





# IARPP 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

## Hope and Dread:

### Therapists and Patients in an Uncertain World

Thursday, June 14 – Sunday, June 17, 2018

New York, NY • USA

Roosevelt Hotel

Conference Co-Chairs:

Margaret J. Black, LCSW and Hazel Ipp, PhD

"Psychoanalysis is a vibrant clinical process that continues to reinvent itself, finding new meanings for its methodology, as the experience and concerns of its participants change and develop."

—Stephen Mitchell  
*HOPE AND DREAD IN PSYCHOANALYSIS*

**Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**2:15 pm – 3:45 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 3**

## **2. Meet-the-Author: Relationships in Development: Infancy, Intersubjectivity, and Attachment**

Author: Stephen Seligman, DMH, USA

Interlocutor: Beatrice Beebe, PhD, USA

### Abstract:

Stephen Seligman's book, *Relationships in Development: Infancy, Intersubjectivity, and Attachment* offers a point of departure, to consider how analytic practice can be affected by thinking about infants and children, asking how (and whether) we can talk about babies and patients in the same breath. Video illustrations and clinical case material may be considered.

The presentation will bring together what remains vital in the classical psychoanalytic traditions with the emerging intersubjectivist-Relational sensibility, including new findings in the areas of attachment, infant-parent interaction research, developmental neuroscience, trauma, and the like. It will consider analogies between infant-parent and patient-therapist interaction patterns, how looking at babies brings the lived experience of the body back into analysis, and helps us think about the non-verbal, emotional and interactive realms. As time allows, an orientation to the history of developmental psychoanalysis and the place of infancy and childhood in different analytic approaches will be offered, and the different "analytic babies" will be described and compared--Freud's baby, Klein's baby, Winnicott's baby, the Relational baby....

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Increase their use of psychotherapeutic interventions based on understanding how young children develop;
2. Be able to make useful and direct observations of therapist-patient interactions;
3. Clarify how different psychoanalytic conceptions of infancy and childhood affect their own case formulation and intervention strategies.



**Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**2:15 pm – 3:45 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 3**

**3. Invited Panel: Acknowledgement, Repair and the Moral Third in Psychosocial Context: Psychoanalytic Responses to the Breakdown of the Third**

**Speakers:** Martha Bragin, MSW, PhD, USA; Alan Norrie, PhD, UK; and Yitzhak Mendelsohn, PhD, Israel  
**Discussant:** Jessica Benjamin, PhD, USA  
**Moderator:** Jade McGleughlin, MSW, LICSW, USA

**Abstract:**

This panel puts to work Jessica Benjamin's concept of the moral Third. The papers address the impact of collective trauma related to war, social violations, and direct violence. The paper presenters are two psychoanalytic activists in psychosocial work and a legal scholar working on transitional justice issues. The participants provide direct experience of psychosocial interventions, community and political efforts at reconciliation in war-torn and post-conflict societies that are experiencing or have recently experienced war and violence. These efforts may be understood in terms of the need to restore the moral Third through forms of individual and communal acknowledgment that reinstate a witnessing function that has previously failed. The panel considers Benjamin's ideas about how the moral Third breaks down and is recreated, as well as the problems that arise when we try to create social forms of justice that address the individual psyche suffering the sequelae of collective trauma.

**Learning Objectives:**

Participants will learn about:

1. The basic concept of the Third as a position that holds the tension of opposition rather than splitting into the doer and done to relation;
2. The clinical and social significance of the moral Third as repair, acknowledgment or witnessing of collective trauma;
3. How specific forms of creating moral thirdness in situations where breakdown has occurred through violence have been implemented by psychosocial activists and analysts.





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2:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Paper/Panel Session 3

#### 4. Uncertainty in the Analytic Space

Speakers: Avi Berman, PhD, Israel; Blue Chevigny, LCSW, USA; and Mariela Andrea Cuello, BA, Argentina  
Discussant: Ruth Gruenthal, LCSW, USA  
Moderator: Roni Baht, PhD, Israel

Abstract:

*"Fake Certainty", Psychoanalytic Doubt and the Therapeutic Communication*

**Avi Berman**

"The feelings of a group are always very simple and exaggerated. So that a group knows neither doubt nor uncertainty; It goes directly to extremes; if a suspicion is expressed it is instantly changed into incontrovertible certainty; a trace of antipathy is turned into furious hatred" (Freud, 1921. Pp 105).

It seems that the wish for certainty, group affiliation and idealizing leadership may form together a certainty-inclined self-state (Bromberg, 1993). For many people this self-state becomes dominant in turbulent times. Experience of certainty is often created within group affiliation, in the presence of a leader figure and by active elimination of weakening doubts. The possibility of uncertainty and ambiguity is rejected, sometimes by hostile and suspicious antagonism towards alternative attitudes.

Contemporary psychoanalysis introduces multiple truths, (Spezzano, 1993), on going emergence of unconscious meanings, co-existence of differences and inter-subjective challenge of containing inevitable uncertainties. Moreover, from more orthodox psychoanalytic point of view "incontrovertible certainty" is usually a fake one, mainly a state of mind that expresses a belief in reachable and stable safety, denial of existential anxieties and hopeful dependency on a seductive omnipotent-like figures. (Bion, 1961).

Recently it seems that these two attitudes represent a split in society according to the need of certainty vs the capability to contain doubts. This split is sometimes accompanied by mutual empathic failure up to the point of communicational arrest and equivalent bi-polar patronizing attitudes. Expressions like "Creative Disorder" or "Fear of Curiosity" as Stern, (1983) suggests in his concept of "Unformulated Experience", may entail classification and grading of values according to which psychoanalytic values are more advanced than others.

Yet, alternative attitudes may represent different values as one patient says: " **I choose** not to dwell in the past. **I can** discipline my thoughts. I go forward". It seems that for him certainty is achievable and thought



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#### **4. Uncertainty in the Analytic Space (continued)**

Speakers: Avi Berman, PhD, Israel; Blue Chevigny, LCSW, USA; and Mariela Andrea Cuello, BA, Argentina

Discussant: Ruth Gruenthal, LCSW, USA

Moderator: Roni Baht, PhD, Israel

Abstract:

*“Fake Certainty”, Psychoanalytic Doubt and the Therapeutic Communication - continued*  
**Avi Berman**

discipline is a value. His analysis may benefit from empathic recognition of the consequences he drew out of his life experience. Dimen (2009) idea of holding the political and the analytic together, connect subjectivity, inter-subjectivity and being a subject. "One's subjectivity emerges out of one's subjection to the discursive construction of people as subjects". Following her idea I would like to suggest that we are all subjects to the same social authorities and the authority of the social. Overcoming the values split and therapeutic communication requires recognition of "certainty-inclination" in ourselves together with the need to belong to a group of people who feel and think the same. Possible hidden patronizing attitudes in psychoanalysis may become a subject of psychoanalytic inquiry. Different attitudes than those we believe in may be acknowledged as values for other people. I will present clinical example that may demonstrate this social dissociation in the consulting room.

Learning Objectives:

The following issues will be presented and discussed:

1. Certainty-inclination as a self-state: wish for certainty, group affiliation, idealizing leadership;
2. Split-off patronizing attitudes in psychoanalysis;
3. Terms of therapeutic communication within interpersonal and social split of the above.



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#### 4. Uncertainty in the Analytic Space (continued)

Speakers: Avi Berman, PhD, Israel; Blue Chevigny, LCSW, USA; and Mariela Andrea Cuello, BA, Argentina  
Discussant: Ruth Gruenthal, LCSW, USA  
Moderator: Roni Baht, PhD, Israel

Abstract:

*Making Meaning Out of Not Knowing What to Do*

**Blue Chevigny**

Adam Phillips writes in *Terror and Experts* that “psychoanalysis, like religion and medicine, turns panic into meaning. It makes fear bearable by making it interesting. And it does this in the most ordinary way: through conversation with another person.”

His idea that we make sense out of the least easy to understand aspects of our experience through talking to one another, has never seemed more relevant to my practice than in the last year. Since the election of Donald Trump as US President, my own fear, my own alienation within my own country, my own sense of helplessness in the face of forces larger than myself, has increased. For almost all my patients, it has been a similarly dismaying time, and in some cases traumatic, bringing up feelings from other moments in which they’ve felt helpless and disempowered.

My proposed paper will look at how in my New York City practice, in response patients’ upset about the political situation, I have at times revealed my own worries, and my own feeling of *not knowing* what to do. It will look at how these revelations have been helpful or not. Building on my previous articles about the post-election therapy experience, and drawing on the ideas of various theoreticians and case vignettes from my work, I will try to make sense of what I’ve been doing with patients around politics.

This political openness and vulnerability in sessions has in some ways helped break down any remaining illusion of authority and hierarchy between therapist and patient. Basescu and Mitchell among others have written about how unquestioned authority is no longer the expectation for our leaders, much less for our therapists. Fromm interrogates the ways that the doctor-patient uneven dynamic contributes to treating the patient “like an object.” Bion wrote therapists must “refrain from memory or desire.” Several thinkers have explored how our “not knowing” (Coltart) in the therapy process is what allows the work the move. Phillips writes: “A psychoanalyst has to learn how not to know what he is doing and how to go on doing it ... [and] is a professional who sustains his competence by resisting his own authority.” A more equitable





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**4. Uncertainty in the Analytic Space (continued)**

- Speakers: Avi Berman, PhD, Israel; Blue Chevigny, LCSW, USA; and Mariela Andrea Cuello, BA, Argentina
- Discussant: Ruth Gruenthal, LCSW, USA
- Moderator: Roni Baht, PhD, Israel

Abstract:

*Making Meaning Out of Not Knowing What to Do - continued*

**Blue Chevigny**

“co-creation” of the therapy is the new relational norm, a process that generates something distinct from the self or the sum of two selves.

This relational style in therapy relies on the value of authenticity. Kimberlyn Leary writes that “the whole of psychoanalytic practice now recognizes the features of the analyst’s self are always at play, influencing the treatment interaction. [The question is] how the analyst may best make use of herself/himself in order to further ... the patient’s capacity to better understand his or her own psychological experience.” And Lynn Preston writes in favor of “self-disclosure”, stating that “growth occurs through the aliveness, authenticity, and intimate connectedness of this kind of interaction... a flow of interaction in which the analyst, as well as the patient, is open to sharing relevant aspect of self-experience as they emerge in the unfolding of a dyadic process. These disclosures are tentative, changing and ready to be influenced by the patient.”

Has this style where the traditional “frame” is “broken” allowed the therapy space to open up? Mitchell writes that frame departures can “represent a willingness to take reasonable risks in unfamiliar waters and a faith in the durability of their analytic alliance to weather all eventualities.” These political waters are indeed unfamiliar, and the work must adapt in order to be connected and meaningful within them.



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**4. Uncertainty in the Analytic Space (continued)**

- Speakers: Avi Berman, PhD, Israel; Blue Chevigny, LCSW, USA; and Mariela Andrea Cuello, BA, Argentina
- Discussant: Ruth Gruenthal, LCSW, USA
- Moderator: Roni Baht, PhD, Israel

Abstract:

*The Rise of Uncertainty and Insecurity at the Therapeutic Space*  
**Mariela Andrea Cuello**

The country where I come from embrace a constant and groveling social, economic and political crisis. This is pervaded in citizen's everyday life, so that this part of reality has been naturalized and become both conscious and unconscious at the same time. As if it were a splitting between knowledge and conflicting emotions that seems not to be conceived at all. A contextual reality that in case of becoming deeply conscious, I consider, should bring hopelessness and severe pain taking into account these critical times of humankind in general.

The theme of the IARPP Conference may lead to think about and analyse different analytic diades experienced in the intimacy of the consulting room and in a particular labour crisis suffered this year. Some vignettes will be presented consisting on significant patients who have expressed affects and conflicts in the psychoanalytic encounter where the social context has become evident in the transference and countertransference, in the empathic identification and in a common social reality that cross patient and analyst. Issues related to economic, political and social crisis in our country are explored. A vignette respect a foreign patient (an alien in the city) and the social isolation; crime and social insecurity, gender-based violence brought to the analytic relationship by a patient whose daughter has been battered and abused and how this was felt and contained in the consulting room; the patriarchal relationship patterns and power and subjugation relationships at social, political and working levels where young professional and non professional patients' job depends on a local government that takes decisions according to electoral results rather than working capacities and job skills of an individual worker. Or







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**Paper/Panel Session 3**

### **5. Subjectivity and Collective Fictions: Identity, Conformity, and Resistance**

Speakers: Eyal Rozmarin, PhD, USA and Francisco Gonzalez, MD, USA

Discussant: Rachael Peltz, PhD, USA

Moderator: Frederick Stern, PhD, USA

Abstract:

This panel attempts to problematize what we call "the self," or "the subject." It offers two papers, both of which suggest a view of the subject as a contested and ephemeral assemblage, largely driven by social forces. The first paper, "The selfie-Self. Or, the subject as fiction," engages social-theory informed notions of subject formation with the aim of elaborating a notion of subjectivity as a fluid learned fiction. The paper draws on the work of Michel Foucault, Giorgio Agamben, Benedict Anderson and James C. Scott, all interested in understanding how societies interact with, and co-construct their subjects. It then engages these social-theory informed conceptions of subjectivity from a psychoanalytic perspective. It contemplates the subject as a location, an address, a site of perception and sense-making and action that belong to itself only as an element of, and in terms outlined by that fiction. It reflects on the consequences of thinking about "the self" as a concept and as experience from this perspective. And it argues that, paradoxically, such theoretical, as well as experiential view of one's subjectivity, or self, carries with it the potential for more life and more freedom. The second paper, "I's R Us. Or, the collective of the individual," considers that these fictions are incarnated in particular groups, where they find temporary stabilization. Individual subjectivity has a collective aspect, determined as a history of one-to-many (group) relationships that necessarily imperils the sovereignty of the individual, while simultaneously providing a site of opening to the world. If the subject is a curated fiction, hegemonic actors and normative processes stabilize the centrifugal forces of multiple group memberships. But the cost is a radical and dangerous simplification: eliding the intersectionalities that keep us open to otherness. "The self" as described in these papers is always commandeered, instantiated, and shadowed by social forces well beyond its control, but the location of this trouble also presents the potential for resistance and creative iteration. The two papers will be followed by a discussion.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Utilize ideas drawn from social theory to challenge traditional psychoanalytic notions of subjectivities;
2. Contemplate subjectivity as a fluid construction animated by social forces and social imagination;
3. Develop awareness of the theoretical and clinical value of considering the collective aspect of subjectivity.



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## **6. We Are All Mad Here: Politics Disrupt the Consulting Room**

**Speakers:** Hilary Grill, LCSW, USA; Janet Kelly, LCSW; and Susan Greenberg, LCSW, USA

**Discussant:** Maria Lechich, PhD, USA

**Moderator:** Udi Chen, PsyD, Israel

### **Abstract:**

This panel will explore how the shared trauma of the current US political situation influenced our work with patients. The day after the US presidential election, a collective grief was experienced in many analytic dyads. Fear and hopelessness permeated our offices. This bonding around our shared trauma was initially quite useful. Eventually though, it became apparent that we needed to understand our patient's feelings through their individual histories rather than our resonating perspectives and distress. Issues of family ties that bind, narcissism and misogyny were addressed. This panel will show how we were eventually able to move from the political to the personal; working through the agreement/avoidant enactments and ultimately helping our patients move towards personal growth.

### **Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Learn how to build a sense of safety and security within the consulting room as a means of furthering therapeutic change;
2. Acquire the skills necessary to utilize enactments as a vehicle for change and growth for our patients;
3. Develop greater insight into the use of narrative building as a tool to help our patients make meaning of their life experiences.





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**Paper/Panel Session 3**

## **7. Generational Legacies of Trauma: Paths of Desperation and of Inspiration**

Speakers: Jill Salberg, PhD, USA and Samuel Gerson, PhD, USA

Discussant: Jeanne Wolff Bernstein, PhD, Austria

Moderator: Jacqueline Gotthold, PsyD, USA

### Abstract:

The intergenerational transmission of trauma is a dynamic always infused with multiple sources, residues, and potential. As memory and denial contend with each other, the transmission of endured trauma across generations shifts from the compelling claims of memory to the desires and purposes of the future. In this panel we consider the challenges created by the legacy of trauma over the span of multiple generations. We address how the transmission of trauma may either replicate itself into the subjective experience and identifications of the subsequent generation(s) and/or how historical trauma may be transformed into the creation of new forms of experience that honor history through its application to contemporary forms of abuse affecting other ethnic groups and global (as opposed to familial) traumatization.

The afterlife of trauma is crucial to be reckoned with given how many generations can be affected. Today's resurgence in hateful speech targeting blacks, Jews, LGBTQ's, Muslims, immigrants and other minority groups reveals the legacy of untransformed, toxic trauma transmissions. These are times when the past is occluding the present. One of the panelists will draw upon the creative potential in art to alter, metabolize and transform trauma transmissions. In this way the present is freed creatively to imagine the future. The other panelist will discuss the difficulty encountered with a patient where trauma transmissions continue in a family, unabated insisting on their reproduction. Here the past precludes the present or any possibility of the future. The panelists will dialogue with each other around how we engage our patients and allow our own minds space to transform toxic transmissions.

### Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe the hallmarks of intergenerational transmission of trauma;
2. Identify the process of replication versus transformation of trauma;
3. Analyze the dynamics involved in identifications with trauma endured by previous generations.



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Paper/Panel Session 3

## 8. Miming and Clinical Psychoanalysis: Enhancing Our Intersubjective Sensibility

Speakers: Gianni Nebbiosi, PhD, Italy and Susi Federici, PhD, Italy  
Discussant/Interlocutor: Hazel Ipp, PhD, Canada  
Moderator: Laura Osinoff, LCSW, USA

### Abstract:

The panel focuses on the study of *Mimesis* and on the use of the method of *miming* the patient after the session. From a theoretical standpoint, reference is made to phenomenology, with the concepts of *Epoché* in Husserl, practical/decision-making attitude in Heidegger, and *natality* in Arendt; René Girard's human culture *Mimetic Theory* and the recent developments in neuroscientific research (Gallese) and in *Infant Research* (Meltzoff, Trevarthen) which support it are also employed. The clinical technique of miming the patient after the session is illustrated with the presentation of an extensive clinical case and the projection of some video sequences. Special attention is dedicated to the intermeshing of this methodology and the clinical approach of relational psychoanalysis.

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will learn:

1. Girard's *Mimetic Theory* and a phenomenological approach to the clinical encounter;
2. An interdisciplinary approach which interlaces Neurosciences, Infant Research and Relational Psychoanalysis;
3. About the clinical technique of miming the patient after the session and its utility to improve the implicit relational knowing of the therapist.



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**Paper/Panel Session 3**

## **9. The Intersection of the Personal and Political**

**Speakers:** Gregory Desierto, PsyD, USA; Matt Aibel, LCSW-R, USA; and Darlene Bregman Ehrenberg, PhD, ABPP, USA

**Discussant:** David Brand, PhD, USA

**Moderator:** Maria Saba, MA, Peru

### **Abstract:**

*The Intersection of the Personal, Politics, and Psychotherapy: When the President Trumps Child Psychotherapy*

### **Gregory Desierto**

Politics can have a positive or negative potential to impact and shape culture, which then ultimately shapes the way that communities and citizens engage, behave, and interpret the world. Neither are service providers nor the communities that they work with are immune to these powerful external and governing forces. What happens when these political forces come rushing in the midst of our clinical work in concrete ways and stirs something deeply personal within us – forcing a meeting of the personal, the political, and the psychotherapeutic task? In this panel, the presenter will share his thoughts and reflections on his community mental health therapy work with a child in the midst of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election. The political landscape stirred the therapist and child’s subjectivities, particularly their relationship with their fathers, immigration, and political ideology. Thereafter, the presenter and discussant will invite the audience to engage in a discussion about how politics come in to our respective works and what one does with political material to make sense of or to deepen our clinical work.

### **Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Identify how therapist's countertransference and personal reactions to politics and culture help understand client's formulation and diagnosis;
2. Understand how political forces, such as a presidential election/elected officials can impact the course of therapy;
3. Begin to understand how politics can impact therapist's challenges as well as client's participation in therapy.





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**Paper/Panel Session 3**

## **9. The Intersection of the Personal & Political (continued)**

Speakers: Gregory Desierto, PsyD, USA; Matt Aibel, LCSW-R, USA; and Darlene Bregman Ehrenberg, PhD, ABPP, USA

Discussant: David Brand, PhD, USA

Moderator: Maria Saba, MA, Peru

### Abstract:

*The Personal is Political is Psychoanalytic: Why We Need to Talk Politics*

#### **Matt Aibel**

The political is understood as an essential, irreducible aspect of our self-representations and an undeniably consequential factor in our difficulties in living. It can thus no longer be considered taboo in psychoanalytic theory and practice. I examine challenges of working with political material, especially as treatment conducted during the highly partisan, embattled Trump Era may instantiate fierce complementarity or collusive concordance in the dyad. I argue that we cannot ameliorate patients' suffering nor widen and deepen understanding of their lives if we don't help them discover how their (and our) embeddedness in particular historical and sociopolitical webs of competing interests hold them (and us) in place. Psychoanalysis' disavowal of sociopolitical impacts is historicized, and its gradual theoretical relegitimization is traced. The relational turn's emphasis on the analyst's subjectivity, intersubjectivity, co-construction, mutual recognition, and advances in cognizing social inequities offer theoretical scaffolding and strategies of engagement.

### Learning Objectives:

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

1. Apprehend a psychohistorical perspective on psychoanalysis' disavowal of political discourse;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical scaffolding that relational theory provides to legitimize working analytically with political material;
3. Describe 3 challenges and 3 strategies in working effectively with political material.



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**Paper/Panel Session 3**

## **9. The Intersection of the Personal & Political (continued)**

Speakers: Gregory Desierto, PsyD, USA; Matt Aibel, LCSW-R, USA; and Darlene Bregman Ehrenberg, PhD, ABPP, USA

Discussant: David Brand, PhD, USA

Moderator: Maria Saba, MA, Peru

### Abstract:

*How the political and the personal intersect: Psychoanalytic Considerations*

### ***Darlene Bregman Ehrenberg***

The focus of this presentation will be on how the political and the personal intersect in ways more clear in our current political situation than ever, and how historically this often was not recognized or dealt with analytically across the world. Intergenerational considerations will be addressed, in terms of political issues that crossed international boundaries, and the ways these were often not addressed or recognized in analytic work by patients or analysts historically, and how this has reached into later generations. There will be special consideration of how 9/11 affected analytic work and continues to have impact, as well as how political issues in South America, including Chile and Argentina, continue to have impact, how racial tensions, Viet Nam, and socio-economic challenges in the US also have raised challenging concerns that continue – including concerns about availability of mental health care for patients for whom analytic kinds of help has often not even been an option, including veterans. Clinical data will be presented to illustrate some of the challenges these concerns continue to pose for developing analytic thinking even within the actual clinical process.

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Have a clearer understanding of how the political and the personal intersect and the implications of recognizing this for psychoanalytic work and thinking;
2. Become more attuned to countertransference issues in dealing with the unique dilemmas posed when dealing clinically with these issues;
3. Be able to grasp the important implications of recognizing this for how we might engage moment-by-moment clinical process.



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**Paper/Panel Session 3**

## **10. The Lasting Impact of Historical and Political Traumas**

**Speakers:** Yoav Antman, MA, Israel; Gonzalo Acuna, MD, Chile; and Julie Cake, MA, USA

**Discussant:** Billie Pivnick, PhD, USA

**Moderator:** Sally Donaldson, PhD, USA

**Abstract:**

*The Therapeutic Encounter with Political Rupture*

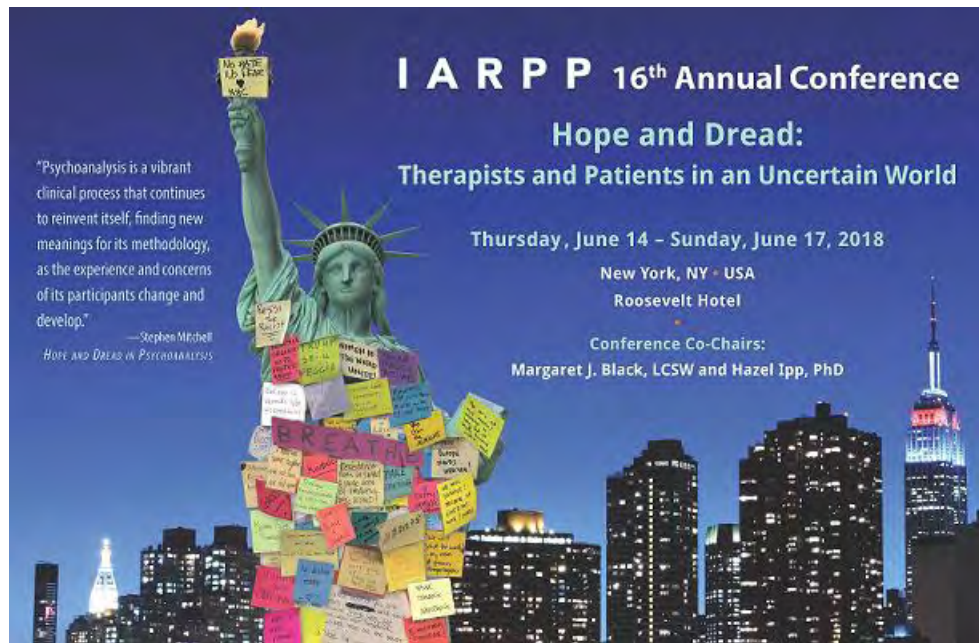
***Yoav Antman***

In this presentation, I would like to examine how a dramatic political or national event experienced by an individual during his childhood, connects with personality-related and familial conflicts, affects development, and creates mental distress, or a crisis, later in life. In presenting clinical case of an adolescent who has, in childhood experienced a traumatic political-national-social event, I will discuss the central themes characterizing injury of this nature. I also wish to claim that the political – national – social identity of the therapist is very much present in this kind of therapy, and the therapist’s awareness of it, and his awareness of being in a therapeutic setting, affects the treatment, and is a pivotal factor in its success.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Identification and assessment of themes of damage incurred from political- social events experienced in the childhood of an adult patient in therapy:
  - a. Destabilization of selfhood around questions of one’s identity and ideological belonging and identifications.
  - b. Ambivalence and conflict vis-à-vis the "trauma community" and the "legacy of trauma".
2. Deepening of therapeutic skill in the treatment of individuals affected by a social - political event, via moving between the different layers of the damage itself and the Personality-related, developmental and existential aspects which have also been marked by it;
3. Strengthening the ability to work with the subjective ideological-social presence of the therapist himself, in the treatment of individuals affected by political – social events in childhood.





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2:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Paper/Panel Session 3

### 10. The Lasting Impact of Historical and Political Traumas (continued)

Speakers: Yoav Antman, MA, Israel; Gonzalo Acuna, MD, Chile; and Julie Cake, MA, USA

Discussant: Billie Pivnick, PhD, USA

Moderator: Sally Donaldson, PhD, USA

Abstract:

*Trauma, Dissociation and Addiction*

**Gonzalo Acuna**

It could be said that there is a lack of encounter between psychoanalytic literature and addictions. Despite this lack of attention, a purely biological or cognitive-behavioural explanation of patient's addiction seems insufficient. In this report, a clinical case illustrates a relationship between both early developmental trauma and addiction. Despite the fact that previous authors acknowledged the role of psychological trauma in development of addictions, the nature of this relationship may have not been fully described. Indeed, it sounds plausible to think that dissociation plays an important part in transforming traumatic experience into an addictive act. An exploration of this will be completed in the full presentation.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Explain the reasons why there is a historical lack of encounter between psychoanalysis and addiction;
2. Explain what would be the contribution from psychoanalysis to an addiction recovery process;
3. Describe how dissociation may mediate the relationship between psychological trauma and addiction.





**Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**2:15 pm – 3:45 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 3**

### **11. The Role of “Truth”**

**Speakers:** Robert D’Angelo, PsyD, Australia; Gad Ben Sheffer, PhD, Israel; and Anthony Korner, PhD, Australia  
**Discussant:** Ilene Philipson, PhD, USA  
**Moderator:** Paolo Stramba Badiale, PhD, Italy

**Abstract:**

*Fake News and image management: Mutual Deception in Psychoanalysis*

**Robert D’Angelo**

This paper explores the operation of deception, particularly mutual deception, in the therapeutic dyad. Our current social context is saturated with deception and this has desensitized us to and normalised the erosion of truthfulness. This is particularly notable in current political rhetoric, where the concept of “fake news” has undermined our capacity to know what is real in a way not previously seen. Advertising, marketing and image management form the context in which we accept and collude with deception. The pathogenic effect of this deception is examined through the exploration of detailed case material illustrating mutual deception in the consulting room. Deception is examined as a powerful interpersonal manoeuvre that prevents real contact between subjects and has coercive effects on the other. How our analytic theories obscure or clarify the operation of deception, and the way we can recruit theory to legitimise deception, will be explored.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Analyze the ubiquity of deception in our current social context, particularly in relation to political rhetoric, advertising and social media;
2. Describe the pathogenic effects of deception, incorporating the ideas of Ferenczi and RD Laing;
3. Apply an awareness of deception to the clinical interaction, and identify the operation of deception in the analytic dyad, including its relational effects.





Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

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Paper/Panel Session 3

### 11. The Role of “Truth” (continued)

Speakers: Robert D’Angelo, PsyD, Australia; Gad Ben Sheffer, PhD, Israel; and Anthony Korner, PhD, Australia  
Discussant: Ilene Philipson, PhD, USA  
Moderator: Paolo Stramba Badiale, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

*The Death of the Compass: Finding Truth in an Uncertain World*

**Gad Ben Sheffer**

We live in postmodern times, but it seems that in the analytic encounter we find it hard to embrace postmodern thinking and, moreover, *act* according to it.

Can we find a stable resting-point *in* the postmodern age? I will discuss this question through a short detective story by Borges – “Death and the Compass” (1942) – which, I will suggest, may serve as an organizing text, a kind of literary myth, for contemporary psychoanalysis. Through this story and by drawing analogies to the analytic session, I will argue that a postmodern psychoanalysis is much closer to the reality created in the analytic encounter and that its tenets facilitate a more disillusioned understanding of what takes place therein. It is a psychoanalysis which is not an attack on truth, but a longer, yet faster, way for knowing it.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Examine and discuss the status and definition of truth in the postmodern psychoanalytic clinic;
2. Analyze the effect of uncertainty in clinical work and truth's gravitational force;
3. Present a literary text in its function of structuring and guiding the formulation of psychoanalytic thought.



Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

2:15 pm – 3:45 pm

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Discussant: Ilene Philipson, PhD, USA  
Moderator: Paolo Stramba Badiale, PhD, Italy

### Abstract:

#### *Testimony and Truth*

#### ***Anthony Korner***

Modern scientific culture is dominated by processes of analysis involving measurement and an atomistic, left brain mediated approach to the world. This is in contrast to the interpersonal social processes that are foundational for community, involving forms of feeling and association that arise everywhere in local forms. For the patient in psychotherapy it is of central importance to be believed: personal testimony has to be given due weight and taken seriously as evidence. Priority needs to be given to listening and hearing before responding. Yet ‘truth’ isn’t a straightforward matter. From the time humans develop a conscious awareness of the concepts of secrecy, truth and lies, individuals live in a variable relation to truth: we may be open, we may lie or disguise what is meant. Humans live in a state unlike other species, one which might be described as “evolutionary duplicity”. This may contribute to scepticism about testimony. Interestingly this doesn’t apply to other spheres of activity in our community. In political and legal processes the importance of witnessing and direct testimony are critical to processes of societal change. We don’t have a higher standard in terms of determining the truth. In Australia this has been salient to changes in awareness within the Indigenous Community and in the relationship between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians. Traditional communities give weight to personal testimony. There are signs of this testimony being heard. True reconciliation may depend upon a “good-enough” capacity in the broader Australian community to listen and bear witness to the stories of Indigenous Australians.

### Learning Objectives:

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

1. Understand the need for personal testimony to be heard;
2. Develop a capacity to distinguish between communications that distance and those that bring us into closer relation with others;
3. Understand the need to balance requirements for change and stability at both personal and communal levels.



Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

2:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Paper/Panel Session 3

## 12. Immigration Trauma and the Analytic Relationship

Speakers: Filipa Canelo Neves, MA Clin Psych, Portugal; Frances Dillon, MSW, USA; and Erik Fagerberg, MA, LCSW, Sweden

Discussant: Glenys Lobban, PhD, USA

Moderator: Helit Atar-Greenfield, PhD, USA

### Abstract:

#### *Unreliable Authority*

#### **Filipa Canelo Neves**

Where will violence end in a world where we are constantly being bombarded with news of corruption, terrorism and fear? How does this fear interfere with the lives of each one of us? And when does this fear grow with the person and obscure all their development? The same fear that leads the person to make certain choices in life and whose main objective is the hope of being different, of having the opportunity to live in dignity.

I was confronted for the first time, in my clinical practice, with a history of clandestine immigration. Before me, a young woman completely lost in life. She was married to a man she was financially dependent on. This man was a police officer, a supposedly reliable force of authority, a symbolic representative of security and protection, but who did not protect her. This woman hoped that someone would take care of her, to ensure her comfort and well-being. She hoped an 'he' would do it for her. This 'he', initially, was his father, a representative of authority, who forced her to marry a man who physically and verbally assaults her. It was the fear that drove her away from her country. His description of the whole journey to a new territory of hope put me, as therapist and woman, in tremendous discomfort. I recognize myself in the words of Donna Orange (2012): "I must mourn my foreignness, and notice my resistance to acceptance of not knowing, and embrace our shared search. This means, again, opening the tent flaps, so that the other – however unfamiliar and unwashed by my standards, may begin to teach me." My imagination was populated by doubts and questions. What is it like to flee from a world of violence and abuse to a totally unknown world where even the language is not known? How can you help maintain the patient's hope? And mine?

Is it the hope of a 'new beginning' that supports going into the unknown? In the words of Michael Balint, (1952), "new beginning means the capacity for an unsuspecting, trusting, self-abandoned and relaxed object-relation." But Stephen Mitchell (1993) amplifies this same idea, making it more actively relational,





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## 12. Immigration Trauma and the Analytic Relationship (continued)

Speakers:                      Filipa Canelo Neves, MA Clin Psych, Portugal; Frances Dillon, MSW, USA; and Erik Fagerberg, MA, LCSW, Sweden

Discussant:                      Glenys Lobban, PhD, USA

Moderator:                      Helit Atar-Greenfield, PhD, USA

### Abstract:

*Unreliable Authority* - continued

#### ***Filipa Canelo Neves***

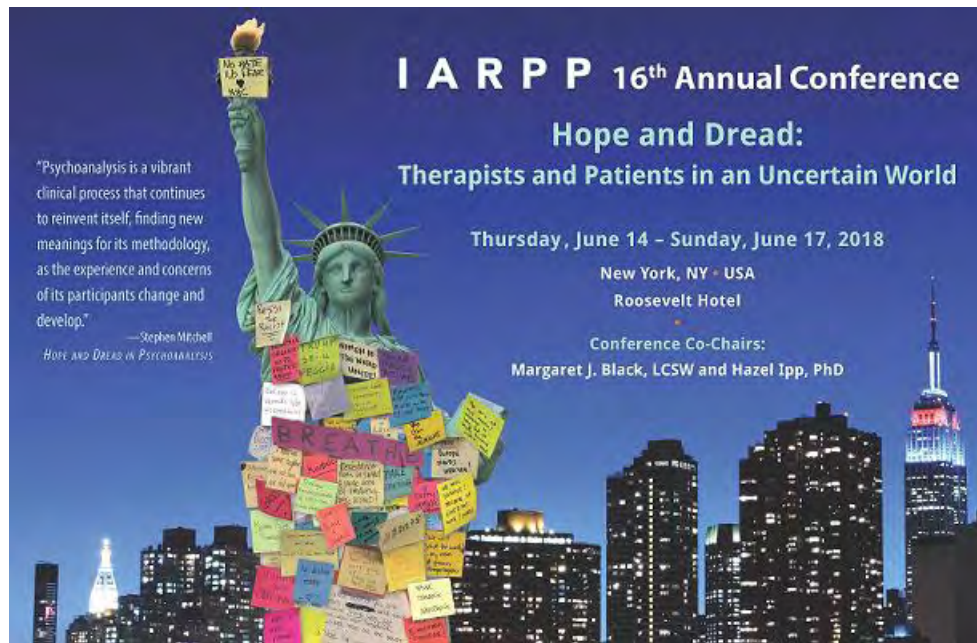
considering that “the patient's initial hopes (...) are fundamentally ambiguous and provide the potential for many different forms of organization.” In this way, Mitchell makes the concept more malleable, allowing “find opportunities for new growth embedded in old hopes, to see in the patient's hope a dialectical relationship between the static and familiar and the longing for something fuller and more rewarding.” Old renewed hopes that have to be rewritten in a new language, because the codes and languages that the patient knows are also representatives of deceit and failure. As Andrew Samuels (1986) puts it, “we have first to abandon all rules given by outside authorities when we start a treatment, and have to find, together with the patient, during the whole process of analysis, an analytical *vas* which may be built and rebuilt again and again and which can fit the needs of the patient as well as the needs of the analyst.”

This communication unfolds through the presentation of my experience with this patient, both intriguing and challenging. As a form of opening, a brief video will be screened about a group of Congolese women who have been raped by United Nations peacekeepers. The story of these girls, violated by the supposed protectors, intertwines in my mind with the story of my patient, who throughout her life has also suffered various forms of violence perpetrated by those who should have protected her.

### Learning Objectives:

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

1. Discern states that require welcoming as opposed to interpretive and reflective modes of treatment;
2. Describe aspects of the transference/countertransference with immigrant patients;
3. Explore disturbances in infant and adult experiences of unreliable authority.



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## **12. Immigration Trauma and the Analytic Relationship (continued)**

Speakers: Filipa Canelo Neves, MA Clin Psych, Portugal; Frances Dillon, MSW, USA; and Erik Fagerberg, MA, LCSW, Sweden

Discussant: Glenys Lobban, PhD, USA

Moderator: Helit Atar-Greenfield, PhD, USA

Abstract:

*Haunted by the colors of Shame and Guilt: Transcending ethnic and racial boundaries with the Other*

***Frances Dillon***

What place do social forces and cultural shifts of our global world have in psychoanalytic treatment between patient and analyst? This paper examines the importance of cultural differences and disparities embedded in our lives from childhood through adulthood and the possibility for the transformation of shame and guilt through a creative psychoanalytic framework. The author concludes that the analyst must take risks in addressing racial, power and privilege enactments and connect to the patient through the mutuality of shared experiences.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe the psychological phenomenon of emigration and its effect on the self and other inside and outside the consulting room;
2. Recognize how attending to one's individual history interacts with current social forces in real time;
3. Summarize how to recognize and utilize otherness in the transference/counter transference to facilitate treatment.



**Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**2:15 pm – 3:45 pm**

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## **12. Immigration Trauma and the Analytic Relationship (continued)**

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**Discussant:** Glenys Lobban, PhD, USA

**Moderator:** Helit Atar-Greenfield, PhD, USA

### **Abstract:**

*Schrodinger's cat and the importance of survival as vicarious victim*

### ***Erik Fagerberg***

In this paper, I reflect on the current political turmoil, following high numbers of refugees coming to Sweden. Under these circumstances, a right-wing party has risen from obscurity to attract one fifth of the voters and caused many of the other political parties to a more harsh policy towards refugees. This brings to mind the solidarity values of the seventies when many people who fled Pinochet's Chile found a secure place in Sweden, much without such controversy. I describe the case of M, a Chilean refugee, who came to therapy following a shift in her social role. After extreme torture during the military dictatorship in Chile, she talked about a part of her being like the cat in Schrodinger's paradox where quantum physics fail to tell if a cat, in a thought experiment, is dead or alive. Our work came to involve painful feelings in a shift from intellectual discussion of either or to a real relationship of mutuality. One of the dreads of M was if could stay well in this relationship, sharing her experience. I indeed came to feel bad but "survived", not without help from M. Winnicott's principle of staying alive and its relevance in today's relational theory is discussed.

### **Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Consider different forms of psychotherapy to meet the huge needs of many traumatized migrants;
2. Reflect on if Winnicott's concept of staying alive is relevant and part of relational thought;
3. Critique from an ethical point of view, the trouble of consent from the patient, before a case like this is presented.