

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465303003321
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Titolo	Psychic reality in context : perspectives on psychoanalysis, personal history, and trauma // by Marion Michel Oliner
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boca Raton, FL : , : Routledge, an imprint of Taylor and Francis, , [2018] ©2012
ISBN	0-429-90340-5 0-429-47863-1 1-282-16493-7 9786613808431 1-78241-007-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (193 p.)
Collana	Psychoanalytic ideas and applications series
Disciplina	150.19 150.195
Soggetti	Mind and reality Psychoanalysis Psychic trauma 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; ABOUT THE AUTHOR; SERIES EDITOR'S PREFACE PSYCHOANALYTIC IDEAS AND APPLICATIONS SERIES; Introduction; Prologue A: Personal reflections on three analyses and their aftermath; Prologue B: Excuse me for having been born: the fate of a German Jew during the Second World War; CHAPTER ONE The role of historic events in treatment; CHAPTER TWO Actual experience, memory, and the assimilation of trauma; CHAPTER THREE The elusive dimension of external reality in psychoanalytic theory; CHAPTER FOUR The limit of omnipotence CHAPTER FIVE Life is not a dream: the importance of actual perception CHAPTER SIX Conclusion: "The unconscious has eyes and can see"; CHAPTER SEVEN Psychoanalysis from a different angle: "Jacques Lacan: the language of alienation"; REFERENCES; INDEX

## Sommario/riassunto

This book skillfully combines autobiographical stories with clear psychoanalytical theories. During her childhood, the author experienced the Holocaust and was left understandably traumatised by it. It was her desire to confront this trauma that led her to psychoanalysis. For decades, the coherence of psychoanalysis seemed to be threatened by the conflicting thinking of many psychoanalytical colleagues about trauma and trauma affect, and also about the influence of external reality on the psychic reality discovered by Freud. However, the author counters this potential conflict with her innovative theoretical integration, combined with remarkable conceptual outcomes and treatment techniques. This book spans the author's work over the last fifteen years on the impact of external reality on psychic reality. During this period many analysts, especially in the English-speaking countries and Germany, where historic events loomed large in the lives of their patients, have turned from the exclusive emphasis on psychic reality to greater attention to the traumatic impact of external reality.

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