

IARPP

IARPP 2010 Paper Session II

Friday, February 26th

11:15 AM – 12:45 PM

Invited Panel:

Constructing Attachment-- Early Dyadic Processes, Neurophysiology and Fear: A Conversation with...

Presenter(s): Stephen Seligman, DMH; Mary Main, PhD &
Erik Hesse, PhD

Moderator/Interlocutor: Stephen Hartman, PhD

Abstract:

In this panel, the leading proponents of current attachment theory and a developmental relational psychoanalyst will talk together and with the audience after presenting brief overviews of some emerging intersections of attachment theory, developmental neuroscience, and psychoanalytic views of infancy. Findings about mirror neurons, the development and physiology of attachment and the central role of attention in shaping the sense of self with others will be considered. Psychoanalytic concepts about trauma, early object relations and the evolving relational matrix will be included; these will include empathy, intersubjectivity and "the spontaneous gesture." At the conclusion of this session, participants will become more familiar with the most recent research about attachment in infancy and later in the lifespan; will become more familiar with recent findings about mirror neurons and their role in the developmental of the sense of self; and will become aware of possible psychotherapeutic interventions based on these data.

Knowing You, Knowing Me, Recognition Beyond the Treatment Room

Presenter(s): Jill Bresler, PhD; Barry Cohen, PhD & Caryn Gorden, PsyD

Moderator/Interlocutor: Larry Zelnick, PsyD

Abstract: *Who's Afraid of Google?*

Our current technological and media advances, and internet usage in particular, has transformed the way we procure, receive and process information. By giving us access to information about individuals (either previously unavailable or unavailable with the same ease), the ways in which we are recognized and recognize others has profoundly affected us. As the acquisition of extra-analytic information has become almost routine, analysts and their patients have less control over how known they are to one another, which has inevitably pushed and redefined the notions and boundaries of privacy and disclosure. By focusing on a clinical vignette, this paper exemplifies the way in which extra-analytic disclosure through an internet search (initially unbeknownst to the analyst), influenced an analytic treatment. In particular the paper details how an analyst's privacy was compromised and how that event impacted on the dyad and the analysand's treatment. Further the paper illustrates how the analysand's trauma history and the ways in which the analyzed both sought and disavowed knowing set the stage for this event. Additionally, the paper explores the co-constructed, enacted aspects of the analysand's intrusion into the analyst's personal life, the multi-dimensional transference-countertransference configurations and how the patient's extra-analytic "recognition" both interfered with and enhanced his treatment. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to describe the ubiquitous contemporary dilemma of extra-analytic disclosure; and delineate ways in which extra-analytic disclosure can impact an analysis.

Abstract:

Unwitting Glimpses of the Analyst's Personal Life and Their Impact on Treatment

Although the psychoanalytic inquiry seems predominantly designed as an exploration of the patient's psyche, personal history, intrapsychic and interpersonal dynamics, the analyst, as a participant observer in the process, inevitably presents him or herself to the scrutiny of the patient. What patients allow themselves to observe and to know about their analysts provides the analyst with an in vivo experience of their ability to perceive, to tolerate, to attend and to selectively in-attend to aspects of the "other" in the interpersonal situation. I will present the treatment of a patient whose rigid reluctance to experience the individuality of the analyst for many years became confounded when he inadvertently saw a TV program which featured the analyst and his family. The subsequent impact on the treatment and the dynamics of the relationship will be explored and examined. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to understand the potential impact of the patient's unwitting view of the therapist's extra-analytic life on the dynamics and course of analysis; and the complex nature of the process of overcoming the analysand's selective inattention to important aspects of the analyst's character.

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IARPP 2010 Paper Session II-2 (continued)

Knowing You, Knowing Me, Recognition Beyond the Treatment Room

Presenter(s): Jill Bresler, PhD; Barry Cohen, PhD & Caryn Gorden, PsyD

Moderator/Interlocutor: Larry Zelnick, PsyD

Abstract:

Every Song Tells a Story

Due to the internet, we are all much more “know-able”, than we used to be. This is especially true if we accept the premise that what is available about an individual via the internet, or the “digital self” represents aspects of the person that might not be revealed or perceived otherwise. This is true for analysts and patients alike, as what can be known about each of them may be broadened once aspects of their lives are revealed on-line. In this paper, the question of what the analyst does with her own curiosity is examined. Here, an analyst describes the sense of transgression when she sought out information about a patient on the internet without seeking permission, as well as her gaining a new understanding of her patient in the process. The patient’s reactions to the analyst sharing this material with her, and the use made of the information are also discussed. In this case, this form of analytic curiosity and inquiry had a positive effect on the treatment. This is by no means inevitable. Questions about the implications of our ability to access information that our patients may not be able to share with us directly are discussed in this paper.

At the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to have an understanding of how the internet extends both our capacity for self presentation and our capacity for knowing about one another; and have a conceptual framework for addressing treatment issues that arise in this context.

Cross-Cultural Aspects of Relational Psychoanalysis

Presenter(s): Fişek Güler, PhD; Amrita Narayanan, PsyD & Margy Sperry, PsyD, MFT

Moderator/Interlocutor: Dawn Farber, MFT

Abstract:

Indian Psychology in Expanding Relational Context: Formation, Decolonization and Debate

In recent years the idea of an "Indian Psychology" is being discussed in institutes and conferences in India. Modern Indian psychologists and yoga teachers are coming together to reinvent an indigenous body of philosophical texts, experiential knowledge and healing resources under the English language rubric of "psychology". A number of relational processes are co-occurring in the development of Indian Psychology, most notably a forging of links between antiquity and post-colonial thought within India and between the multiple cultural links that are India's heritage and the global notion of what is called psychology. This paper will present the "State of Indian Psychology" while raising questions about what can be legitimately examined under the umbrella of Indian Psychology and what methods are appropriate in this exploration. A particular example involving an analytical exploration of the central female character in one of India's epic myths will be used to further discussion about how the choices being made in Indian Psychology will affect diverse groups such as Diaspora Indians and women. At the conclusion of this presentation participants will be able to explain what is meant by "Indian Psychology" and describe some of the complexity and conflicts in this definition; and understand through a particular example, how Indian and western thought can potentially coexist within Indian Psychology.

Cross-Cultural Aspects of Relational Psychoanalysis

Presenter(s): Fişek Güler, PhD; Amrita Narayanan, PsyD & Margy Sperry, PsyD, MFT

Moderator/Interlocutor: Dawn Farber, MFT

Abstract: *The Politics of "We-self Intimacy" and Intersubjectivity: Nonwestern Constructions Undergoing Social Change*

This paper is an attempt to explore the vicissitudes of a familial self construction, along the lines described by Roland (1988), that used to be modal in traditional Turkish culture, but is undergoing rapid change in response to socio-economic-political forces. The main focus of the paper is on changes affecting the intense emotional interdependence or "symbiosis-reciprocity" characteristic of familial intimacy, and the implications of these changes for intersubjective relatedness. Symbiosis-reciprocity refers to an affective experience of we-ness, especially with the mother, involving highly empathic openness and receptivity to intimate others, expectations of mutual support and a reliance on nonverbal communication. As social change leads to an erosion in formal hierarchical relations, the balance of implicit we-ness and explicit separateness can get disrupted, creating a tension in the relational arena as well as potential confusion about one's sense of self. The ramifications of these issues for self development within the family relational matrix, interpersonal relationships and psychopathology, which can also be reflected in the therapeutic relationship will be touched upon. A second focus of the paper involves the relevance of western modes of intersubjective recognition in dealing with the issues of intimate relatedness in a changing social context. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will hopefully be able to evaluate the context-boundedness of her/his own constructions of selfhood, to pose further questions as to the nature of intersubjectivity and intimate relatedness, and also get a glimpse of ways of being that may be different but encompass large sectors of our planet.

Putting Our Heads Together: Mentalizing Systems

Mentalization is a concept at the forefront of psychoanalytic theorizing that provides a way of understanding and working with trauma states, and especially patients who have difficulty reflecting on their own states and experiences let alone entertaining alternative perspectives. The capacity to mentalize enables one to understand one's own experiences and to comprehend the subjective states, feelings, and intentions of others. In contradistinction to Peter Fonagy and his colleagues who view mentalization as an individual intrapsychic developmental achievement, I argue that mentalization is an emergent capacity of a relational system that is mutually and reciprocally mediated by the other members of the system. When a capacity to mentalize is present, it reflects and facilitates the system's complexity. Alternatively, the absence of mentalization is reflected in the rigid interactional patterns characteristic of traumatized systems. Thus, the capacity to mentalize is a system potentiality that is realized when the system self-organizes in a way that produces its own agent of change. At the end of the presentation, participants will understand that the capacity to mentalize is an emergent capacity of a relational system and therefore mediated by that system's interactions; and to describe qualities of systems which lend themselves to the emergence the dyadic capacity to mentalize.

IARPP 2010 Paper Session II-4

Termination and Its Vicissitudes

Presenter(s): Jill Salberg, PhD & Joyce Slochower, PhD, ABPP

Moderator/Interlocutor: Talia Appelbaum Peled, PhD

Abstract:

The Ever-Expanding End of Treatment: Endings, Beginnings and Post-terminations

A patient, whose treatment had long since been terminated and was the subject of an earlier paper, was re-contacted for permission to publish our work. I explore the longevity of the transference-countertransference relationship and how it remains dormant after the ending of an analysis, as if frozen in memory and time. Simultaneously I was contacted by my first analyst and we too entered a “remembered by enacting” kind of frozen, unchanged state. These two intersecting dyads, re-entered our prior transference-counter-transference dynamic as if no time had passed. My work on endings, with my patients and my own analyst, explores the way that termination has been too static a concept in the field and needs to evolve and be integrated with our relational concepts of intersubjectivity, attachment theory and the way the analytic dyad co-constructs and makes meaning of their interactions and relationship. At the conclusion of my presentation, participants will be able to describe the history of termination concepts and the utility of expanding conceptualizations to include current Relational theory and Attachment research findings; and be able to explain a variety of ways of understanding how termination of treatment can not only be an ending but also signal a beginning, or suggest changes and continuations of relational experiences.

Unnecessary Losses

The place of termination within the psychoanalytic ideal has remained largely unquestioned, and this is true across the theoretical continuum. In unshadedly embracing termination as an analytic goal, we ignore its complexities, problematic edges, or the possibility that at times, *not* terminating may be in the patient’s best interest. Complicating our relationship to the goal of termination is the space between this analytic model and clinical actuality. For we analysts share an open secret: At least among professionals, complete terminations happen only some of the time. But even more striking are instances in which these treatment relationships actually morph—into professional and personal connections. These phenomena are routinely ignored, remaining sequestered from public discussion and exploration, probably because post-analytic relationships tend to be colored by some shame and anxiety on both analyst and patient’s part and the shadow of shame renders it unspeakable. In this paper I examine termination as an analytic goal. I explore its underbelly and dynamics, challenging underlying assumptions concerning the nature of human connectedness, loss, and necessary separation on which the termination model is based. Based on a rigid, indeed, calcified professional vision, termination has become one of the last unexplored frontiers of clinical actuality. Using several case vignettes, I describe some of the ways in which treatments may both end and not end, arguing for a deconstructed termination model that leaves room for both outcomes. By challenging the heretofore impenetrable boundary of termination as an analytic goal, participants will develop a more complex understanding of the multiple issues (theoretical & clinical) informing this process; and examine the role analytic self interest as it plays out on both sides of this decision.

Shame and Migration

Presenter(s): Catherine Hicks, MA; Lisa Lyons, PhD & David Wald, MD

Moderator/Interlocutor: Steve Botticelli, PhD

Abstract:

Homelessness as an Emotional State

The term "homelessness" has traditionally been associated with an empirical state relating to a socio-economic status that projects on behavioral and emotional states. An interdisciplinary analysis of homelessness may provide a deeper understanding of homelessness as an emotional state. For the past two years I have been working as a volunteer amongst a group of young people who regularly visit a day care center for the homeless. The existential state of many of the homeless that I met evolved not only from their socio-economic context or known mental illness but also from an internal experience of a vacuum in the place where we would expect to find images or longings for home. The paper will outline some of the work done by psychoanalysts on this subject and examine homelessness as an emotional state, bringing cases drawn from my experiences with this community. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will review the inner empty space as an expression of the lack of attachment figures (Bowlby) or of the dead mother (Andre Green), in the context of homelessness as an emotional state-self state; and examine the interaction between cultural, and socio-economic factors with the self state as described above.

Scuttling to Nirvana: On Shame and Migration

In this paper, I explore, from a personal viewpoint, this sense of shame associated with the experience of migration. Taking as point of departure the view that human development can be seen, metaphorically, as a series of migrations mediated by the quality of the earliest relationships (Grinberg & Grinberg, 1984), I consider the ways in which, amongst a myriad of feelings and responses, a sense of shame may accompany the flight from a political, social and economic system that is felt to represent too great a dissonance between the ideal and the reality, even though, and perhaps especially because, this new system had been eagerly awaited. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to outline the prominent features of the affect of shame as it is presented in the recent literature on the topic; and describe the core elements of the concept of 'diaspora' as it is used in the academic literature of the last twenty years.

Shame and Migration

Presenter(s): Catherine Hicks, MA; Lisa Lyons, PhD & David Wald, MD

Moderator/Interlocutor: Stephen Hartman, PhD

Abstract:

Red Diaper Baby: Growing Up in the Old Left—An Exploration of Secrets, Shame & Terror

In this paper I will explore my experience growing up as a Red Diaper baby in NYC in the 50's. The areas of particular focus include the role of secrets – the demand on children to hold secrets whose careless revelation could lead to the loss of parents and family; the profound confusion of the contradictions, in many families including mine, between the political and social ideals of our communist parents, and daily life as it was lived and longed for --the dissociation, and enactment, of greed, envy, and materialism; the profound and naïve idealism inherent in my family's belief that the working class would rise up – in a child's mind maybe even tomorrow – and the lived experience of growing up in a family of academics and musicians where, aside from the black maids who cleaned our apartment once a week, no-one had ever talked or socialized with a "working man", and I was instructed never ever to use the "dirty" toilet in the maid's room. I will explore the psychic consequences on a child of growing up knowing that her parents could be the object of an attack by the state, the need to preserve and protect my parents, the terror of the state, and the deep sense of secret "otherness" we all carried. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to describe the adult sequelae of growing up with the need to keep secrets about the family's political affiliation; and illustrate two ways fear of the power of the state shapes a child's representations of attachment.

The Intrusion of the Third in Matters of Human Sexuality

Presenter(s): Steve Kuchuck, LCSW & Peter Shabad, PhD

Moderator/Interlocutor: Bob Carrere, PhD

Abstract:

The Split between Love and Sex: Desire and the Pursuit of the Unattainable Other

The split between love and sex makes it more difficult to passionately foster the romantic imagination and maintain the emotional stamina of a serious "face-to-face" (Levinas, 1961) commitment to an other. Instead, one's emotional commitments may be reserved for the conservation of a self-sameness with its familiar attachments and split off from the sexual desire toward the other. In a similar sense, heterosexual desire may also frequently be detached from the powerful glue of homo-emotional attachments. Without access to one's integrated passion, sexual desire takes on a "hide-and-seek" quality through the pursuit of an unattainable other. The emotionally passive person, who is using much of his/her passion to conserve the security of self-sameness, flirts teasingly with the promise of novelty in otherness to arouse her desire. The unattainable other often is never actually "attained", however, and this individual suffers greatly as he/she clings obsessively to the fantasy of a desired connection with someone who does not reciprocate those wishes. Alternatively, when one sexually conquers or wins over the affections of the Other, the stimulating flirtation with the promise of the new dissolves into "the same old, same old", and the relationship may be experienced as "empty" or "boring", with the consequence that the restless search for the promise of novelty resumes. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will understand the connection between passivity and the need for the stimulating novelty inherent in the fantasy of the unattainable other; and how the promise of novelty carries with it the ever-present possibility of reversing prior indignities.

Sexuality and the Uninvited Third: When Worlds Collide

Even before he speaks, I feel something different as Michael lies down on the couch. "Finally, I have some good dating news". He's happy and hopeful and at this point, I am too. But it's only seconds before my stomach sinks, my heart pounds; I'm grateful for the couch. Unknowingly, Michael is describing my closest friend. Head spinning, words flood and then recede. This paper is a travelogue of a search for answers still to be discovered. Trusted colleagues and friends and internalized professional objects from Freud to Mitchell and beyond, are summoned for consultation as the presenter struggles with what it means to work in a shifting and eclectic theoretical terrain while juggling multiple, sometimes conflicting self states and roles; patient, self, therapist and friend. Ethical and clinical questions abound. When do we have the right to speak what we know or, alternatively, when must we? Which words are best left unspoken in the interest of the treatment or the therapist's own psychic preservation? These questions and others will be explored.

Aesthetics and Relational Psychoanalysis

Presenter(s): Bernard Ratigan, PhD; Thomas Rosbrow, PhD & Leslye Russell, MS

Moderator/Interlocutor: Rina Lazar, PhD

Abstract:

Visualising the Other: Relational Aesthetics in the Representation of Jews and Judaism in Early Renaissance European Art

The space between religion, art and psychoanalysis has been contested for much of the last century. The paper will take a *prima facie* arcane topic to illustrate how the visual has been used to articulate alterity – otherness - and express powerful psychological mechanisms that shore up identity at the expense of tolerating difference. Illustrated with examples of visual culture from 15th and early 16th century (mainly Northern) Europe, the paper will explore the complex and often painful relationship between the monotheistic ideologies (Judaism and Christianity mainly, but also Islam). Using the relational discourse it moves beyond earlier drive-theory attempts to ‘psychoanalyse’ artists such as Michelangelo and Leonardo by way of psycho-biographical exercises. Setting themes from the ‘art’ of the period in a psychosocial context, the paper will take three foci: how the images of *synagoga/ecclesia* show the use of splitting; passion iconography illustrates how hate got put into ‘guilty’ Jews to exculpate Christians of the charge of deicide; lastly, how the blood libel myth and the reactions to the *Corpus Domini* cult, graphically show how scapegoating, envy, love and hate are always linked relationally. The paper is a prolegomenon to a discussion of how psychological processes defensively inhibit engagement with the other in contemporary contexts. The presentation will be illustrated with vivid examples of the relevant visual culture of the period. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to describe ways in which alterity is shown in early renaissance visual culture; and illustrate how contemporary ideological/religious conflicts can be understood from a relationally-informed aesthetics.

Haruki Murakami as an Aesthetic Model for 21st Century Psychoanalysts

Literature and Psychoanalysis in the 21st Century: Themes of proteanism and transformation in Haruki Murakami and their Lessons for Analysts. Haruki Murakami’s novels explore similar themes as those which fascinate relational psychoanalysis: multiple selves, dissociation, dreaming and imagination. Murakami is significant as a postmodernist writer in his capacity, personally and artistically, to improvise and play with his preoccupations, as a form of deliberate dreamwork or waking dreaming. Along with Robert Lifton, Murakami studied the messianic and terroristic Aum cult in Japan, and sees the risk of cultism and rigidity as, in Fromm’s terms, escapes from freedom—in today’s world, the freedom and demand of holding together a multiple shifting self. Cultism threatens psychoanalysis, as there is always a pull to rigidly adhere to schools and theorists. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will understand the concept of multiple selves as illustrated in Murakami’s writing; and the significance of pluralism as a theoretical and clinical concept.

IARPP 2010 Paper Session II-7 (continued)

Aesthetics and Relational Psychoanalysis

Presenter(s): Bernard Ratigan, PhD; Thomas Rosbrow, PhD & Leslye Russell, MS

Moderator/Interlocutor: Rina Lazar, PhD

Abstract:

The Verities of Astonishment: Close Looking and Close Listening

The art historian and poet, T.J. Clark, (*The of Sight Death: An Experiment in Art Writing*, Yale University Press, 2006) uses the method of repeated close looking to get to the truth of two paintings. His questions are, why are we drawn to view certain paintings again and again and what will we learn about the paintings themselves. His method suggests a fruitful analogy between close looking and close listening. This paper proposes that psychoanalysts and psychotherapists can learn much from the results of Clark's experiment in art looking and writing. Both clinical theory and practice are informed by a consideration of truthfulness to materials, the ethics of a painting, the value of repetition, detail, scale and the use of history. Balancing contraries, such as surface and depth, spontaneous gesture/ considered intervention, near and far, concrete and abstract is not simply achieved through rhetoric or metaphor but through thinking that arises from embodied experience. Close looking linked with an experimental attitude dissolves the abstraction of the concept of the unconscious and makes the unconscious vividly material. At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to apply the concept of close looking to the clinical situation and shape their interventions and interpretations closer to the felt, immediate experience of both members of the analytic dyad; expand their field of attention and extend their repertory of technique through heightened awareness of close looking and close listening; and distinguish between repetition compulsion, defensive use of repeating and repetition in the service of deeper learning.

Implications of Sexual Attractions and Intimate Encounters for Psychoanalytic Treatment

Presenter(s): Christopher Bonovitz, PhD; Irwin Hirsch, PhD & Karen Peoples, PhD

Moderator/Interlocutor: My Frankel, PhD

Abstract:

Reflections on the Absence or Presence of Analysts' Sexual Desire in the Analytic Dyad

Though analytic attentiveness of any sort can promise more than what is truly available, inattentiveness and/or disinterest is rarely helpful unless this is viewed as a mutual enactment, and before too long addressed as such. What is less specifically examined in the literature are the potential consequences of the absence of sexual attraction from analyst to patient, particularly when a patient feels sexual desire for the analyst. This rather common phenomenon is yet more stark when an analyst feels something in the neighborhood of sexual distaste for a patient? Such a response may readily reflect elements of unrequited physical love in a patients' life history – a repetition of a painful absence of being adored and seen as precious and beautiful by key caregivers. This painful and potentially humiliating configuration must also be addressed as a transference-countertransference enactment no less so than a mutually erotic configuration. Based largely on analysts' anxiety both of these relational integrations too often remain unaddressed in the here-and-now of the analytic relationship. However, because so much attention has been given in the literature to the erotic transference-countertransference (especially the transference), it is easier for analysts to avoid the possible consequences of not feeling desire for our patients. Clinical illustrations will emphasize the potentially salubrious impact of analyzed mutual sexual desire in the transference-countertransference matrix, and as well, how the painful absence of countertransference desire, if courageously addressed and grieved, may also lead to analytic gain. At the conclusion of this presentation, the attendee will be able to help detoxify the theme of analysts' sexual attraction to patients, arguing that when adequately addressed this can be experienced as genuinely affirming; and to bring to further light the range of potential impact on patients when they feel sexual desire for an analyst and that analyst is either not physically attracted or finds the thought of sexual engagement repelling.

Implications of Sexual Attractions and Intimate Encounters for Psychoanalytic Treatment

Presenter(s): Christopher Bonovitz, PhD; Irwin Hirsch, PhD & Karen Peoples, PhD

Moderator/Interlocutor: My Frankel, PhD

Abstract:

Sustaining the Charge: The Exciting and Destructive Edge of Erotic Fantasies

This paper explores the charged nature of erotic fantasies in the transference/countertransference, where flirtation and sexual fantasies can suddenly become a repetition of the trauma from the past. *The past becomes the present*, corrupting sexual desire and making play too dangerous and fraught. In these hot waters, the analyst feels herself or himself to become the agent of the repetition, seemingly inflicting pain onto the patient. And, yet, the analyst's constraints that may inhibit even getting one's feet wet out of a fear of becoming the perpetrator, limit the opportunity to play with and get to know one's desire. It takes the fun out of sex. The destructive edge of fantasies is examined with regard to the emergence of erotic fantasies in relation to trauma, including those occasions when fantasy breaks down, rupturing beyond repair. At the conclusion of the presentation, the participant will be able to describe and become more familiar with the negotiation of erotics in the analytic situation; and develop ways of conceptualizing and using one's feelings/reactions in the context of erotic transference/ countertransference.

When Our Hair Stands on End: Uncanny Communication and the Relational Unconscious

In this paper, I present a nearly identical dream experience occurring on the same night in a patient and in myself. In my dream I was able to take a relieving action that my patient was unable to do for himself in his dream. The next day I learned that the action I took in my dream appeared in my patient's dream as a relief provided by another at the moment of his most intense helplessness and fear. I use this dream, along with examples of startling unconscious communication presented by other analysts, to explore the nature of uncanny experience *in its implications for our working models of the unconscious*, including the implicit limits we assume. I argue that these implicit limits circumscribe our unconscious openness to experiences that may seem beyond our ken. I attribute some of these implicit limits to the powerful foundational pull of psychoanalytic thinking toward early infantile states, and propose that a capacity for "transitional experiencing" is present as a *human* -- rather than infantile -- capacity. Revisiting Freud's extensive interest in and experiments with uncanny or 'telepathic' phenomena, I explore the role extreme affects and need states may play in uncanny experiences. Finally, I consider what it might mean for analytic practice if the implications of Bion's limitless scope of the unconscious were realized. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to identify some of the ways in which their perceptions of the field of the unconscious in which they practice are limited by theoretical assumptions and preconceptions; and examine experiences of uncanny unconscious communication from the perspective of a broadly human capacity for "transitional experiencing."

Troubled Waters: The Impact of Ethical Violations

Presenter(s): Jane Burka, PhD & Kathy Sinsheimer, MFT

Moderator/Interlocutor: Alan Senauke, BA, Zen Priest

Abstract:

Troubled Waters: The Impact of Ethical Violations on Professional Community Dynamics

In the current climate of concern about social and political transgressions, we propose to present a panel that focuses on the impact of ethical violations on the organizational life of a psychotherapy training institute. "Troubled Waters: The Impact of Ethical Violations on Professional Community Dynamics" will explore boundary violations by psychotherapists and the resulting disturbed relationships within their professional community when these violations became known. The panel will consider how the inter-relationships among patients, students, faculty, therapists, supervisors, the Ethics Committee, and the administration are complex and sometimes dysfunctional; yet they may also generate self-reflection, open discussion, organizational change and improved health for the community.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to identify the dynamics, sequellae and trauma inherent in individual and group boundary violations; consider the possibilities for healing from the trauma of boundary violations; and better understand dynamics of wounded healers and their subsequently wounded communities.

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IARPP 2010 Paper Session II-10

The Darker Side of Motherhood: Conscious and Unconscious Inevitable Processes in Psychotherapy and Parenting

*This presentation has been moved from Session IV-4:
Family Affairs: Relational Analysis and the Family*

Presenter(s): Etziona Israeli, MA; Amit Fachler, PhD;
Ruth Sharabany, PhD

Abstract:

The goal of the paper is to address central issues for therapists based on different levels of experience that can be organized around the issue of being bad toward the patient. An analogy is drawn between functions of mothering meeting various developmental needs of her child. There is an array of inhibitions in therapy where therapist can not perceive aspects of the therapy, is reluctant to address or intervene in the therapy process. The paper is intended to identify the sources of these occurrences, and to present a way to examine them as legitimate, which in turn would free the therapist to meet them in therapy. An analogy to parenthood is drawn, where parent who strive very hard to be good parent miss on aspects of their subjective self, developmental need of their children, and as a consequence have to hide their "failures" for being inconsistent either with their own good parent image, or with the potential judgmental perceptions of their children. Various issue of both therapy and parenthood are examined under the magnifying glass of not accepting the role of being "bad" as well as "not wanting to hurt". At the conclusion of this presentation, the participant will expand the knowledge of several sources literature (mythology, psychology, ethology etc.) that is related to aspects of psychotherapy and parenting that are often neglected, in a effort to view the more positive empathic altruistic aspects of psychotherapy and parenting; & deliver an applied perspective that should benefit both therapists but with special implication for dealing with parent-child issues. Practitioners could benefit from both teaching these aspects as well as counseling about them.