the age of 5) indicates there is no interruption between the force of the body and mental control.
- ▶ The arms and hands, organs which allow us to reach out to the outside world, are drawn little in dimension: the arms, two tiny lines, give the idea of something fragile and thin.
- ▶ The two closed fingers on the hands indicate a clear difficulty reaching out to the world, a sign of impotence.

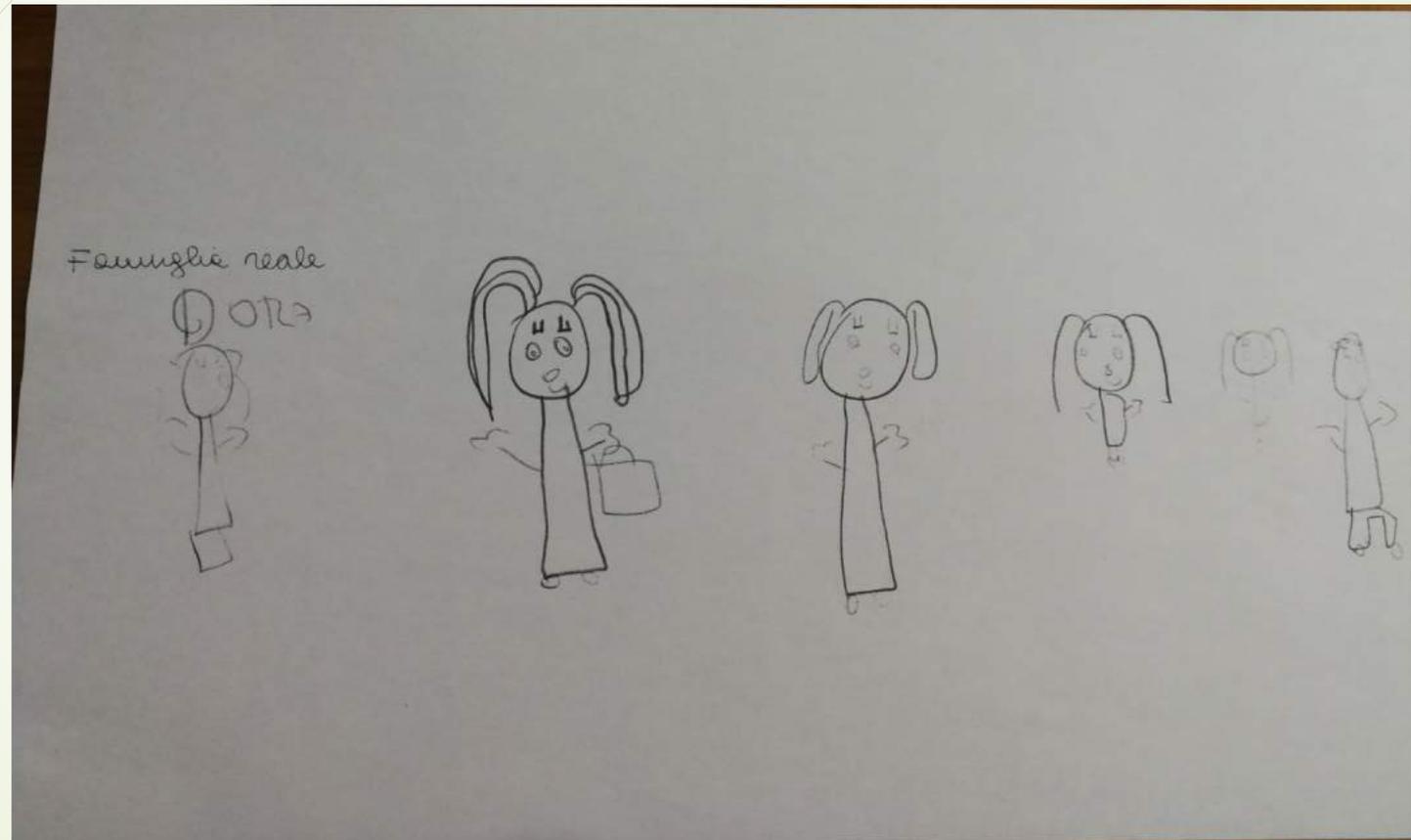
Psychological Drawing Tests:

B) The Person Drawing Interpretation



- ▶ Wide-open eyes express excessive curiosity in the sexual field.
- ▶ In the investigation, Daniela recounts that the character she drew was Chicca. She is happy and plays with her and Daniela's sisters at their home.
- ▶ Identifying herself with Chicca indicates that Daniela admires her, she recognizes the qualities she does not have and would like to possess.

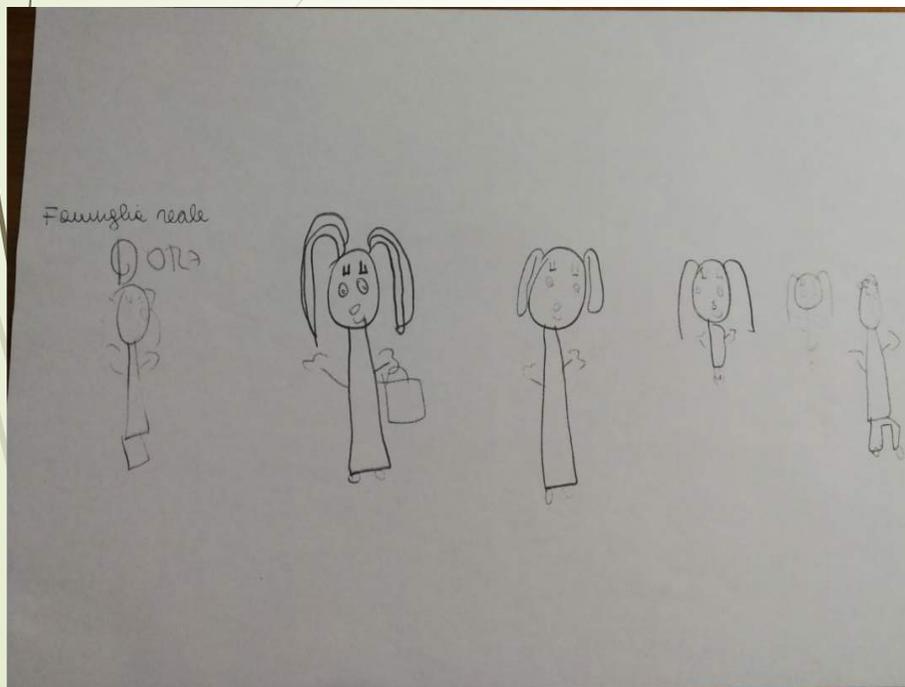
Psychological Drawing Tests: C) Daniela's Family Drawing of her real family



D. Passi Tognazzo,
*Metodi e tecniche
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personalità*, 1994.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

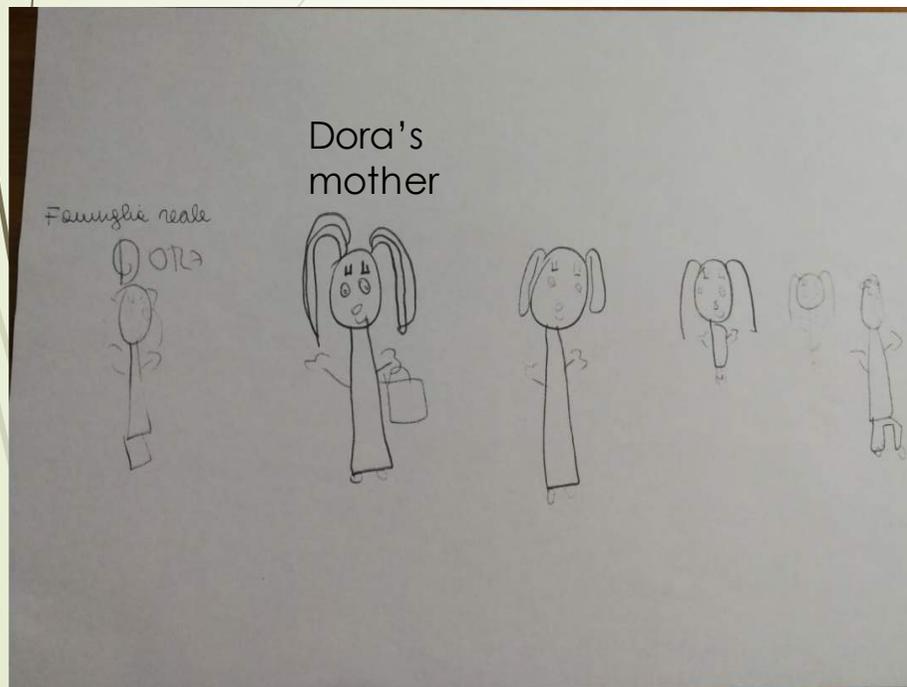
C) The Interpretation of Daniela's Family Drawing of her real family



- In this drawing, in this order, Daniela draws her mother Marianna, her Aunt Lina, her two sisters: Anna and Roberta, her uncle Pasquale, and then she adds, last, on the left side of the sheet of paper, her maternal grandmother.
- The interpretation of the hard drawing strokes indicate strong impulsiveness, violence.
- The presence of little mobile characters means isolation from each other showing a certain rigidity.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

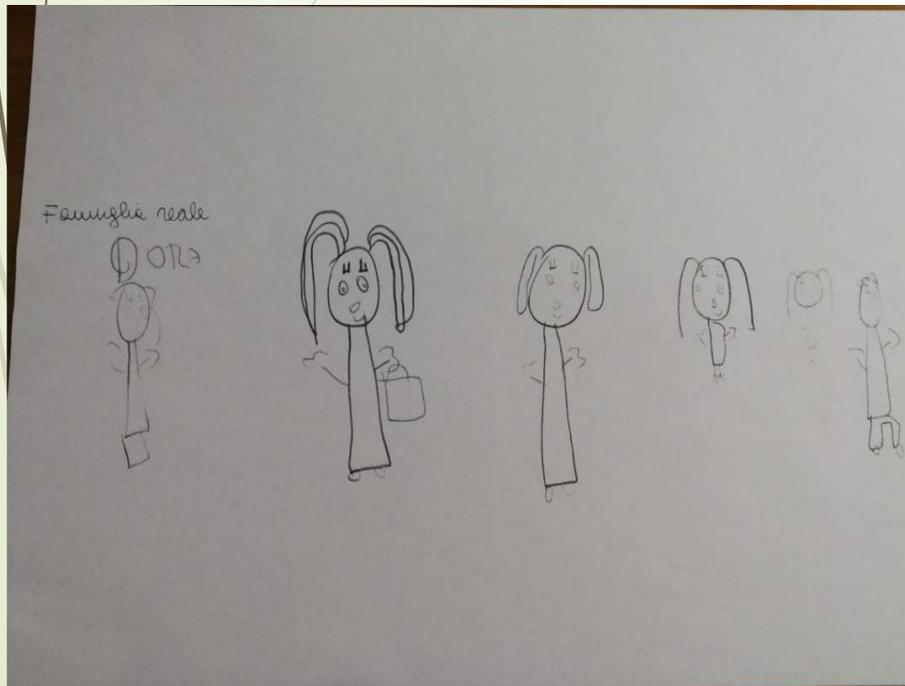
C) The Interpretation of Daniela's Family Drawing of her real family



- The most valued character is the mother.
- She is the first character designed and in great detail.
- Her appreciation is a sign of a significant relationship between Daniela and her mother who she admires or envies or fears.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

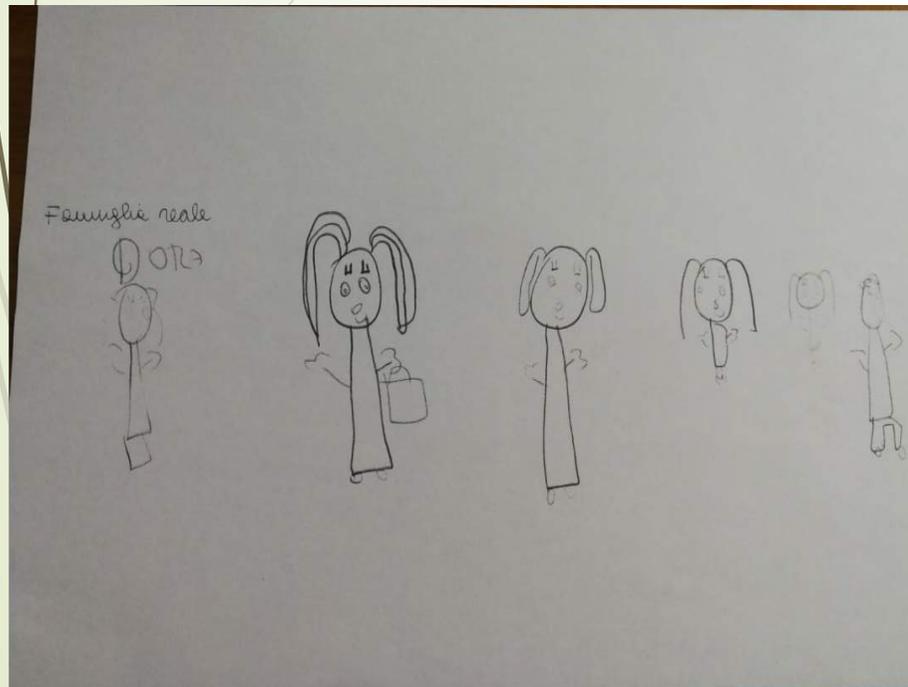
C) The Interpretation of Daniela's Family Drawing of her real family



- ▶ Like in the Person Drawing, the upper limbs are less defined: the arms are drawn with tiny lines.
- ▶ Her mother, aunt and sister Anna have fingers, while her sister Roberta, her Uncle Pasquale and her grandmother are depicted with short, thin lines similar to arrows instead of arms and hands.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

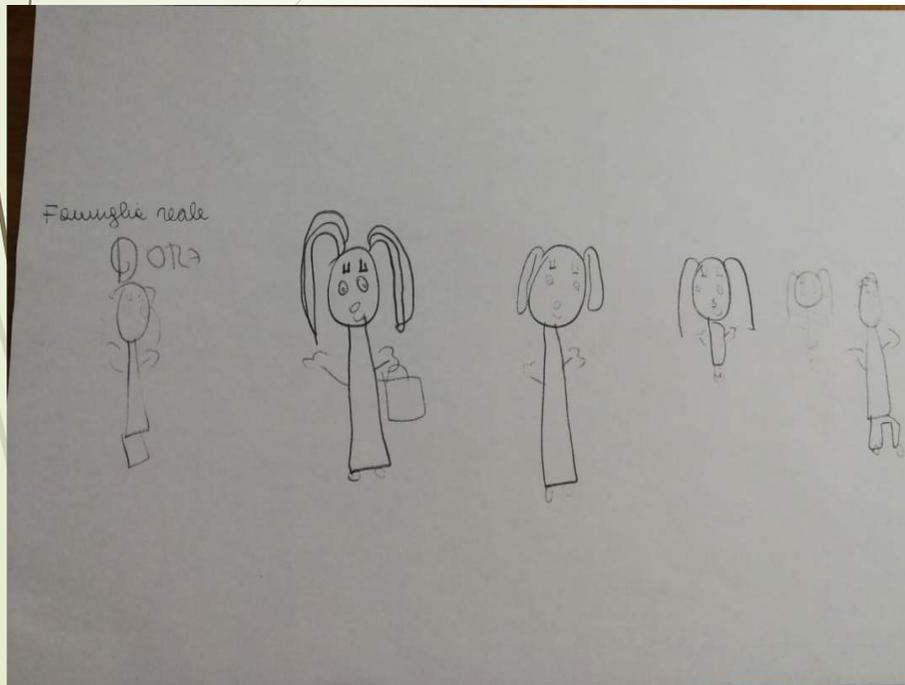
C) The Interpretation of Daniela's Family Drawing of her real family



- Interpretation of these limbs is evident, difficult contact with the outside world. The family is so influential. She is not allowed to have any psychological space to gain knowledge of the outside world, outside the domestic walls she lives in.
- Daniela constantly asks her family to confirm if she has spoken correctly, *Did I say the right thing?*

Psychological Drawing Tests:

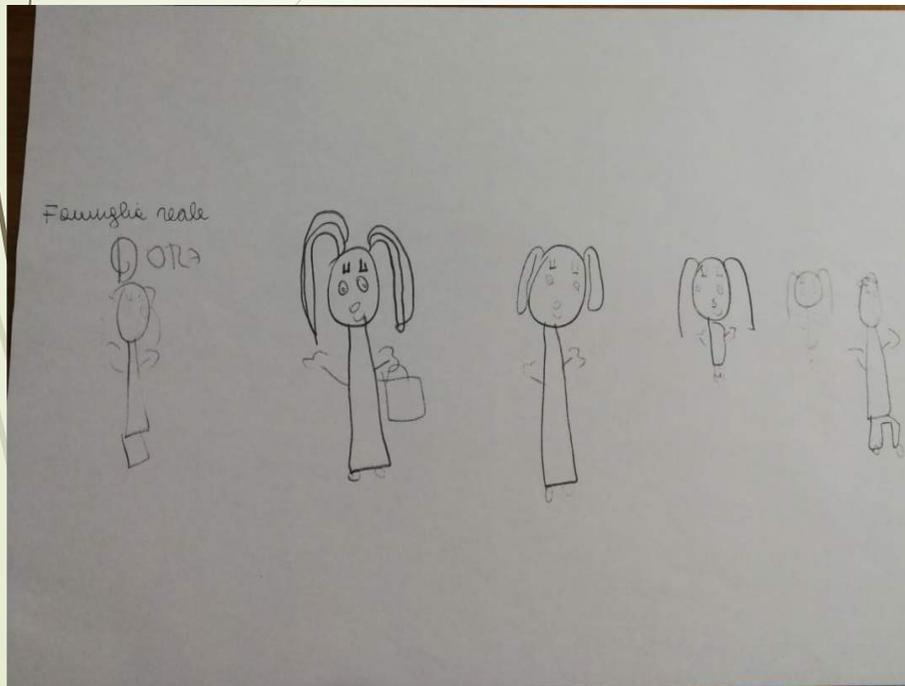
C) The Interpretation of Daniela's Family Drawing of her real family



- Her mother's, her aunt's and her sister Anna's wide-open eyes express excessive curiosity in the sexual field. The eyes, an expression of the quality of relationship with others, the non-detail (without pupils), like in the presentation of other characters, indicate a great sense of inner discomfort and difficulty reaching out to the world.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

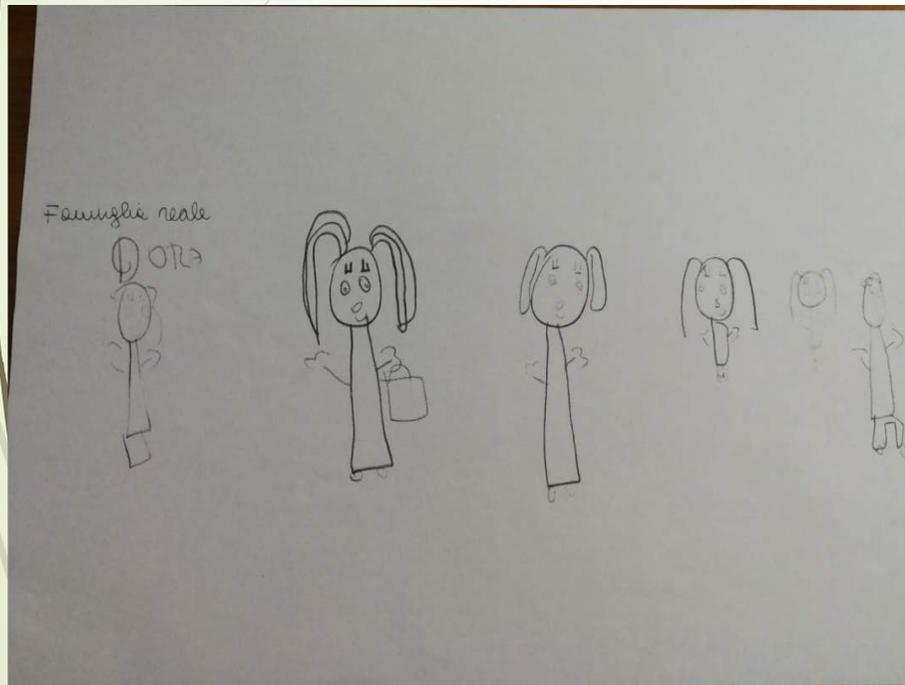
C) The Interpretation of Daniela's Family Drawing of her real family



- ▶ Short or absent legs denote a static figure with psychological instability and much suffering.
- ▶ Daniela did not include herself in the drawing: this is a sign that in her present condition, she is not comfortable with the position she holds.

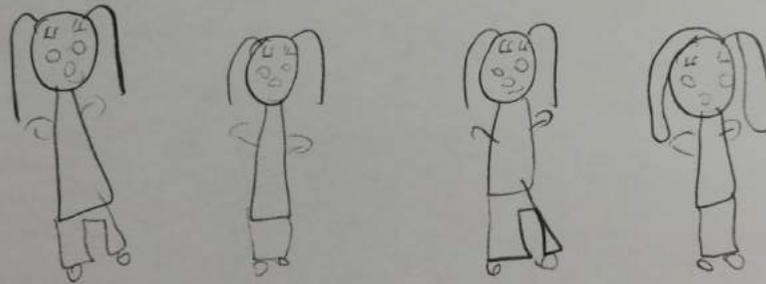
Psychological Drawing Tests:

C) The Interpretation of Daniela's Family Drawing of her real family



- In her “real” family drawing, she represents herself in her mother.
- She would like to take the place of her mother, as she states in the investigation when she says she wants to be the mother of the family.

Psychological Drawing Tests: D) The Imaginary Family Drawing by Daniela

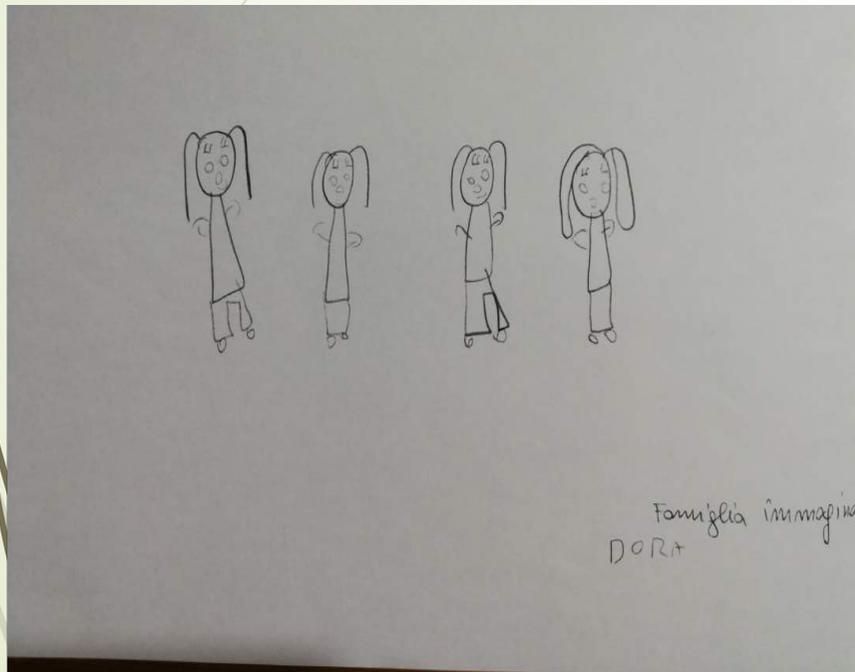


Famiglia immaginaria
DORA

D. Passi Tognazzo,
Metodi e tecniche
nella diagnosi della
personalità ,1994.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

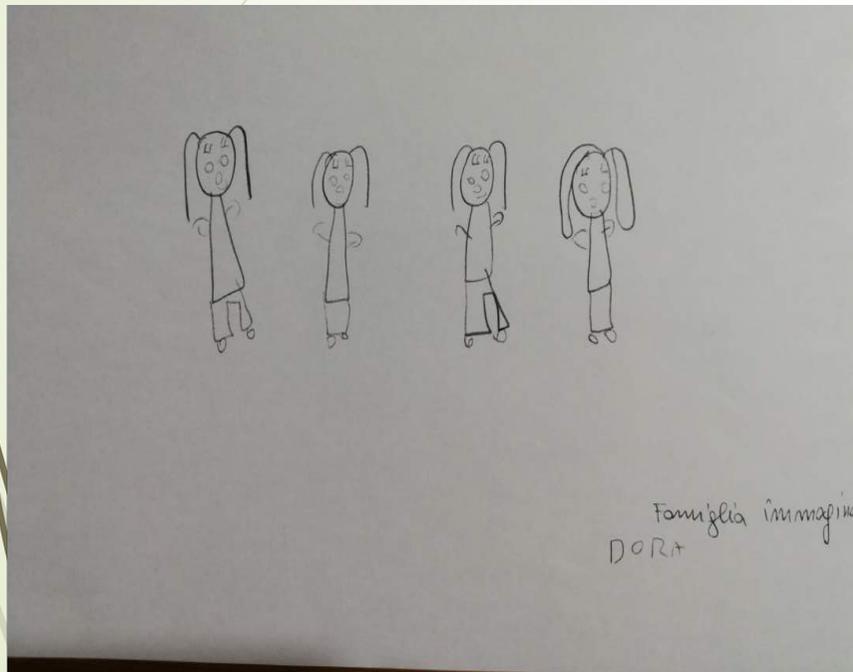
D) The Interpretation of Daniela's Imaginary Family



- ▶ In her "Imaginary" Family Drawing, Daniela depicts, in this order, her grandmother Angioletta, her Aunt Lina, her Aunt Mena and her Mom.
- ▶ The members are seen as functions of the subject's personality, as they represent affective tendencies.

Psychological Drawing Tests:

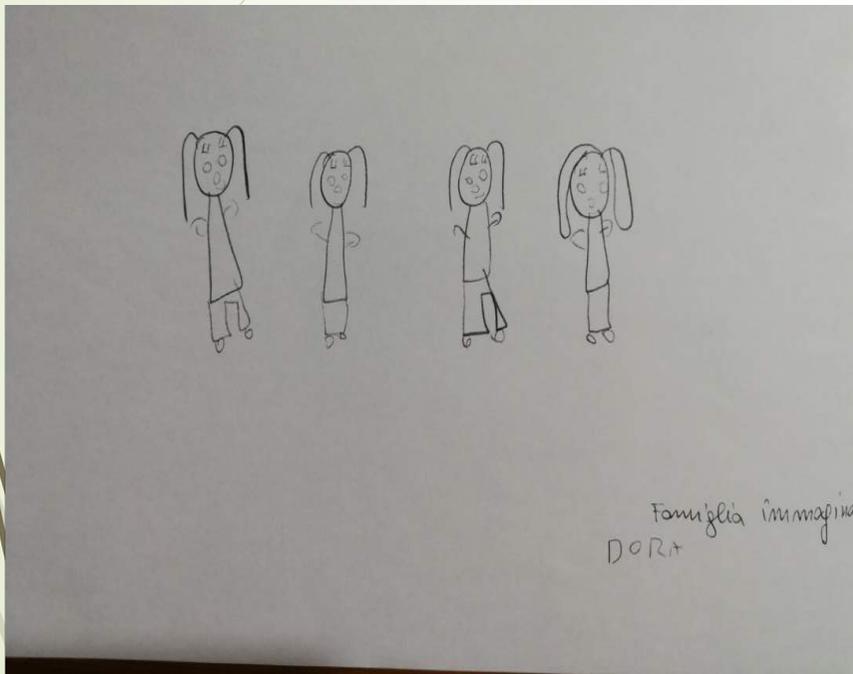
D) The Interpretation of Daniela's Imaginary Family



- All the characters' arms and hands are drawn with the same shapes.
- The eyes have no pupils, which means, once again, to express this strong sense of inner discomfort.
- In this family, the child has eliminated every male figure, both adult and child, of the real family.

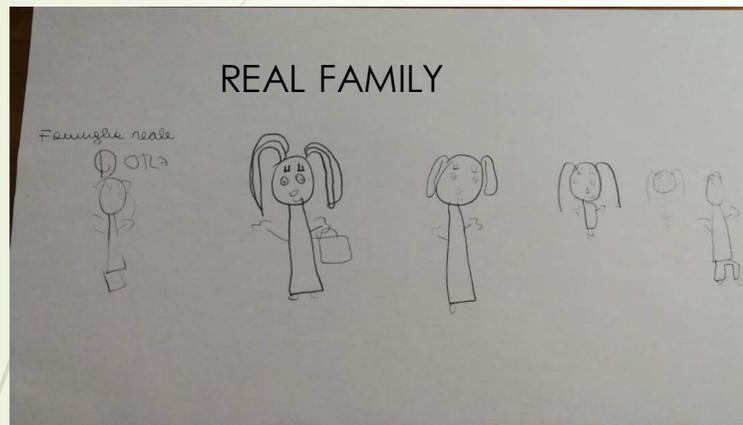
Psychological Drawing Tests:

D) The Interpretation of Daniela's Imaginary Family

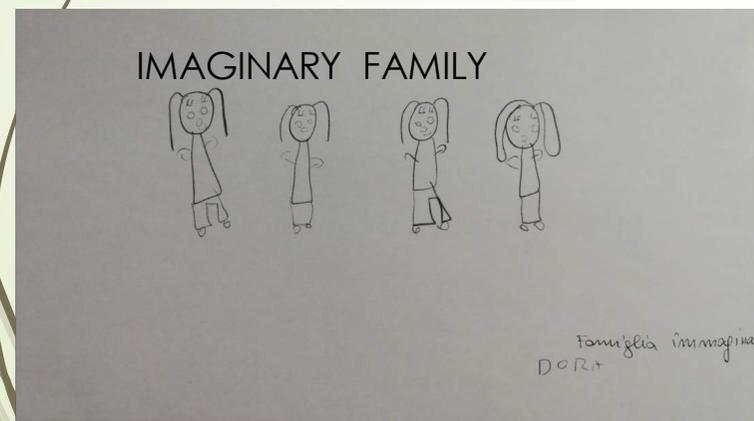


- ▶ She has created a social context of her own, far from reality to give precedence to her own tendencies, to her own personal concept of what family life is.
- ▶ Her negative feelings towards some members of her family have led her to eliminate them.

Psychological Drawing Tests: The Analysis of Daniela's Family Drawings

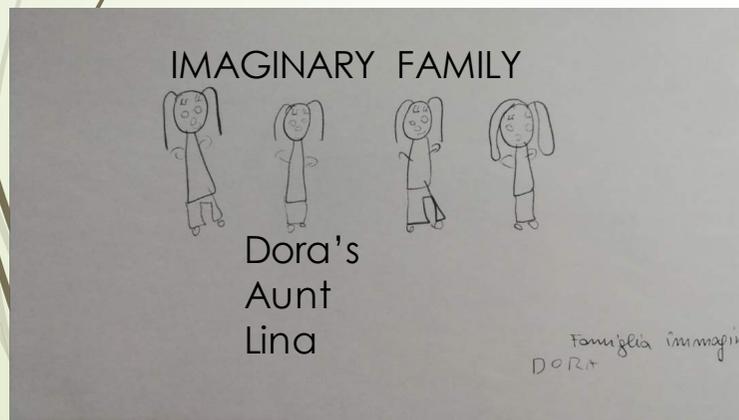
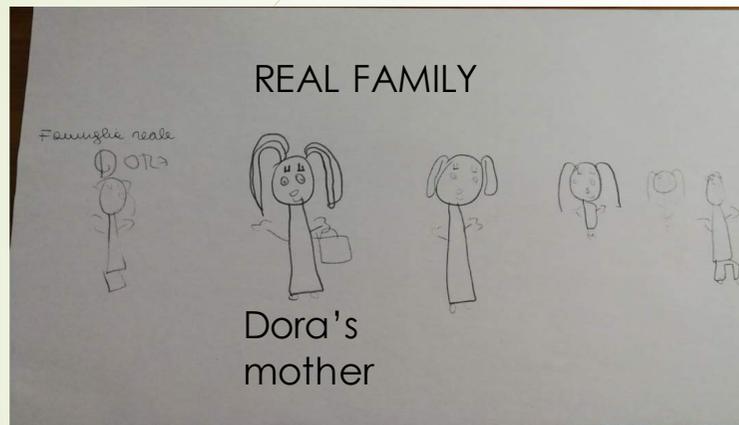


- In reproducing her “real” family, Daniela abides by the principle of reality.



- In the realization of her imaginary family, on the contrary, she abides by the principle of stress.

Psychological Drawing Tests: The Analysis of Daniela's Family Drawings



- Therefore, in the “Imaginary” family, she can realize a situation where she can get maximum pleasure and minimal sorrow.
- Daniela has excluded herself again just like in her “real” family. In the former she identifies herself as her mother. In the latter, she identifies herself as her Aunt Lina (second to the left).



Disclosure of Psychological Testing: Rorschach Tests

Rorschach Test Interpretation:

- From the cognitive point of view, F +% means she has a good level of intelligence.
- It means she has the ability of self-control of the conscious and good function of the Super Ego.

Disclosure of Psychological Testing: C.A.T. (Children's Apperception Tests)

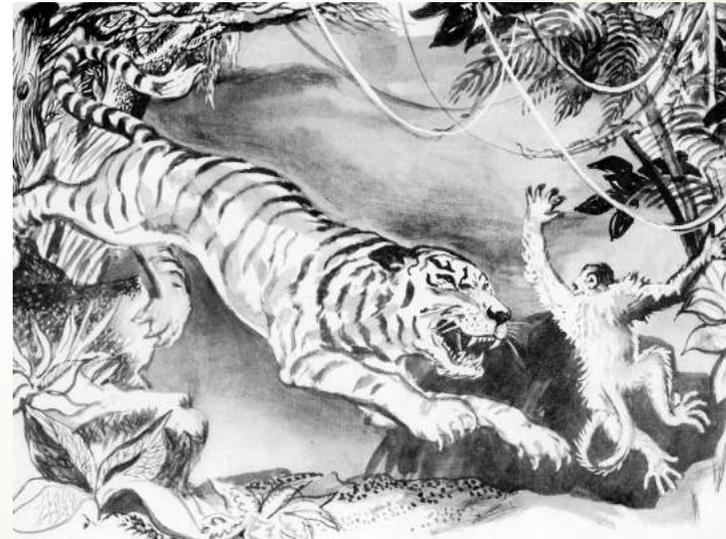
C.A.T. Interpretation:

- Perfect approach for children aged 3 to 10 subject to ambiguous and/or conflicting positions.
- Daniela shows a sufficient understanding of the latent content presented only in tables 1 and 7.

Table 1



Table 7





Disclosure of Psychological Testing: C.A.T. (Children's Apperception Tests)

- ▶ Daniela avoids the main theme or features of the protagonists. This does not indicate an incorrect functioning of perceptive-associative processes, but an obvious form of defense mechanism manifested because of constant denial.
- ▶ This mechanism has the function of preventing the subject (in this case Daniela), to recognize specific feelings, desires, intentions, or actions Daniela may be responsible for in a certain situation or event which occurred.



Disclosure of Psychological Testing: C.A.T. (Children's Apperception Tests)

- ▶ Denial allows nor to admit nor to become aware of a psychic fact (idea or feeling) that could cause negative consequences (such as shame, regret or other painful affections).
- ▶ Therefore, the individual Daniela faces emotional conflicts and sources of internal or external stress by refusing to recognize any aspect of external reality or experience that would be obvious to others.



Disclosure of Psychological Testing: **Louisa Düss Fables Tests**

Düss Fables Interpretation:

- ▶ Analyzing the answers given in the interviews, conflicts do not arise in most areas investigated by the test (i.e. dependence on parenting, jealousy towards parenting, fraternal rivalry, guilt, castration complex, possessive and obstinate character, child's desires or fears).
- ▶ However, what is evident are the difficulties in situations denied by Daniela, in particular those stimulated by Fable 5 (Fable of fear that investigates anguish and self-defense) and the Fable of the nightmare that reconfirms the fears manifested by the child in Fable 5.



Disclosure of Psychological Testing:
Raven 47 Colour Matrix Testing

Raven 47 Colour Matrix Testing Interpretation:

Daniela's results are:

- ▶ IQ Class = 75-85 (Range)
- ▶ Central value = 80
- ▶ Medium Low Performance Category

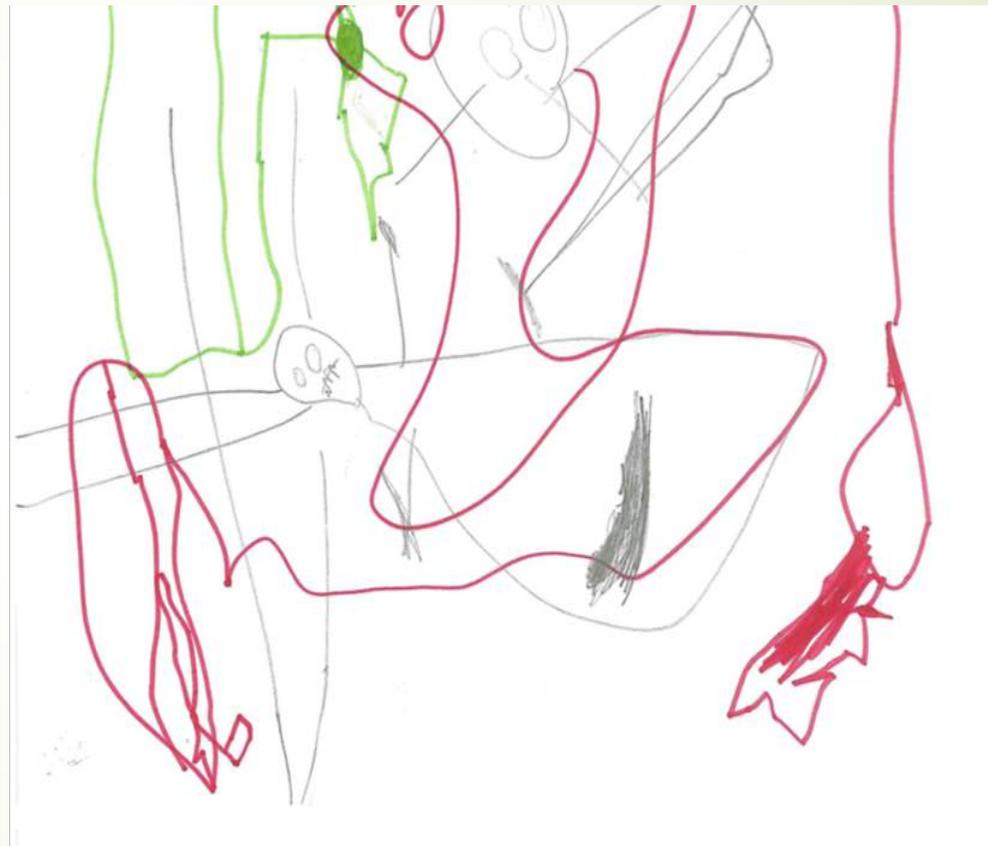
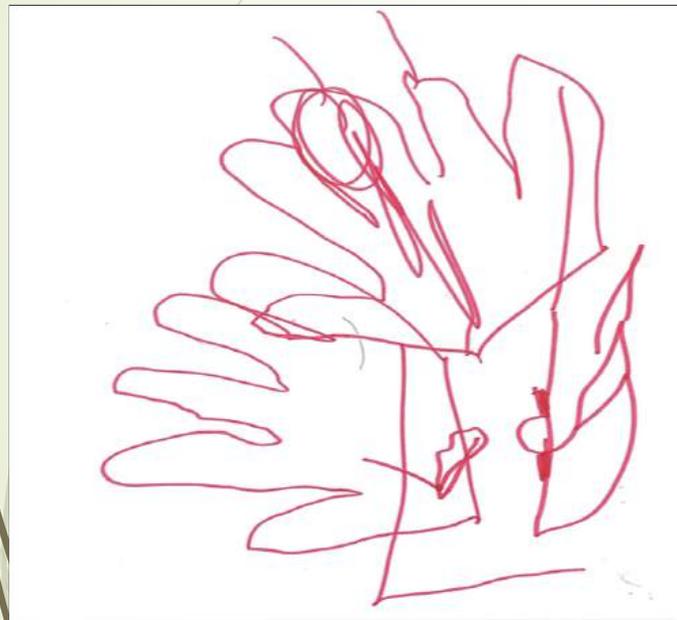


Clinical Interviews

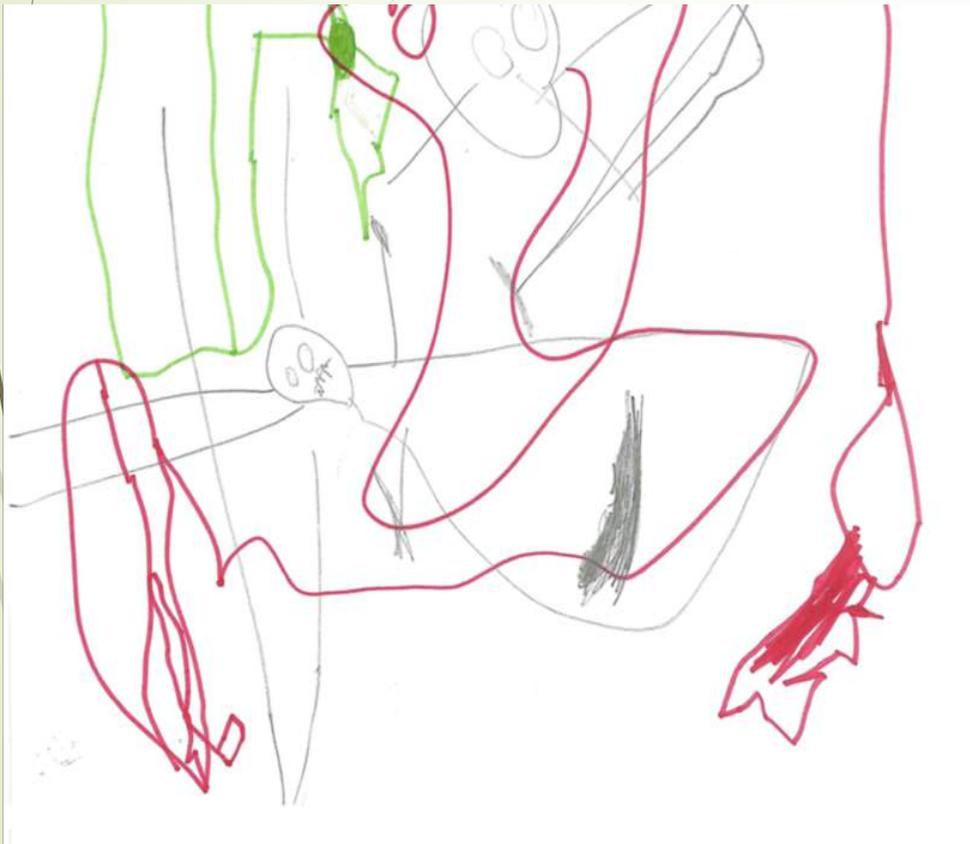
Clinical Interviews were done with Chicca's younger playmates (present the day of Chicca's tragic end):

- **Five-year-old Alex (Chicca's brother)**
- **Five-year-old Ernest (Alessio's playmate)**

Clinical Interviews: **Drawings by Alex**

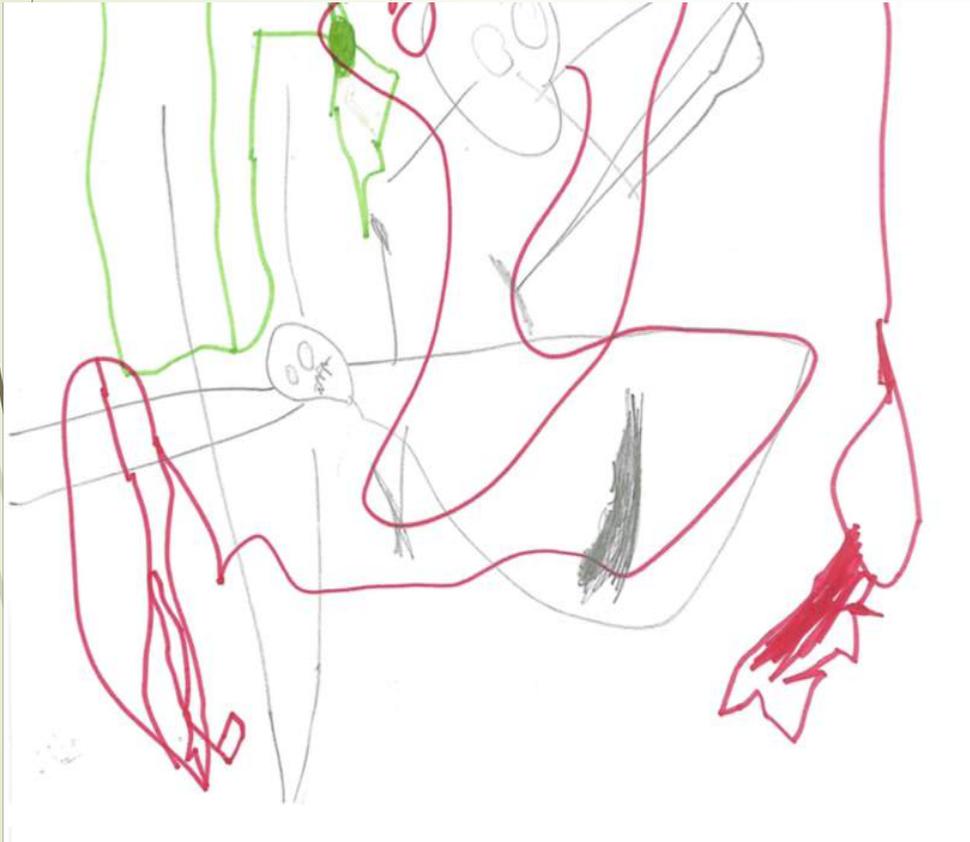


Clinical Interviews: **Drawings by Alex**



- ▶ **Alex** was unapproachable for the interview and possessed, both lexically and grammatically, a poor language. He did not have a fluid eloquence.
- ▶ However, he made four drawings.
- ▶ In this drawing, the body has open arms and a face with eyes but no pupils, indicating difficulty reaching out to the outside world.

Clinical Interviews: ***Drawings by Alex***



- ▶ In **Alex**'s drawing, the sewn mouth probably means the child wants to avoid talking or recounting something.
- ▶ The whole drawing brings to the conclusion of what had happened to Chicca, and that this child is aware that his sister had fallen from the window.

Clinical Interviews: **Drawings by Ernest**



Clinical Interviews: **Drawings by Ernest**



- ▶ **Ernest** drew the bodies representing Chicca and Alex with a phallic shape beginning from the upper part of the mouth of the two children drawn.



First Conclusions

- After extensive examination of the documentation (and domestic interceptions)
- After projective interviews, clinical interviews, analysis and interpretation of the tests given

Daniela HAS BEEN ASSESSED

- with a good degree of intelligence
- to distinguish well between facts that happened
- to narrate/tell what she experienced
- to grasp reality and recount it



First Conclusions

HOWEVER,

- ▶ constant pressures received from her family, has led her to use the same intellectual ability to coerce events, making it difficult to obtain direct information about Chicca's death.
- ▶ Daniela, being "the last direct witness" to Chicca, denies reconstructing the events, falling into those memories defined as "underpinnings" in the neuropsychological field.

LeDoux J., *The emotional brain*, 2014



First Conclusions

- ▶ In the case of Daniela, the capacity of the memory, the ability of the temporal sequence of events, and the possibility of recounting what actually happened is, as evidenced by the tests done, constantly put to the test by her family obliging her not to produce a testimony resulting in penal consequences for members of the family.



First Conclusions

- From the interceptions, it is obvious that Daniela knows much more than what she recounts.
- Despite having good intellectual ability, clinical indicators show that Daniela continues to remain coerced by her family environment.

AS A RESULT,

- She will never be able to complete her growth towards individualization.
- She will be unable to create a mature and responsible personality as there will always be her family to prevent her from developing good moral, cultural and social values (such as responsibility towards oneself and others, empathy, respect and recognition of authorities).



First Conclusions

- ▶ Daniela lives in a somewhat closed family context where, in addition to the presence of her mother and her current companion, there is that of her grandmother, aunt and maternal uncle with whom she often spends most of the day and/or night.
- ▶ Such a family structure, in fact, erases generational boundaries between parents and children and weakens the evolutionary stages.
- ▶ Family interactions based on the attachment-caregiving system or an equal relational-based system or game-based relationship characterize different relational contexts.
- ▶ Within this particular family, there is the sexual system that regulates relationships between adults and children (as seen in the children's drawings) .



Subsequent Conclusions

- ▶ *Such Conclusions have allowed me to remove the girls from the family context.*

AS A RESULT,

- ▶ After the removal of the children and regular psychological sessions of over two years, the relationship has changed.
- ▶ **Daniela, Anna** and **Roberta** have seen a new reality that allows them to recount what they could not say a few years ago.
- ▶ Being able to free herself, Daniela has recounted what she experienced that day.
- ▶ Daniela has undertaken a phase of change towards herself.
- ▶ This distance from her family has given her that individualization of a system of values towards which she is now orienting herself.



Subsequent Conclusions

The Cognitive Interview of **Roberta**, Daniela's sister, with the Düss fables emerged:

- In the first fable, The Little Bird Fable, the child lives a problematic relationship with her parents.
- In the second, Wedding Anniversary Fable, there is a clear sense of exclusion that she lives and the fact that she is not cared for enough and that the party is for her parents and not for her.
- The response to the Lamb Fables does not show any fraternal rivalry.
- Her response to the funeral/departure Fable does not highlight aggression, guilt, self-punishment.
- There is a clear presence of aggression in the Fable of Fear.



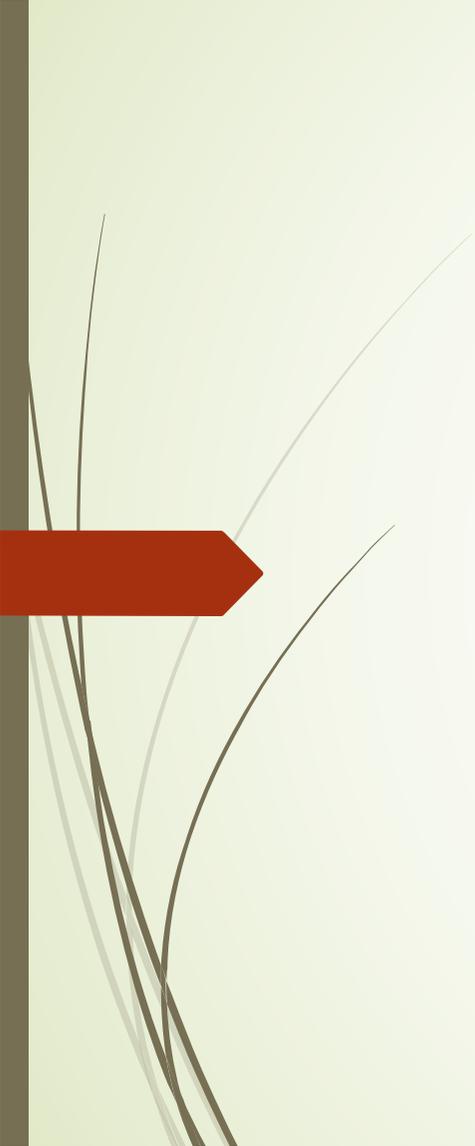
Subsequent Conclusions

- ▶ The response to the Elephant Fable does not highlight any complex castration complex, nor does it possess a possessive and obstinate character.
- ▶ The Walking with Dad story stimulates a clear Oedipal response. **Roberta** rejects the new story (to highlight fears) and she does not give any responses.
- ▶ Finally, in the Dream Fancy, there is the presence of a monster that she says she has dreamed about. It is at this moment that she relives the violence, the suffering and the pain through flashbacks, intrusively vivid memories and thoughts.



Subsequent Conclusions

- ▶ In conclusion, the protocol not only confirms certain data emerging from the interviews (pain, suffering, presence of evil monsters), but it also explains, from a psychodynamic point of view, some aspects of the behavior of the child victim of sexual abuse.



Thank you for listening.