



Thursday, June 14th 11:15 am – 12:45 pm Paper/Panel Session 1

1. Sociopolitical Retraumatization in the Trump Era

Speakers: Judi Kobrick, PhD, Canada; Sophia Richman, PhD, ABPP, USA; and Fabio Monguzzi, PhD, Italy
Discussant: Sue Shapiro, PhD, USA
Moderator: Kate Whyte, LCSW, USA

Abstract:

“Liberty’s Flameout”: The Rise and Fall of Hope and Dread in the Consulting Room

Judi Kobrick

“Liberty’s Flameout” the New Yorker cover, circa February 2017 (John W. Tomac) depicting the Statue of Liberty with outstretched arm and beyond the torch, a wisp of smoke, that herald states of fragility that can easily transform into *brutality and barbarism*. The magazine is prominently displayed on the table in my waiting room, a testament to my own preoccupations and dread and does not go unnoticed by Samuel. He briskly entered the room, eyes wild and on fire, and I await the attack. “Do you not know, I come from the Holocaust and that magazine cover does not help. The Holocaust and the world situation cannot be changed, the world is a dark place. The King sits inside the castle and everything is wonderful and outside people are suffering, killing each other in the name of tribalism.” Samuel had been ruminating about his own physical state and his fear of fragmenting into oblivion which added to his own and longstanding ennui of the world blowing up. We do not reside in the US, we both in different ways experience the crush and unnerving results of Trump’s election as President. Samuel has returned to treatment after a hiatus of four years, previously coming and going for the last 12 years. When he first entered treatment at 25 years old, relationships were strained and terrifying, especially with women and he was overwhelmed and preoccupied by the angst, aggression and challenges of the world. His maternal and paternal grandparents were survivors of concentration camps and had remained silent and somewhat removed. His mother and father both suffered from serious depression, and he witnessed behind closed doors screaming and acrimony. Samuel’s profound longings to know and to be known by the other, needs for recognition (Benjamin,2004) and the active witnessing of the other (Gerson, 2009) had been obscured by the embodiment of dread and hopelessness. The presence of my unspoken desire to flee from despair and embrace hope needed to be surrendered to openly engage with self and mutual states of despair and dread. Samuel’s visceral affective and bodily storms had a voice, albeit witnessed in the presence of another, psychological survival deemed the necessity that the impossibility of life be spoken (Primo Levi,



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Abstract:

“Liberty’s Flameout”: *The Rise and Fall of Hope and Dread in the Consulting Room* - continued
Judi Kobrick

1981). His return to treatment, despite “Liberty’s Flameout” offered a new opportunity for both of us to enter and live with the tensions of the mutual struggle with unbearable psychic pain and gain a sense of meaning and survival in the midst of the enduring deadliness.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Gain knowledge of relational psychoanalysis and its application to clinical material;
2. Gain knowledge of the clinical implications of complex facets of dissociation and enactment in the relational matrix;
3. Gain an understanding of the spoken and unspoken affective and bodily self-states encountered in the relational matrix.

Abstract:

When History Repeats Itself: Holocaust Survivors in Trump’s American
Sophia Richman

For a significant number of Holocaust survivors, a sense of danger is a constant companion but usually remains in the background. With the election of Donald J. Trump in 2016, dark memories have been triggered and a sense of impending danger has moved into the foreground. Since his election, Trump’s behavior in office has done nothing to assuage anxieties, in fact, it seems to support the sense that something dark and evil has been unleashed. The similarities between Germany in the early 1930s when Hitler was democratically elected as head of government, and the election of Trump is deeply unsettling for survivors. The political climate in America today with its intolerance of immigrants, and the white nationalist ideology which seems to motivate Trump’s rhetoric and decisions, is reminiscent of the



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Abstract:

When History Repeats Itself: Holocaust Survivors in Trump's America - continued

Sophia Richman

attitude towards Jews and other minorities during the Hitler years. Echoes of the past reverberate and retraumatize daily. The fact that most Holocaust survivors are now advanced in years, renders them even more vulnerable. The presenter, a child survivor, discusses how the current political climate retraumatizes those who lived under the Third Reich, and she provides examples of personal memories triggered by the *Orwellian* quality of the Trump administration. Coping strategies for vulnerable survivors will be suggested and elaborated.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will

1. Become aware of the ever-present potential for retraumatization in survivors of the Holocaust;
2. Be able to identify at least three different sources of retraumatization;
3. Be able to name at least three coping strategies for retraumatized survivors.

Abstract:

The Sick Normality: A Crisis of Symbols, Destructiveness and Pathological Adaptions

Fabio Monguzzi

In these decades, the phenomena of globalization and liberalism, migrant flux, technological innovations and financial power have determined the transformations of large entities on a global scale. Amongst the effects of these transformations, there is a crisis of social structures and great narrations, namely the cultures, moral codes, and systems of collective representation, which have been important references in the past. Western society has been through great instability, uncertainty and unpredictability, as well as through a marked crisis of identity and social ties.



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Abstract:

The Sick Normality: A Crisis of Symbols, Destructiveness and Pathological Adaptions - continued
Fabio Monguzzi

In this way, the subjects find themselves barely sustained by symbolic mediations operated by political and social institutions, and above all, the most traumatic and destabilizing aspects, which characterize the world of that historical era. These conditions generate psychic regressions and the formation of primitive cultures and ideologies which see the subjects involved, who openly profess them, finding dissemination and unconscious support, even within the most common and diffused way of thinking.

In the inter-subjective field of analytical practice, there are not just the lives of individual components but also elements of the dominant psychic economy in the society of affiliation. As such, these beliefs, convictions, fantasies and shared myths, which exist in the preconscious area, as well as in that which is conscious and reflective, materialize in the analytical dyad, configuring itself as the contextual third.

During the course of the presentation, there will be a discussion about the use of countertransference which not only draws attention to the lives of the interior world and inter-subjective dynamics of therapeutic relations, but also to the dictates of the wider social environment and its reactive responses on the part of the analytical dyad.

The cautious and timely use of the countertransference of the analyst allows reactions to be gathered and adaptations made to the social environment, often usually based on the modality of archaic thinking as they dominate the most evanescent or destructive aspects, which were frequent during that era. These the transformative area of the preconscious, assigned to the development the associative and figurative activities, as well as symbolic representations.

Moreover, cryptic or splitted expressions of symbolic defectiveness often are hidden in the inner mentality and consolidated practices, representing everything that would be interpreted as normality. These include forms of intolerance to altruism, attacks on the sense of possibility and hope, the search for enemies and scapegoats, as well as the logic of exclusion, forms of intolerance to limitations, provisory



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Abstract:

The Sick Normality: A Crisis of Symbols, Destructiveness and Pathological Adaptions - continued
Fabio Monguzzi

morals, and languages lacking representative power, to name just a few examples.

Thus, the work of the therapist becomes that of constructing bridges between the patient's expressions of subjectivity (and his/her own) and the productions of one's own culture, in such a way as to have the opportunity to modulate and diversify one's own interventions on a second level of reality, one that is strongly implied.

Some clinical exemplifications will facilitate comprehension and discussion based on the presented themes.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the role and functions of the social environment in the formation of the psychic structure of individuals;
2. Identify the characteristic socio-cultural traits of this era and the ways in which they manifest;
3. Understand the role of countertransference in gathering the elements which belong to the dominant psychic economy in current society.



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2. Migration and Trauma

Speakers: Barbara Eisold, PhD, USA; Lourdes Mattei, PhD, USA; and Karla Rodriguez, MA, Mexico
Discussant: Julia Beltsiou, PsyD, USA
Moderator: Alioscia Boschiroli, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

Evaluating Asylum Seekers in an Uncertain World: Forensic, Political and Therapeutic Implications

Barbara Eisold

Presently, in this uncertain world, there are more displaced persons/refugees world-wide than has been the case since world war II. Among these are asylum seekers, individuals who are petitioning to remain in the U.S. based on their “well-founded fear” of persecution, should they return home. For these individuals our shared professions have, for some years, had a role. For some years, it has been understood, by attorneys as well as ourselves, that persecution creates trauma and that trauma, in turn, creates symptoms. Accordingly, an evaluation of these symptoms, presented in a written affidavit to the court, is accepted as “evidence” that persecution has indeed taken place. Thus, for the asylum seeker, the most obvious value of a psychological evaluation is a forensic one: it is to help the judge, whose decision about her case will be discretionary, to make the “fairest” decision in his/her power. In addition, however, the evaluation may have substantial political and therapeutic value as well. The paper proposed here will describe the implications of each of these values.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants should have learned:

1. The information that should be included in a psychological evaluation of an asylum seeker to best meet its forensic goal;
2. The additional information that determines its value as a political statement;
3. The nature of its potential value to the asylee as an experience of having been validated, supported, in fact, truly “witnessed” in many ways.



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2. Migration & Trauma (continued)

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Discussant: Julia Beltsiou, PsyD, USA

Moderator: Alioscia Boschioli, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

Ferenci's Autotomy, The Regeneration of a Concept for Our Times

Lourdes Mattei

This presentation will introduce the participants to Ferenci's concept of autotomy. The ability to reflexively shed or discard an appendage in response to a predatory threat is an evocative – and provocative – concept. Elaborating on this idea, I argue for the usefulness of using this concept to illuminate a psychological path through "unrepresentable territory", towards what the Botellas (2004) call "psychic figurability". Clinical examples from immigration experiences will be foregrounded.

The Solitary roads: Loneliness, Emptiness & Anger in a Migration Case

Karla Rodriguez

The aim of the present work is to analyze migration in Mexico as both a social and individual event, as well as to gain depth into this phenomenon's repercussions at the level of the individual based on the case of an illegal Argentinian immigrant. Some of the topics to be addressed are the dissociation from one's family and the difficulties involved in making new relations, the mourning and idealization of the process of migration, identity in relation to one's new social group and the capacity of agency. The details of the therapeutic relation from the first contact on are also dealt with since it was that relation the one that introduced the patient into the Mexican culture and led him into making peace with his origins and with Mexico.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Analyze the individual repercussions of being an illegal immigrant in Mexico, the multiple mourning a person faces;
2. Take a close look at an enactment as a means of activating the therapeutic relation and working on the feeling of anger;
3. Analyze what happens in the therapeutic relation and how to deal with the patient's contempt towards the analyst's country of origin and why, in spite of it, the analysis carries on.



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3. Not Black Not White: The Grey Shades of Uncertainty

Speakers: Faidra Grammenou, MSc, Greece; Konstantinos Mathioudis, PhD, Greece; and Matina Kaidantzi, PhD, Greece

Discussant: Barbara Locker, PhD, USA

Moderator: Kathy Bacon-Greenber, PhD, USA

Abstract:

Massive sociocultural issues have influenced many countries in the world so we have to ‘forget’ what we have known so far and find a new way to survive. The individual mind is longing for groupness but the group has become a ‘depressive environmental parent’ with limited resources. An analytic dyad suffers from that pain being injected by conscious and unconscious factors. Is there enough analytic space for this specific kind of sociocultural mourning or does the analyst collude with his analysands’ worst fears? This panel will describe three different cases that clearly reflect how a Mediterranean country has become a ‘depressive environmental mother’ that needs holding and caring from outer and inner resources. The three therapists will reveal their uncertainty on how to resolve and survive pitfalls, enactments, and failures in the analytic room. They will reflect with honesty on their courageous effort to understand the dread of the crisis in the analytic room and offer hope for the present and the future. More specifically, they will describe how individualism attacks intersubjective attachment. Moreover, they will link the intersubjective wound with the ‘broken’ larger group. Their efforts to reach areas beyond their imagination made them visit with their patients, psychic uncertainty in a new way. They allied against the fear of common collapse. Together they found that they were responsible to keep their intersubjective bond stable and clear. Finally, they managed to color the initial depressive and paranoid blackness as well as the manic grandiose whiteness. New grey shades were shaped and then articulated with honesty, vulnerability and mastery of uncertainty.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. The relationship between the individual, the analytic dyad and the social group in extreme pain;
2. To conceptualize the necessary elements of a ‘good enough’ analytic stance when the frame is under attack;
3. To rethink of every crisis as an opportunity to promote growth.



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4. Losing Our White Minds

Speakers: Diane Swirsky, PhD, USA; Lani Chow, PhD, USA; and Regina Shields, PhD, USA

Discussant: Velleda Ceccoli, PhD, USA

Moderator: Sarah Calvert, PhD, New Zealand

Abstract:

This panel consists of three papers, each from a different racial perspective and each taking up a different aspect of dealing with the problem of Whiteness in psychoanalysis. We discuss the arduous work of being on the margin, and the code switching required to maintain one's own subjectivity while faced with the "norm" of the White, male, heterosexual center represented by most analytic training and practice. We identify the lack of containment available for clinicians actively engaging race, and the questionable ethics of practicing psychoanalytically without teachers, mentors and supervisors of color. Finally, we challenge White clinicians to actively de-construct privilege and the effects of race and power in all our clinical interactions.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the role of implicit bias in professional training and practice;
2. Assess the way their own practices of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy may discourage open discussion of race and culture;
3. Critique the theoretical tenets of analytic theory from a racially sensitive perspective.



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5. Unforeseen Processes that Carry the Day in Troubled Times

Speakers: Adriano Bugliani, PhD, Italy and Shmuel Hazanovitz, PhD, Israel

Discussant: Karen Rosica, PsyD, USA

Moderator: John Paddock, PhD, ABPP, LLC, USA

Abstract:

The climate of the time does not just pose an overall crisis affecting psychotherapeutic practice among other things. It is also a time where many more possibilities are opening up to be considered. This panel aims to direct attention to the use that can be made of the incomplete status of the Relational P-A's foundation. Relational perspective opened up therapeutic possibilities, but it is still in need to be more integrated with other perspectives than it currently is (e.g. the mind-body model, see for instance W. Cornell, J. Sletvold, or even A. Schore). At present it works as a frame without broad enough foundation, and consequently it runs the risk of group conformism regarding any new issue. In the upcoming convention one has to guard against the possibility of a pre-mature consolidation of untested historical position. This panel will have the humble role of directing attention to the need, in particular, for political, ethical, and metaphysical research for any analysis of a case. Both papers are about extra-clinical resources that were used with deeply traumatized individuals.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Present case studies that open discussion of Relational's foundation;
2. Open up the way for other case studies of such nature;
3. Promote philosophical clarification of the Relational's foundation.



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6. Challenging the Touch Taboo in Psychoanalysis: Embodiment in the Age of Uncertainty

Speakers: Doris Brothers, PhD, USA; Edward Novak, MA, USA; and Jon Sletvold, PsyD, Norway

Discussant: Karen Starr, PsyD, USA

Moderator: Marina Amore, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

Much has been written about the negative consequences of touch between patients and analysts--especially when that touch has had sexual meanings. In recent years, however, a number of analysts have recognized that analysts who keep their hands to themselves may be neglecting an essential aspect of clinical practice. In this panel we go a step further by proposing that it is not only their patients that analysts short-change when touch is neglected in psychoanalytic therapy but our field itself. Two papers will be presented and time will be devoted to audience discussion. One paper deals the ways in which “skinship,” or non-sexual touch between analysts and patients, may provide moments of certainty about the possibility of living as a human among humans in a world that is changing at an increasingly rapid pace. The second paper describes the use of informed and disciplined touch to access the bodily experience of trauma memories. It zooms in on physical misattunements, enactments and analysts’ anxieties about using touch.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the benefits of non-sexual touch in analytic relationships;
2. Discuss the history of touch in psychoanalysis;
3. Apply informed and disciplined touch related to trauma memories within analytic practice.



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7. Working with Marginalized Communities: Dread and Trauma

Speakers: Veronica Csillag, LCSW, USA; Catherine Keyzer, Bach. Ed, MA, Australia; Julia Sideris, MA, Australia; and Sean Meggeson, MA, Canada

Discussant: Emily Kuriloff, PsyD, USA

Moderator: Marianne Kennedy, MA, Australia

Abstract:

The Time is out of Joint: The 2017 edition

Veronica Csillag

In this paper I will consider what happens when the tank crashes into the bedroom (Harris, 2017). I will survey the impact of racial discrimination and social trauma on the clinical interaction from the perspective of Yolanda Gumpel's (1998) concept of radioactive identifications. According to Gumpel, social violence is radioactive and leads to psychic catastrophe and reawakens previously unprocessed experiences, which can then take on a new sinister shade. I will explore these themes in the context of clinical material. I will discuss two cases: of a dark-skinned woman from South Asia and her descent into dread as she lost her job and legal status after the Trump ascendancy and of an older white female who, caught up in the #MeToo movement, had to ultimately confront repeated experiences of sexual abuse. I will also contemplate my powerlessness as a psychoanalyst in the face of social and historical trauma "when the time is out of joint" (Shakespeare, 1609/1969, p. 878).

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the concept of radioactive identification.
2. Describe the interactive processes between personal experiences and socio-political events.
3. Evaluate the role of psychoanalysis in the midst of socio-political upheaval.



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7. Working with Marginalized Communities: Dread & Trauma (continued)

Speakers: Veronica Csillag, LCSW, USA; Catherine Keyzer, Bach. Ed, MA, Australia; Julia Sideris, MA, Australia; and Sean Meggeson, MA, Canada

Discussant: Emily Kuriloff, PsyD, USA

Moderator: Marianne Kennedy, MA, Australia

Abstract:

'How long does it take?' (White Fella, Uluru) *'As long as it takes'* (Aboriginal guide, Uluru)

Catherine Keyzer & Julia Sideris

This paper presents a mosaic of images and conversational fragments reflecting discussions between two white female art therapists on their journey across the Australian landscape by plane and car, with momentary, shifting encounters in airport lounges, cafes and motels toward our workplaces in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) communities in rural New South Wales. It is in these spaces that we engage in art psychotherapy with ATSI children, and provide support for their teachers and carers. The conditions usually important for psychoanalytic treatment do not exist and we often wonder if it is possible to address the child's inner world in such challenging circumstances. In an attempt to find hope in the anxiety such work elicits, we draw on the work of various thinkers to find places of truth (among them, Shlomith Cohen, Jeffery Eaton, Michael Eigen and Elizabeth Grosz) Our dialogue will offer vignettes to illustrate and give expression to our experiences of hope, dread and places of truth in this unpredictable environment.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe how art therapy is effective in its capacity to encompass a culturally meaningful approach to therapeutic work;
2. Evaluate the importance of continuity in history in relation to the development of identity and a sense of belonging;
3. Assess how the relationship between client and therapist can be the vehicle for change and healing.



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7. Working with Marginalized Communities: Dread & Trauma (continued)

Speakers: Veronica Csillag, LCSW, USA; Catherine Keyzer, Bach. Ed, MA, Australia; Julia Sideris, MA, Australia; and Sean Meggeson, MA, Canada
Discussant: Emily Kuriloff, PsyD, USA
Moderator: Marianne Kennedy, MA, Australia

Abstract:
Becoming an Ally in Times of Dread: Convergences and Divergences of Anti-Oppression Practice and Relational Work

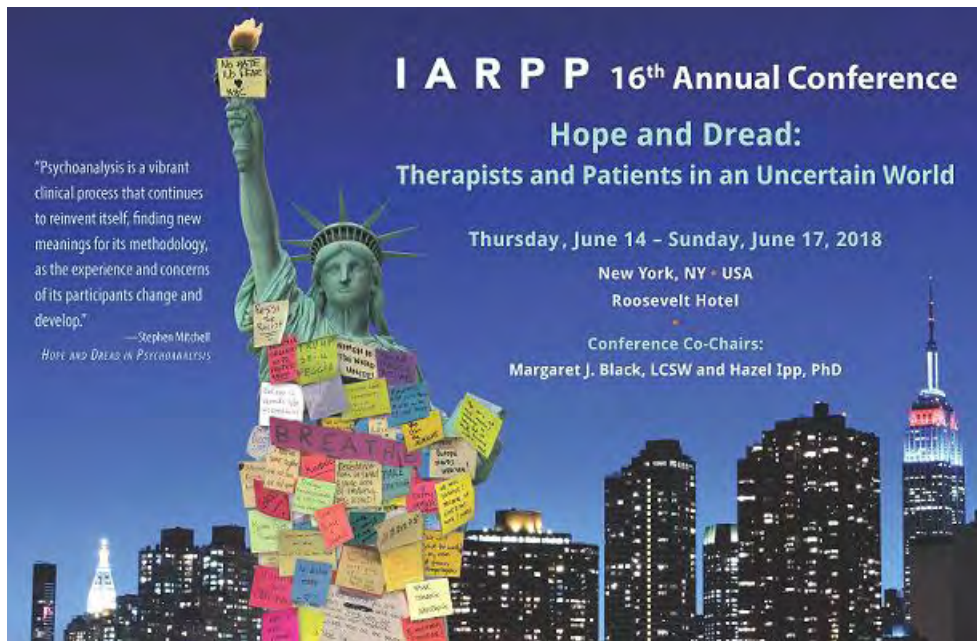
Sean Meggeson

In times of heightened and persistent socio-political dread, is Relational hope enough in therapy, especially for peoples of marginalized identities? This paper will consider the possibility that the values and aims of Anti-Oppression Practice—namely, “becoming an ally”—might have something more to offer Relational work, while also consider how core Relational concepts and practices facilitate and converge with Anti-oppression Practice, suggesting the two modalities are complimentary. The author will discuss a relevant enactment with a transgender student he was teaching in a Relational Psychotherapy program. The paper will also look at the potential risks of bringing Anti-oppression practice to Relational work.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe Anti-Opressive Practices;
2. Critique the concept of Relational hope as being insufficient by itself in addressing socio-political oppression in clients of marginalized identities;
3. Assess to what extent AOP can or cannot be integrated within a Relational therapeutic context.



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8. Impact of Uncertain Outer World on Patient and Therapist’s Inner Worlds (continued)

Speakers: Sara Biondi, PhD, Italy; and Ronnie Carmeli, PhD, Israel
Lisa Lyons, PhD, USA

Discussant: Caitlin Desjardin, MSW, USA

Moderator:

Abstract:

Uncertainty vertigo: The young patient’s and young analyst’s dread and hope in an uncertain social context

Sara Biondi

In the present paper I will talk about the encounter between the dread of uncertainty and the hope for change of a young analyst and of a young patient.

Selenia came to me for relational problems with men and for the job insecurity she was experiencing. In Italy we were going through the economic crisis that affected young people in particular, resulting in fewer job opportunities for them and a very high youth unemployment rate (near 40%) - a social problem we are still grappling with.

The feeling of uncertainty emerged in her dreams: she dreamed often to fall in the void (from a building or a bridge). Her vertigos became a metaphor of this dread. Selenia was paralyzed: she couldn’t change to achieve better working conditions and she was trying desperately to find her solidity in a relationship with a man.

I will describe two different phases of our analysis. For some years I tried to support Selenia in dealing with her paralysis, but it was difficult for her and we entered a period of impasse. According to Brandchaft, when the patient feels an imminent and profound change “a terror to change” arises (1993, p. 128). I will highlight how my personal experiences influenced me to push Selenia to change and she came to the decision to interrupt analysis. I didn’t understand that even if we were living similar experiences, her hopes and fears were different from mine (Mitchell, 1993).

The second period of analysis begun when Selenia came back a year later. We engaged in a deep reflection on the interruption: neither of us was ready to change - I as young analyst and she as young woman. Although the uncertainty associated with the social context and with the condition of a young woman overwhelmed me and Selenia, the relationship survived. The solidity of the relationship allowed



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(continued)

Speakers: Sara Biondi, PhD, Italy and Ronnie Carmeli, PhD, Israel
 Lisa Lyons, PhD, USA

Discussant: Caitlin Desjardin, MSW, USA

Moderator:

Abstract:

Uncertainty vertigo: The young patient’s and young analyst’s dread and hope in an uncertain social context - continued

Sara Biondi

Selenia to deal with her dreads and to understand her hopes. “Sometimes, hope for the right thing can be reached only through an immersion in prolonged and harrowing dread” (*ibidem*, p. 228).

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. To describe the impact of job insecurity on young patients and on young analysts during the Italian economic crisis;
2. To analyze the encounter between the hope and dread of change in young patients and young analysts;
3. To highlight the importance of the uncertain social context in analysis and in the process of change in the patient.

Abstract:

The Caesura of Hazardous Inner and Outer Worlds

Ronnie Carmeli

In our analytic work, we are faced with the caesura between inner processes and external reality – both uncertain and hazardous. Winnicott’s ‘potential space’, as another meeting point of the two realities, will be discussed, and linked to Bion’s idea of caesura. These will be seen as predecessors of the relational turn, a step towards a ‘two person psychology’ and the consideration of the influence of outer reality. This will be followed by two clinical vignettes involving ‘life threatening’ events in sessions, which at a first



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8. Impact of Uncertain Outer World on Patient and Therapist's Inner Worlds
(continued)

Speakers: Sara Biondi, PhD, Italy and Ronnie Carmeli, PhD, Israel
Lisa Lyons, PhD, USA

Discussant: Caitlin Desjardin, MSW, USA

Moderator:

Abstract:

The Caesura of Hazardous Inner and Outer Worlds - continued

Ronnie Carmeli

glance seem to belong solely to the external realm, but at a closer look have strong implications concerning the intersubjective encounter at all levels.

Learning Objectives:

1. Investigation into the interaction of both inner and outer worlds, as well as intersubjective reactions, to life-threatening events occurring in therapy.
2. A comparison between Winnicott's 'potential space' and Bion's idea of 'caesura'.
3. Demonstrating Winnicott's and Bion's ideas as predecessors of the relational turn, focusing on the subject of trauma and life threatening events (internal and external).



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9. Impact of Sociopolitical Upheaval and Cultural Discontent

Speakers: Joy Dryer, PhD, USA; Luis Raimundo Guerra Cid, PhD, Spain; and Don Greif, PhD, USA

Discussant: Ingrid Pedroni, PhD, Italy

Moderator: Alexis Mordoh, PsyD, Greece

Abstract:

How socio-political upheaval interacts with existential dread to motivate Gray Divorce

Joy Dryer

The rate of Gray Divorce, when couples over 50 separate, has been skyrocketing for the past two decades. My clinical experience as a Psychologist and Divorce Mediator suggests that recent turmoil in our socio-political landscape adds an additional factor to couples considering separating. This presentation broaches some existential theorizing about this connection. In addition, I aim to present preliminary results from a Gray Divorce Survey conducted in winter 2018.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the three “BLT” internal motivators that can contribute to an over 50 y.o. deciding to divorce.
2. Describe two external environmental factors that can contribute to an over 50 yo deciding to divorce.
3. In integrating internal and external factors contributing to Gray Divorce, frame what the presenter means by “existential” reasons for Gray Divorce.

Abstract:

Is Psychotherapy Against Nature? A Relational and Anthropological Discussion about the Integration of the Self

Luis Raimundo Guerra Cid

For many decades anthropology and neuroscience have analysed the evolution of the brain from its adaptive mechanisms. A wide studied aspect has been the origin of the consciousness and the Self. Nowadays these studies connect with a more complex image of the Self, closely related with the relational thinking, in particular with the dissociation theory. The neural Darwinism theory suggests a



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9. Impact of Sociopolitical Upheaval & Cultural Discontent (continued)

Speakers: Joy Dryer, PhD, USA; Luis Raimundo Guerra Cid, PhD, Spain; and Don Greif, PhD, USA

Discussant: Ingrid Pedroni, PhD, Italy

Moderator: Alexis Mordoh, PsyD, Greece

Abstract:

Is Psychotherapy Against Nature? A Relational and Anthropological Discussion about the Integration of the Self - continued

Luis Raimundo Guerra Cid

brain that follows a “natural” and adaptive pattern of constancy and variation, but that usually prefers certainty. Then psychotherapy generates uncertainty within the patient as it promotes variation, the analysis of the disassociation, and the integration of the Self’s new states ¿Does this mean psychotherapy goes against nature?

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe from an integrative perspective the “Neuronal Darwinism theory” and the dissociation theory of Bromberg, analysing their common points;
2. Discuss the adaptive role of psychotherapy from an anthropological, evolutionist and relationist point of view;
3. Give the assistant new reflexive and action tools for the understanding, among other perspectives, diverse situations of psychotherapy and the theory behind (Enactment, resistances, fear of change, states of the Self, etc).

Abstract:

Quarreling with Culture and the Value of Discontent

Don Greif

Sigmund Freud was torn about civilization— indeed, he was one of “its discontents,” the term he used in *Civilization and its Discontents*. According to Lionel Trilling, Freud had a “quarrel with culture.” Though it was not the primary element in his thinking about culture—the need to accommodate to culture was his emphasis--Freud also sought, in Trilling’s view, to establish a place for the self to stand apart



Thursday, June 14th 11:15 am – 12:45 pm Paper/Panel Session 1

9. Impact of Sociopolitical Upheaval & Cultural Discontent (continued)

Speakers: Joy Dryer, PhD, USA; Luis Raimundo Guerra Cid, PhD, Spain; and Don Greif, PhD, USA

Discussant: Ingrid Pedroni, PhD, Italy

Moderator: Alexis Mordoh, PsyD, Greece

Abstract:

Quarreling with Culture and the Value of Discontent - continued

Don Greif

from culture. Using Trilling's observations as a springboard, I will try to demonstrate that the ability to quarrel with culture and to value discontent play an essential role in everyday human experience, psychological development, motivation, emotional suffering--and, indeed, in psychoanalysis itself. Yet the centrality and significance of this dimension of the self and its struggle with culture has largely eluded the grasp of psychoanalysts. Understanding this realm of experience has important implications for how we think about our patients and how we practice psychoanalytic therapy.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the modern self's quarrel with culture;
2. Describe the dual longings of the self in relation to modern culture—to be a part of it and to be apart from it;
3. Apply their understanding of these dual longings to their clinical work with patients.



Thursday, June 14th 11:15 am – 12:45 pm Paper/Panel Session 1

10. Working through Dread of the Other

Speakers: Soh Agatsuma, MD, PhD, Japan; Janine De Peyer, LCSW-R, USA; and Sharyn Leff, LCSW, USA
Discussant: Nobuko Meaders, LCSW, USA
Moderator: Stephanie Bot, PsyD, Canada

Abstract:
Otherness and Different Aspects of Dread seen in the Japanese Culture

Soh Agatsuma

The word dread usually means fear, but it could also mean reverence. Fear and reverence are related with each other in Japanese, too. Furthermore, the Japanese words for dread are connected with otherness. The presenter discusses clinical implications of analytic understanding of different aspects of dread and their relationship to otherness.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss different aspects of dread and otherness seen in Japanese culture;
2. Understand clinical implications of analytic understanding of dread and otherness;
3. Explain how to help patients become aware of what they dread and why, and become able to deal with the tension between hope and dread.

Abstract:
Otherness and Different Aspects of Dread seen in the Japanese Culture

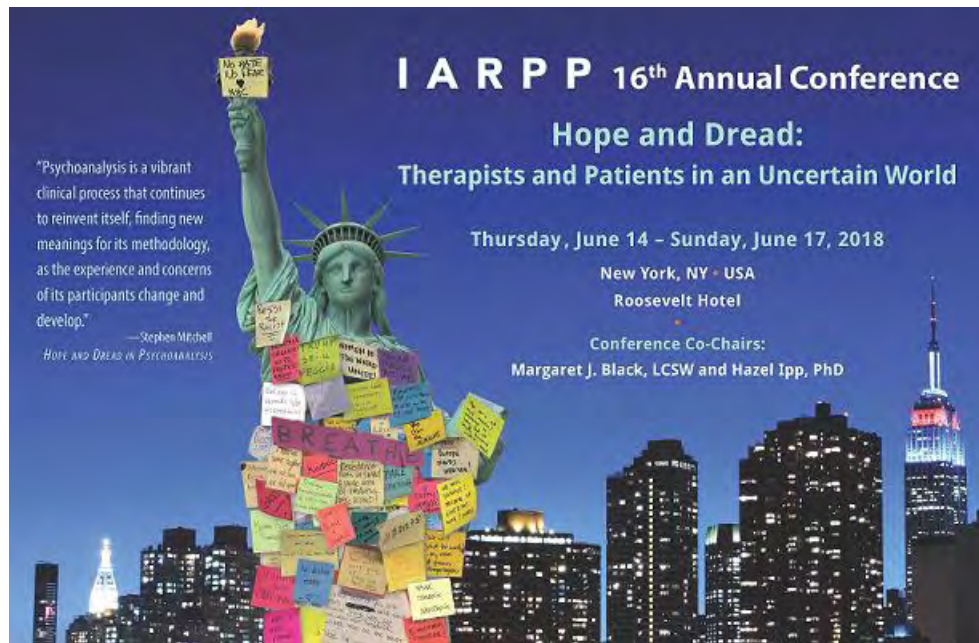
Janine De Peyer

The word dread usually means fear, but it could also mean reverence. Fear and reverence are related with each other in Japanese, too. Furthermore, the Japanese words for dread are connected with otherness. The presenter discusses clinical implications of analytic understanding of different aspects of dread and their relationship to otherness.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss different aspects of dread and otherness seen in Japanese culture;
2. Understand clinical implications of analytic understanding of dread and otherness;
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Thursday, June 14th 11:15 am – 12:45 pm Paper/Panel Session 1

10. Working through Dread of the Other (continued)

Speakers: Soh Agatsuma, MD, PhD, Japan; Janine De Peyer, LCSW-R, USA; and Sharyn Leff, LCSW, USA

Discussant: Nobuko Meaders, LCSW, USA

Moderator: Stephanie Bot, PsyD, Canada

Abstract:

Cher, Mark, and Me: The Rally Outside My Window

Sharyn Leff

How does the agitation of the outside world impact the frame and the psychoanalytic space inside? This presentation will explore the function of the boundary between inside and outside: between the larger social world and the consulting room, between two subjectivities, and will examine the metaphor of the window as a “skin” function. I will draw upon concepts from regulation and recognition theories, attachment, and concepts of verbal and nonverbal dimensions of intersubjectivity in order to address these questions.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Explore the impact of the political and social environment outside the consulting room on the treatment;
2. Define and clarify clinical examples and theoretical;
3. Recognize how the use of reverie can enliven the capacity to regain relational footing.