

The Replacement Child Forum 3rd anniversary

It is now three years since my friend Kristina Schellinski, with her colleagues Judy Mandel and Rita Battat, launched a truly remarkable platform: *The Replacement Child Forum*.

In this relatively brief amount of time - and thanks to the efficient, enthusiastic way in which the *Forum* is run - more research has been carried out on the subject, producing important data and making information about it available to both clinicians and the general public. Personally, the existence of the *Forum* is what has stimulated me to reconnect with an interest on the psychological vicissitudes of replacement children (their traumas, emotional suffering, identity confusion, but also their capacity to emerge from them) which had remained dormant in me since the publication of my work on the subject more than thirty years ago.

(see **SABBADINI, A. (1988). The replacement child. In: *Boundaries and Bridges. Perspectives on Time and Space in Psychoanalysis*. London: Karnac, 2014; pp. 13-30; <https://www.routledge.com/Boundaries-and-Bridges-Perspectives-on-Time-and-Space-in-Psychoanalysis/Sabbadini/p/book/9781782200826>).**

Since the launch of the *Forum* more and more people from all over the world and from all backgrounds have volunteered to participate in it: individuals identifying as replacement children themselves, as well as professionals involved in dealing with this condition by developing new theories and/or in their analytical practice. They have generously shared their personal experiences, offering their views or memories, participating in seminars and webinars organized by the *Forum*, or simply wanting to show that they belong to this vast community.

One remarkable thing is that, in so far as the condition of so-called replacement children wasn't yet properly recognized, until recently such a community simply did not exist. Or, perhaps better, its members lived in isolation from one another.

Not anymore! The numerous publications of books, articles and blogs on this phenomenon and the publicity at long last given to it by the media, likely to make information about it even more available to the general public and in particular to the millions of replacement children scattered around the world, are a testament to the dedicated, invaluable contribution of the *Replacement Child Forum* to this condition.

Happy Anniversary, *Forum*, and may your good work continue to thrive for many years to come.

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