From Being No-BODY, to Being SOMEBODY: On the Journey Back to Life

Preliminary data regarding the observation of "core self" mechanisms, in severely traumatized brain-injured patients suffering from low levels of consciousness

A pilot study is conducted at the Brain injury department, Sheba & Loewenstein intensive care units in collaboration with the Israeli Forum of Neuropsychoanalysis.

Our experience with severely brain-injured patients at various levels of (un)consciousness reveals a broad spectrum of emotions and behaviors, both of patients and their families, and of hospital staff. These, especially emotional communication, have often been discarded as minor phenomena, compared to motor, cognitive and language skills.

We argue, that various basic emotional and behavioral reactions, to be attuned to with the human heart and professional training, even in the absence of overt verbal communication and self-awareness, may be a clue to the better understanding of the subjective experience of the brain injured patients suffering from low awareness states.

We hope to achieve some new understanding about "a core, pre-reflective self" (Ref.1), compares our impressions with early-child-development data, and apply findings in practice, for patients' and staff benefit.