

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910457408103321
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Titolo	Lost in transmission : studies of trauma across generations / / by M. Gerard Fromm
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boca Raton, FL : , : Routledge, an imprint of Taylor and Francis, , [2018] ©2012
ISBN	0-429-90165-8 0-429-47688-4 1-283-34152-2 9786613341525 1-84940-943-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (251 p.)
Disciplina	616.85 616.85/21 616.8521
Soggetti	Psychic trauma Psychology, Pathological Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	COVER; CONTENTS; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PERMISSIONS; ABOUT THE EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTORS; Introduction; PART I SHADOWS OF THE HOLOCAUST; Introduction; CHAPTER ONE The second generation in the shadow of terror; CHAPTER TWO The broken chain: legacies of trauma and war; CHAPTER THREE Traumatic shutdown of narrative and symbolization: a death instinct derivative?; CHAPTER FOUR Clinical and historical perspectives on the intergenerational transmission of trauma; PART II INSIDE THE CONSULTING ROOM; Introduction; CHAPTER FIVE The intertwining of the internal and external wars CHAPTER SIX Treatment resistance and the transmission of trauma CHAPTER SEVEN Turns of a phrase: traumatic learning through the generations; CHAPTER EIGHT Intergenerational violence and the family myth; CHAPTER NINE A quixotic approach to trauma and psychosis; PART III CONTEMPORARY AMERICA; Introduction; CHAPTER

TEN A mosaic of transmissions after trauma; CHAPTER ELEVEN Heroes at home: the transmission of trauma in firefighters' families; CHAPTER TWELVE Afterword: lost and found; INDEX

Sommario/riassunto

A central thesis of this volume is that what human beings cannot contain of their experience - what has been traumatically overwhelming, unbearable, unthinkable - falls out of social discourse, but very often onto and into the next generation, as an affective sensitivity or a chaotic urgency. What appears to be a person's symptom may turn out to be a symbol - in the context of this book, a symbol of an unconscious mission - to repair a parent or avenge a humiliation - assigned by the preceding generation. These tasks may be more or less idiosyncratic to a given family, suffering its own personal trauma, or collective in response to societal trauma. This book attempts to address this heritage of trauma - the way that the truly traumatic, that which cannot be contained by one generation, necessarily and largely unconsciously plays itself out through the next generation - and to do so both from clinical and societal perspectives.
