This book aims at making explicit the scientific theories, termed paradigms, that the author has found useful in psychoanalysis. It lists nine paradigms: genetics, neurobiology, attachment theory, infant research, trauma, their relational model, the family system, the socio-cultural level, and prehistory. These nine paradigms are presented in as many chapters.

Special attention is devoted to attachment theory, which the author considers to be the most powerful conceptual tool at the disposal of the psychoanalyst. He also covers trauma, the relational model – with special reference to Ferenczi, Bowlby and Fromm. He explores the effect of cultural evolution, with the advent of agriculture, on family and character structures and the resulting discontinuity with the individual, or group’s inborn needs, giving rise to an unnatural environment, and thus to psychopathology and pathology at a social level, such as war.

The consequence of these combined factors gives rise to the need for psychotherapy, this is explored, together with the role of the therapist and the therapy of psychoses. The author believes that, at a social level, psychotherapy may contribute to the re-emergence of society’s innate cooperative and care-giving maternal culture.

This title will be found to be of great interest to the psychoanalyst and psychotherapist alike.

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### About the Author

**Marco Bacciagaluppi** trained at the University of Milan Medical School with postgraduate training at the genetics and radiobiology department at the University of Pavia, the psychiatry departments of the University of Milan and the New York Medical College, and the sociology department at the New School for Social Research, New York. Since 1999, he has co-operated in organising twelve Joint Meetings between the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry (AAPDP) and the Organizzazione di Psicoanalisti Italiani – Federazione e Registro (OPIFER). He is a Fellow at AAPDP, founding President at OPIFER, Honorary Member of the International Erich Fromm Society (IEFS), and Member of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Section on Psychotherapy.