

**Da:** [RAFFAELE DE LUCA PICIONE](#)  
**A:** [Prof. Gianfranco Buffardi](#)  
**Oggetto:** titolo e abstract per Convegno Roma  
**Data:** lunedì 10 marzo 2025 11:58:34

---

**The dynamics of psychic change in the light of liminality: The figures of the trickster, the uncanny and Hermes/Mercurius.**

*Raffaele De Luca Picione, Ph.D. Full Professor of Dynamic Psychology, Giustino Fortunato University (Benevento, Italy)*

Human experience is characterized by a constant transformation of identity, relational and contextual characteristics. On the one hand, the human being is called to mediate between the continuity of one's own sense of identity with the transformations and changes of life; on the other hand, each person must constantly deal with being a unique individual but also as an individual among many within the social contexts of belonging. These psychic and social processes find an interesting development and elaboration if they are read through a perspective of liminality. Liminality is a condition typically characterized by the crossing of thresholds that determine a transformation, and it is characterized at the same time by paradoxicality, ambivalence and suspension. From the point of view of folklore, mythology and even modern literature, the trickster universally represents a particular figure that embodies the characteristics of the condition of liminality. This figure shows particular skills, plays bad jokes and mocks common behaviours, sometimes as a result of a deliberate choice, a marked cunning, other times as a result of an evident foolishness or by pure chance due to fortuitous and unpredictable circumstances.

Similarly, Freud (1919) with his study on the *Uncanny* and then Jung (1942, 1953) with his study of *Mercurius/Hermes* have highlighted how there are unconscious processes that painfully burst into consciousness, but they can represent important opportunities for growth and development if welcomed.

The contribution presents the process of change of psychic liminality starting from the analysis of the typical characteristics of the Trickster, the Uncanny and the Mercurius Spirit.

--

Raffaele De Luca Picione, Ph.D.,  
Professore Ordinario di Psicologia Dinamica (PSIC-04/A),  
Full Professor of Dynamic Psychology,  
Corso di Laurea Triennale in Scienze e Tecniche Psicologiche  
Università degli Studi Giustino Fortunato, Benevento (Italy)

Co-Editor of *International Journal of Psychoanalysis and Education: Subject, Action & Society*  
<https://www.sasjournal.org/index.php/home>

Direttore Scientifico del *Laboratorio di Ricerca sulla Liminalità dei Processi Psicici e Collettivi*  
Scientific Director of *Research Laboratory on Liminality of Psychic and Collective Processes*