

In the University Hospital of NHS in Florence (Italy) is a group of clinical psychologists and psychiatrists, coordinated by Dr. Vania Valoriani and Dr. Lisa Giardinelli. The Group is responsible for perinatal mental health in the University Policlinic since 1996. We studied and took care of psychopathology of parenthood, both in women and in men; of the mental health of women in the life cycle; of problems related to the issues of infertility and early mother-child relationship in view of the attachment theory and vulnerability to affective disorders.

We had international training with the Winnicott Research Unit (Reading University UK) directed by Prof. Lynne Murray, for the rating of early mother-baby interaction (Global Ratings Scales) and with the Middlesex University (London, UK) for the assessments of Attachment Style Interview (ASI) created by Prof. Antonia Bifulco collaborating with the European Group "Transcultural Study on PND", where Dr. Valoriani conducted in 1998 an exploration of adult attachment style in first-time mothers.

The Group, in collaboration with the Forensic Psychiatric Unit, has recently organized an Outpatients' Clinic in collaboration with AGAVE (Actions Against Violence Project) and with the associations that participated in (Tuscany NHS, Florence Police Headquarters, City of Florence, Artemisia Association, Careggi Hospital Regional Reference Center for anti-violence) to face the psychopathological onset in women undergoing psychological violence by their partners (IPV) and to avoid the establishment of "dangerous and perverse liaisons" with severe assault by partner that are destroying the woman who can act against his willpower, guided by a sense of helplessness and failure, to infanticide and murder-suicide. In Italy the protection of maternal and child health is addressed not only to prevent avoidable adverse events, but also to reduce the excessive medicalization and the use of inappropriate care practices.