

**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>                      3:45 pm – 5:15 pm                      Paper/Panel Session 5**

**2. Invited Candidates Panel: Hope and Dread: Becoming a Therapist in an Uncertain World**

**Speakers:**                      Fabio Bianchi, MA, Italy; Lissa Schaupp, LCSW, USA; Gilly Katz ben Sheffer MA, Israel; and Andrea Iturriaga Medrano, MA, Spain

**Discussant:**                      Francesca Colzani, PhD, Chile

**Moderator:**                      Hilary Offman, MD, Canada

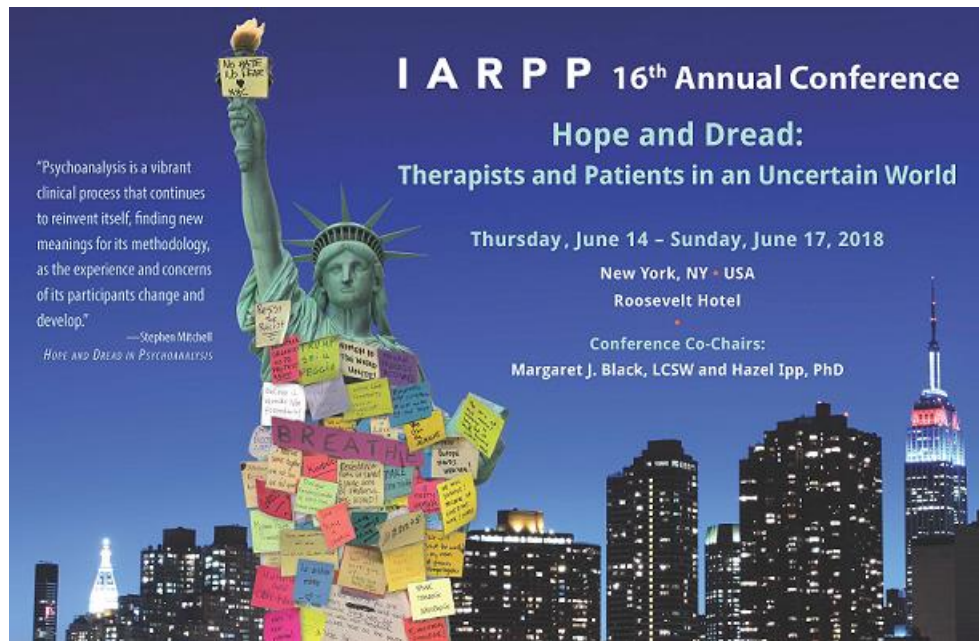
**Abstract:**

Relational psychoanalysis has encouraged us to embrace uncertainty in the clinical realm. But what happens when uncertainty in the world at large feels more destructive than constructive, or threatens to overwhelm us from without? For this panel, we were looking for papers that offer a clinical perspective on what it's like to be a candidate in training at a time of such widespread insecurity and accelerating geopolitical, technological, and ecological upheaval.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Be able to apply the concept of embracing uncertainty to the development of unique clinical perspectives;
2. Have learned new options for dealing with potentially overwhelming clinical moments;
3. Understand how sharing clinical material with colleagues can improve their sense of community and clinical security.



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

**3. Invited Panel: From Capitol to Consulting Room: On the Clinical Impact of Politically-induced Trauma**

Interlocutor/Presenter:

Steven Kuchuck, LCSW, USA

Presenters:

Margaret Crastnopol, PhD, USA and Eva Alejandra Plaza Espinosa, PhD, Mexico

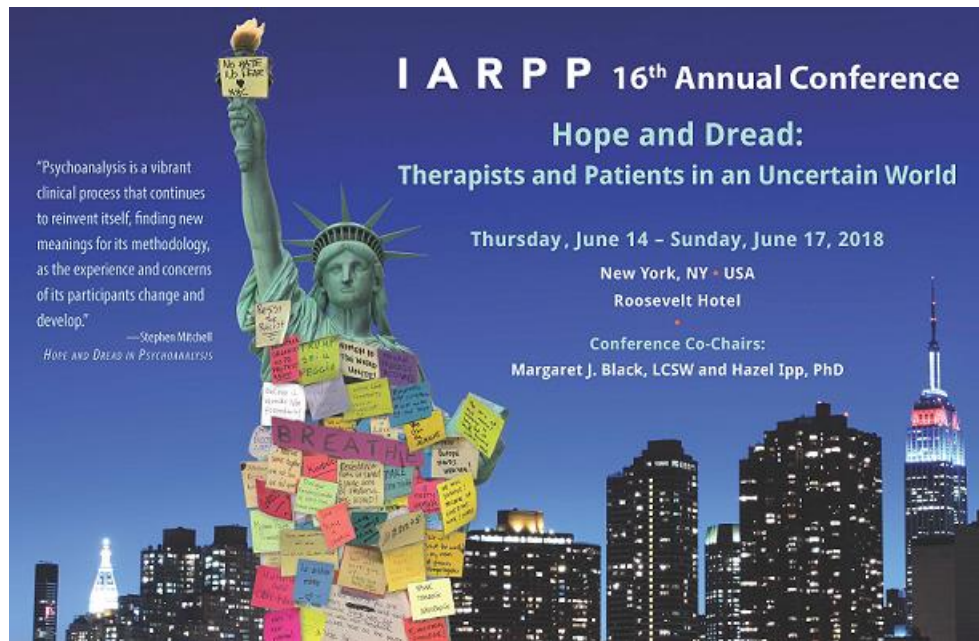
Abstract:

This invited panel will address the impact of the current United States political climate on patients and analysts within the United States and abroad. Alejandra Plaza Espinoza, who lives and practices in Mexico, will discuss the psychodynamic implications of the administration's threats and policies for her patients. Margaret Crastnopol, from the U.S., will consider the troubling resonance between the current president's arbitrary, authoritarian mode of leadership and the overly dictatorial internalized object relations within certain patients. Finally, Steven Kuchuck, also from the U.S., will present his work with a patient who directs an immigrant resettlement program that has been decimated, rekindling earlier losses and traumas for both patient and clinician. The panel will conclude with a brief discussion amongst the presenters followed by audience Q and A.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Accurately define the concept of "political trauma";
2. Give one clinical example of the impact of current or past political trauma on a patient;
3. Discuss how problematic aspects of the U.S. president's personality could unfavorably influence an individual's sense of healthy masculinity and maleness.



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

#### **4. Trump and His Supporters as Repudiated Other**

Speakers: Steven Botticelli, PhD, USA and Jill Gentile, PhD, USA  
Jill Gentile, PhD, USA

Discussant/Interlocutor: Matthew Steinfeld, PhD, USA and Steven Tublin, PhD, USA

Moderator: Robert Benedetti, PhD, USA

#### Abstract:

This panel, consisting of two papers to be followed by a roundtable discussion between the authors and two interlocutors, will take up the idea of Donald Trump and his supporters as “the other” within our generally liberal milieu of therapists and patients. . In psychotherapy the external other has come to serve as a useful model and metaphor for examining how patients relate to unwanted, seemingly unassimilable aspects of themselves. Much contemporary relational psychotherapy practice concerns itself with how we (as patients and therapists) relate to this “other,” generally taken to refer to members of socially marginalized groups. What does it mean when “the other” is the president of the United States and a good proportion of one’s white, nonminority fellow citizens?

Returning to psychoanalysis’s first other, woman, raises another series of questions in relation to the election results and its circulating affective currents of hope and dread, courage and fear, fear and loathing. If we take Freud’s assertion that the repudiation of femininity is implicated in analytic impasse, what might we listen for in the clinical encounter? In the public discourse? And how might we claim an expanded notion of what is at stake in encountering the other?

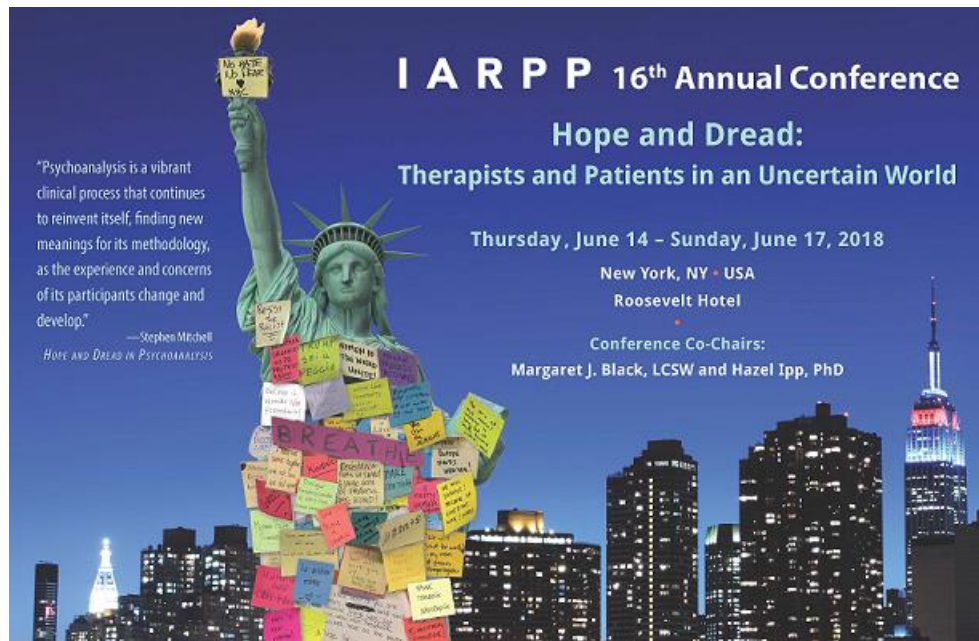
Participants include three senior analysts and an advanced candidate, all of whom have written and presented at the intersection of psychoanalysis and politics. The panel/roundtable takes up its theme from two distinct vantage points, which will be developed further through discussion among the four panelists and the audience.

#### Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe what makes consideration of “the other” an important aspect of contemporary relational psychotherapy practice;
2. Describe at least two ways that Trump and his supporters may serve as psychically useful “others” to liberal patients and therapists, and how we might understand this psychoanalytically;
3. Describe how the repudiation of the feminine might be relevant to understanding the election results and the political developments that have followed it.





Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm

Paper/Panel Session 5

## 5. Three Subjectivities with a Common Goal: The Intersectionality of Treatment, Culture, Gender, and Sexual Orientation

Speakers: David Elliot Koch, PhD, USA; Takeshi Yamasaki, MD, Japan; and Andrew Balu Ntsove, MD, MSc, Australia

Discussant: Heather Ferguson, LCSW, USA

Moderator: TBD

### Abstract:

Within the relational framework, three individuals in a complex matrix of identities and characteristics collaborate: two male / one female, two gay / one straight, two Japanese / one American, two clinicians / one patient - an invitation to triangulation, or an opportunity for collaboration? With the common goal of helping the patient to live a more fully realized life, with a greater sense of self this “triad” joined to experience together, the pain of marginalization, invisibility, otherness, and then eventually the obverse of these, as greater sensitivity, assurance and understanding was achieved.

### Learning Objectives:

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

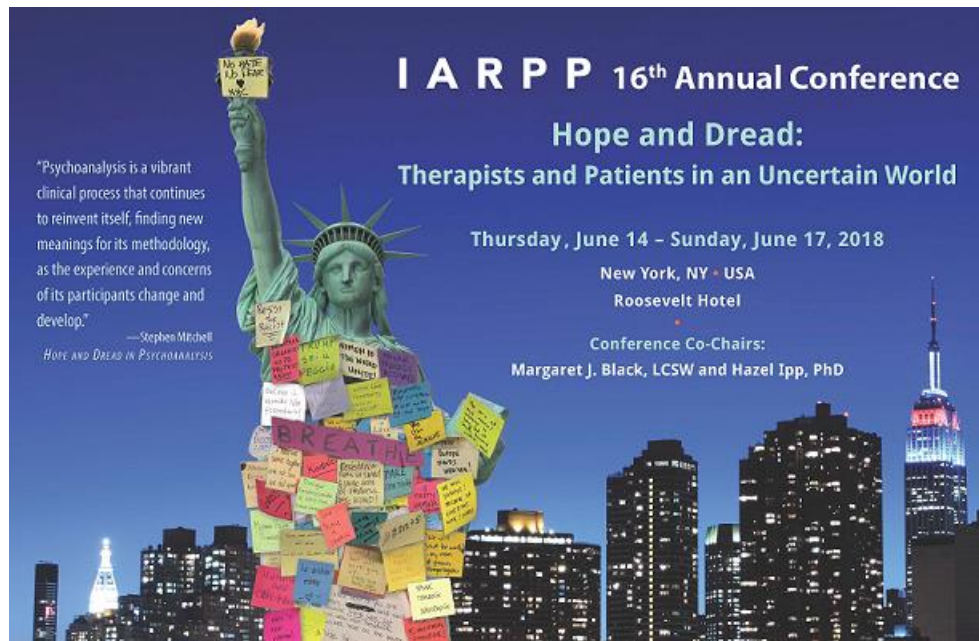
1. Analyze the challenges and opportunities of cross-cultural supervision;
2. Recognize how relational patterns of transference, countertransference, resistance and enactments affect the clinical relationship;
3. Assess how the differing subjectivities of gender, culture and sexual orientation between the patient, supervisee and supervisor affects the developing therapeutic alliance.

### Abstract:

*The Complexities of Black Race, Politics and Religion in the Othering of LGBTI People: A Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Perspective*

#### **Andrew Balu Ntsove**

Socio-ethno-political and religious systems are complex means through which same-sex attracted people are ostracised; and inarguably, are a challenge for psychotherapists in contemporary society. Such ways of othering do not only perpetuate attacks and hateful crimes towards same-sex attracted people but lead to complex intrapsychic existential conflict which often forms the reason to seek psychotherapy. Western based political systems have a lengthy history of contributing towards marginalisation of some communities on the basis of racial background. Colonialism in the African continent did not only racism and oppression of black African but also introduced new faith beliefs predominantly in the form of Christianity, as well as distortion of African indigenous culture and custom. In the African culture sexuality issues are often a secret and taboo subject. Although at times black African people argue that same-sex attractions are a European import,



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

### **5. Three Subjectivities with a Common Goal: The Intersectionality of Treatment, Culture, Gender, and Sexual Orientation (continued)**

**Speakers:** David Elliot Koch, PhD, USA; Takeshi Yamasaki, MD, Japan; and Andrew Balu Ntsowe, MD, MSc, Australia

**Discussant:** Heather Ferguson, LCSW, USA

**Moderator:** TBD

**Abstract:**

*The Complexities of Black Race, Politics and Religion in the Othering of LGBTI People: A Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Perspective*

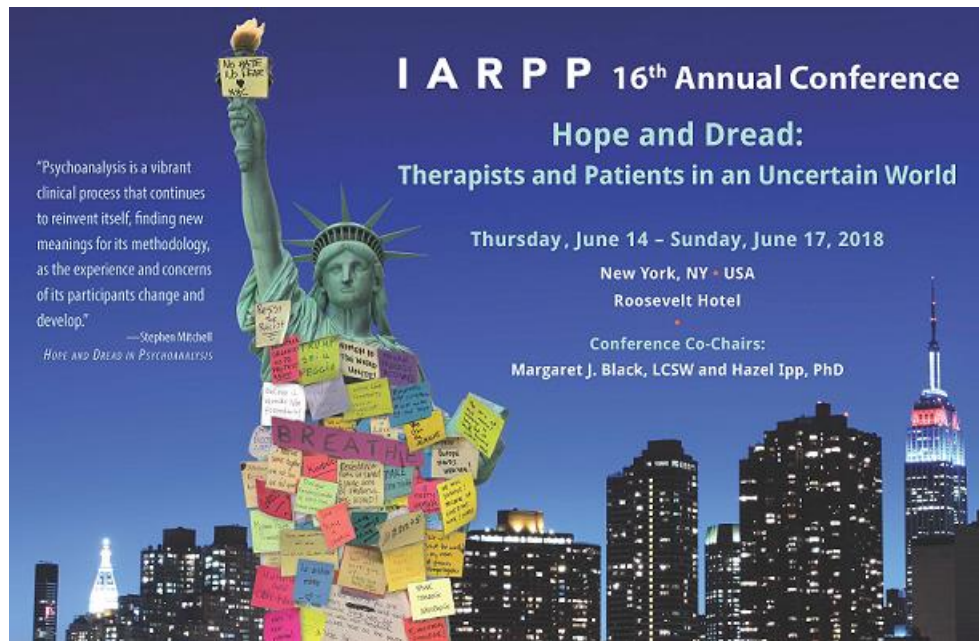
#### **Andrew Balu Ntsowe**

same-sex relations historically pre-existed European colonisation. Also, original African faith beliefs and politics followed traditional socio-cultural constructs different from western ideologies. This paper argues that European cultural expression of sexuality is colonial import to the African society, and same-sex attractions are not. In addition to this argument, the introduction of western culture and politics, racial discrimination, and religion negatively impacted on pre-existing African beliefs about sexuality and sexual orientation which in turn led to homophobia, relational psychic conflict and psychotrauma. The paper also discusses the challenge that faces contemporary psychotherapy culture in working with complex issues of race, sexual orientation and religion within controversial political systems. The complexities of psychotherapists own culture, race, sexual orientation and religion in the therapeutic field with their patients are addressed and recognised as not only points of potential difficulties in therapy but also as important points of therapeutic focus. The paper also addresses to a limited extent, the challenges of psychotherapy as a sensitive “imported European concept” with a potential to cause relational tensions when working with black African patients. Psychotherapy with individuals who experience othering on the basis of such factors involves addressing the complex relational trauma that plays out in the therapeutic relational field. The paper specifically addresses the difficulties experienced by same-sex attracted people of African black people who also belong to some form of faith belief. The complex relational difficulties of being unaccepted for biopsychosocial existential issues upon which one has no control marks the psychopathological factors experienced by such individuals. Psychoanalysis as a foreign concept for black Africans runs the risk of being unaccepted and ostracised as a European concept with no place in the African customs together with LGBTI issues. The bidirectional relational tensions between Western and African therapists or patients in psychotherapy create a challenge. The paper further highlights the role of contemporary psychotherapy in bridging the racial-sexual orientation-faith belief gaps in order to provide hope and harmony for the black same-sex attracted individual.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Discuss othering of same-sex people on the basis of sociocultural constructs, religious beliefs, racial and ethnic background, and socio-political constructs;
2. Highlight Western or European influence on Black African societies on the construction of marginalising ideologies of same-sex attractions;
3. Discuss the role of contemporary psychoanalysis and complex psychoanalytic dynamics in psychotherapeutic environments comprising the above issues.



Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm

Paper/Panel Session 5

## 6. The Enigma of Analytic Time: Uncertain Horizons of the Treatment Relationship

Speakers: Elizabeth Corpt, MSW, LICSW, USA; Peter Shabad, PhD, USA; and Steven Stern, PsyD, USA

Discussant: Stuart Pizer, PhD, ABPP, USA

Moderator: Cynthia Manson, MSW, USA

### Abstract:

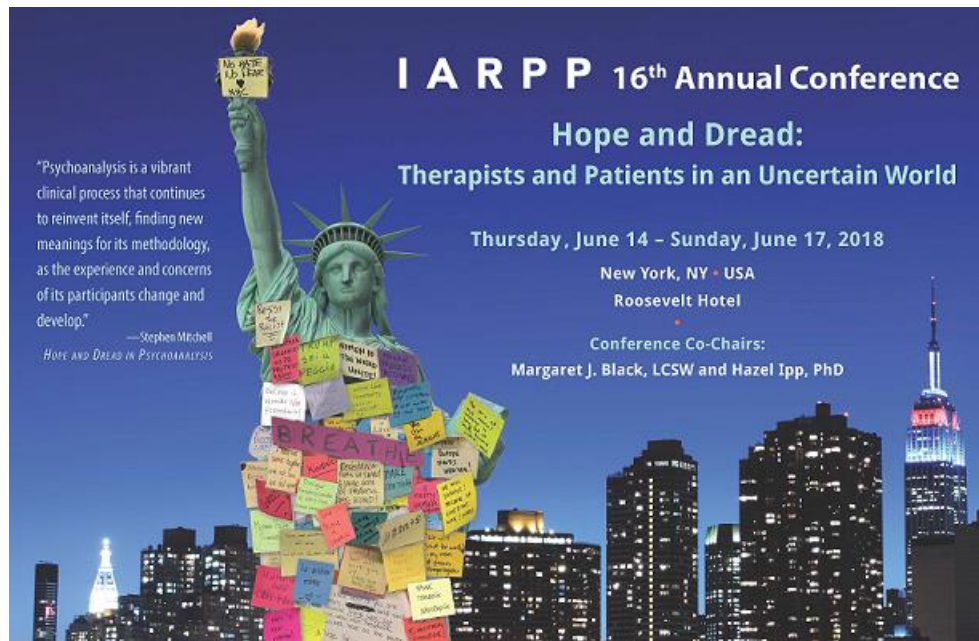
This panel addresses the unpredictable ways in which the issue of time plays itself out within the intersubjective relationship between analyst and analysand. The panel's presenters examine how the paradoxical interweaving of the professional and personal in the treatment relationship unfold into the future in uncertain ways.

### Learning Objectives:

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

1. Explain the between resistance and insistence with regard to the patient's private sense of time;
2. Describe how the paradoxes involved in "mutual analytic adoption" relationships play themselves out in analytic time;
3. Describe how the treatment relationship helps patients persevere through the leap from anticipatory hope into the uncertainty of lived future experiences.





**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

**7. Uncertain Voices in an Uncertain World: Three “Othered” Psychoanalytic Voices Address Immigrant Xenophobia, Historical Racial Trauma, and “White Fragility”**

**Speakers:** Daniel Gaztambide, PsyD, USA; George Bermudez, PhD, PsyD, USA; and Ruth Lijtmaer, PhD, USA

**Discussant:** Cathy Hicks, PhD, Australia

**Moderator:** Amalia Rivera, MA, Mexico

**Abstract:**

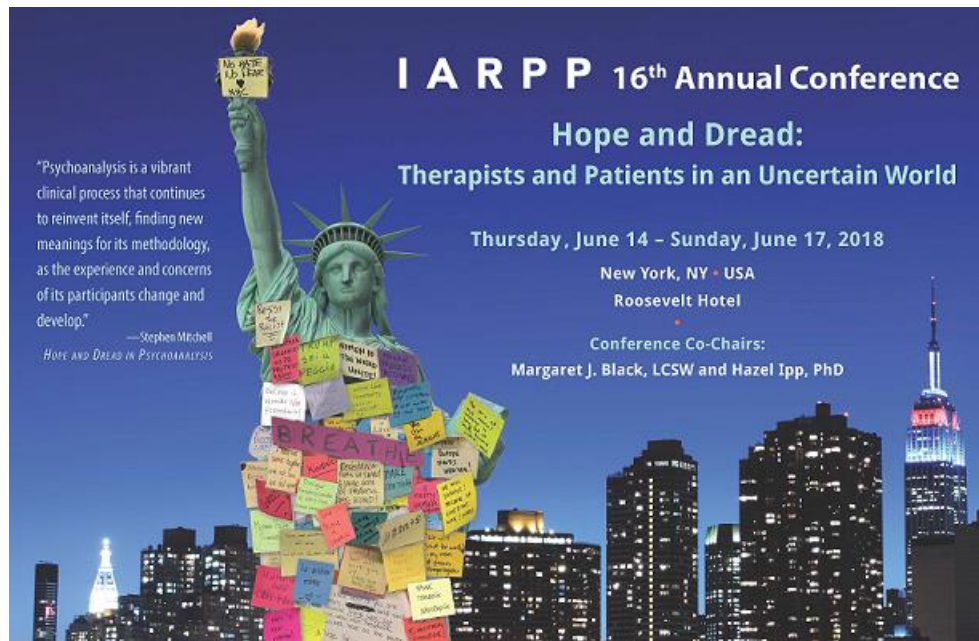
Bion asserted that the analytic dyad was a 'pair' inextricably but ambivalently linked to group life and the group (social) unconscious. Without full awareness of the social unconscious, the analytic pair runs the risk of unreflectively enacting dissociated socio-political dynamics. Social Dreaming, developed by Gordon Lawrence at London's Tavistock Clinic, holds much promise for accessing what several analysts have referred to as the 'ethnic or racial unconscious' and more broadly the socio-political unconscious.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Define three social dreaming concepts;
2. Describe the links between the social unconscious, social dreaming, and moral witnessing;
3. Explain how the “social dreaming” paradigm may facilitate awareness of the impact of the socio-political unconscious on the analytic pair.





**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

## **8. The Therapeutic Relationship as an Anchor in Uncertain Times**

**Speakers:** Jeremy Safran, PhD, USA and Sigal Zilcha-Mano, PhD, Israel

**Discussant:** Sharon Ziv-Beiman, PhD, Israel

**Moderator:** Graca Galamba, MA, Portugal

### Abstract:

In this panel we will explore some of the empirical evidence relevant to essential and central relational claim that the intersubjective-interpersonal therapeutic dyad is both therapeutic by itself and crucial for enabling therapeutic processes which are activated by range of therapeutic interventions (such as insight by interpretation and cognitive challenging ; re-conditioning by reinforcing chosen behaviors; meaning creation through existential exploration). -

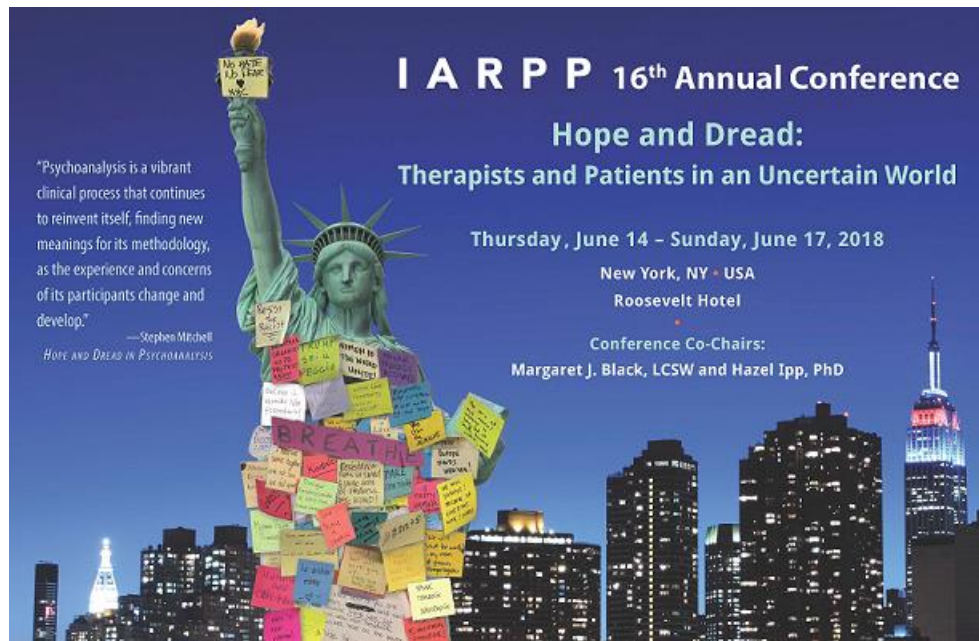
The panel will be opened by a theoretical and contextual review by Sharon Ziv-Beiman of the relational conceptualization of the therapeutic relationship as the most promising and crucial aspect of the therapeutic process. Then, Sigal Zilcha-Mano will present a review of the research literature investigating whether the therapeutic alliance functions as a prerequisite for change, a mechanism of change or both. Then, Jeremy Safran will review empirical evidence relevant to rupture and repair episodes in the therapeutic relationship as a central mechanism of change.

Sharon Ziv-Beiman will then discuss and demonstrate the implications of these theoretical ideas and research findings using clinical illustrations.

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Become familiar with the conceptualization of the therapeutic relationship as multi-dimensional intersubjective endeavor that serves both as arena of and context for therapeutic change, while using the dialectical ongoing tension between figure and background as metaphor to articulate the optimal equilibrium between these two aspects of the relational exchange in psychotherapy;
2. Question – if and through which mechanisms is the relationship therapeutic in light of research findings regarding the contributions of the therapeutic alliance to therapy outcomes, with focus on processes of rupture and repair;
3. Question the suggested conceptualization of the therapeutic relationship as both arena of change and as context for change and therefor serves as a therapeutic anchor in uncertain times in light of research findings and will inquire the clinical implications of the suggested thesis.



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

## **9. Building Relational Intimacy in the Face of “Negative Emotions”**

**Speakers:** Alessandro Riva, PhD, Italy; Diane Barth, LCSW, USA; and Terence Teh, MMedSc, BMedSc, Australia

**Discussant:** Rose Gupta, PsyD, USA

**Moderator:** Maria Tammone, PsyD, Italy

### Abstract:

*Walking on a wire: can we rebuild bridges of relational intimacy burned by desperation or hate?*

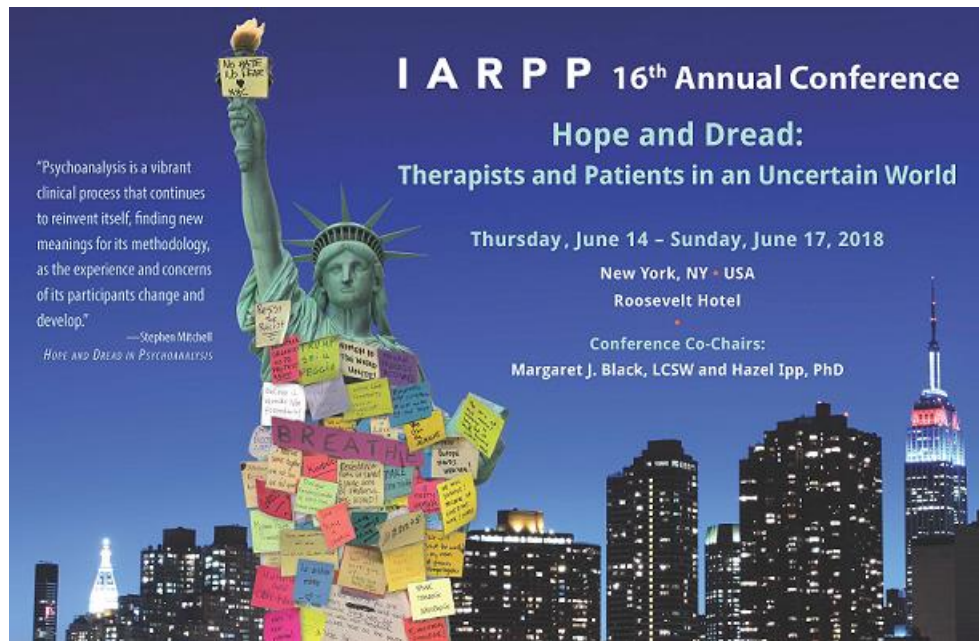
#### **Alessandro Riva**

In the context of the historical moment we are living, where terrorism fueled by religious fanaticism has opened a deep breach in our collective perception of security, this paper addresses the difficulties encountered working with patients whose adverseness – anger, hate, contempt – play a central role both to preserve a sense of self-cohesion and to avoid the risk of re-traumatization, which opening up to hope again would entail. Patients like Tom who embodies well the most common reactions to the sense of dismay that has pervaded our society in the wake of terrorist attacks: the dogged need for certainties, for establishing a clear distinction between friends and enemies, intolerance towards otherness and the rigid dissociation of vulnerability, fragility and dependency. Working with these patients is necessary to run the risk of engaging in a relationship that is as open as possible to improvisation, play and humor attempting to open up spaces of emotional sharing and recognition. In order to rebuild affective bridges, a relational intimacy that appears to have been completely damaged by hatred and contempt.

### Learning Objectives:

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

1. Understand, from a clinical standpoint, the defensive function of adverse emotions – anger, hate, contempt – in maintaining a sense of self-cohesion and preventing further traumatic dysregulation;
2. Understand how, in order to get past “doer and done to” type interactions, which are easily triggered with highly aversive patients, one must run the risk of engaging, in a controlled manner, in a relationship that is as open as possible to spontaneity and surprise;
3. Highlight the clinical effectiveness of improvisation, play and humor in order to open up spaces of emotional sharing and recognition in the therapeutic relationship.



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

**9. Building Relational Intimacy in the Face of “Negative Emotions”  
(continued)**

**Speakers:** Alessandro Riva, PhD, Italy; Diane Barth, LCSW, USA; and Terence Teh, MMedSc, BMedSc, Australia  
**Discussant:** Rose Gupta, PsyD, USA  
**Moderator:** Maria Tammone, PsyD, Italy

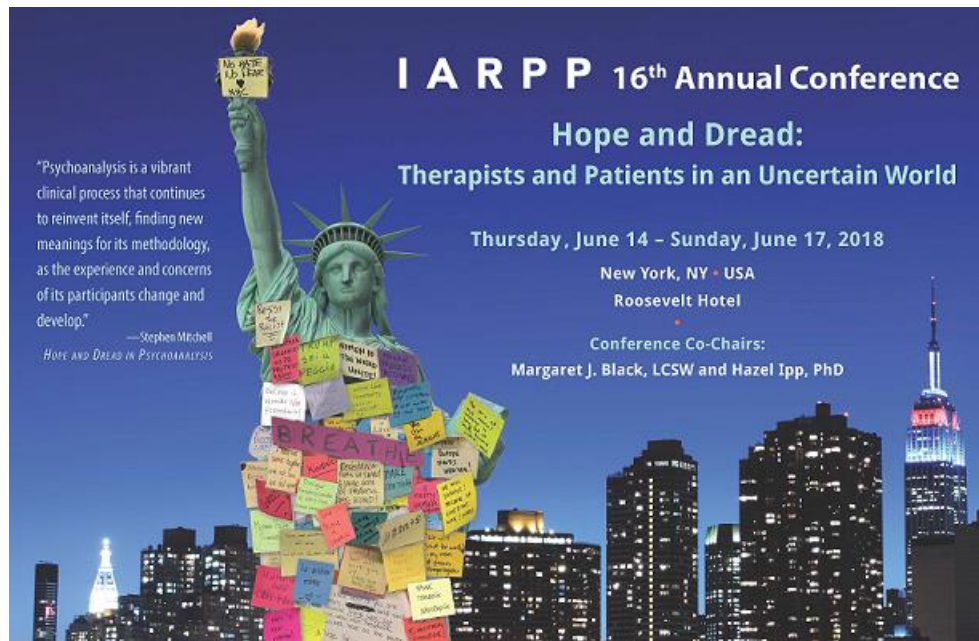
**Abstract:**

*But Women are Supposed to Have Deep Emotional Ties to Close Friends: Understanding Myths about Women’s Friendships and their Impact on the Uncertain Relational World of Real Life*

***Diane Barth***

There is a widespread belief that women have deep, meaningful, and emotionally rich friendships, and that this ability is an innate aspect of the female psyche. Research (e.g. Hospital and Rose, 2017) has shown that friendships can help women cope better with the uncertainties and frightening realities of life in the most difficult circumstances; yet, as Eichenbaum and Orbach (2014) write, idealization of the loving, supportive, and mutually beneficial aspects of these relationships can lead us to neglect many other important and common aspects of friendship, including envy, competition, and cruelty. Hurt, anger, guilt, and sorrow are also part of women’s friendships, but these painful emotions are frequently ignored, suppressed, or acted out without conscious awareness or understanding. In a relationally-oriented psychoanalysis with a woman, friendship may be left out of the therapeutic discussion for several reasons, including that both analyst and analysand take the myth for granted; or because an analysand’s friendships work quietly in the background, supporting the therapeutic process; or, if both participants are women, because one or both are ashamed of their own failure to live up to societal and personal expectations about women’s friendships. Further resistance to the topic may stem from unspoken wishes, hopes, and fears about the possibility of a friendship emerging between the therapeutic pair. Yet not talking about issues related to women analysands’ friendships can rob therapeutic work of an important, perhaps even crucial element. Opening this material up for psychodynamic exploration, on the other hand, can enrich many other aspects of the work and help women begin to find more meaningful support and realistic connections to other women in their lives, which can help them deal with the uncertainties and





**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

**9. Building Relational Intimacy in the Face of “Negative Emotions”  
(continued)**

**Speakers:** Alessandro Riva, PhD, Italy; Diane Barth, LCSW, USA; and Terence Teh, MMedSc, BMedSc, Australia  
**Discussant:** Rose Gupta, PsyD, USA  
**Moderator:** Maria Tammone, PsyD, Italy

**Abstract:**

*But Women are Supposed to Have Deep Emotional Ties to Close Friends: Understanding Myths about Women’s Friendships and their Impact on the Uncertain Relational World of Real Life - continued*

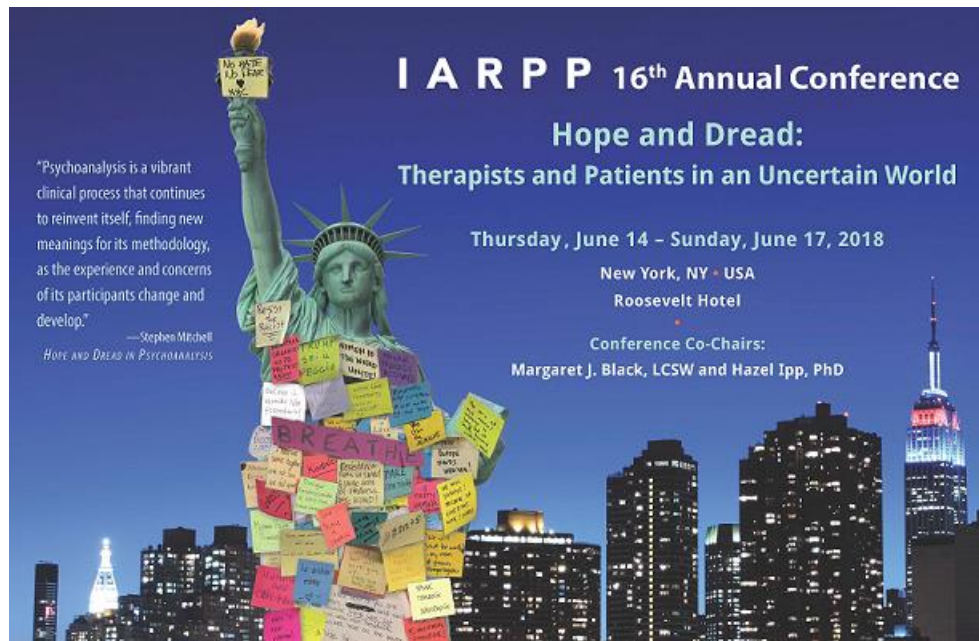
**Diane Barth**

anxieties not only in their personal lives, but in the stressful, frightening world as it is today. Theory, clinical material, and research data will be used to open up a discussion about the importance of and resistances to exploring questions about friendship in relationally-oriented psychoanalysis with women analysands. Participants are encouraged to bring questions, thoughts, and examples from their own work.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Describe and recognize the significance of a woman analysand’s friendships;
2. Be more comfortable analyzing resistance to and assessing anxiety about bringing issues related to friendship into a therapeutic discussion, on the part of both analyst and analysand;
3. Begin to apply relationally-oriented psychodynamic understanding to an analytic exploration of fantasies, longings, and fears about friendships.



Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm

Paper/Panel Session 5

## 9. Building Relational Intimacy in the Face of “Negative Emotions” (continued)

Speakers: Alessandro Riva, PhD, Italy; Diane Barth, LCSW, USA; and Terence Teh, MMedSc, BMedSc, Australia

Discussant: Rose Gupta, PsyD, USA

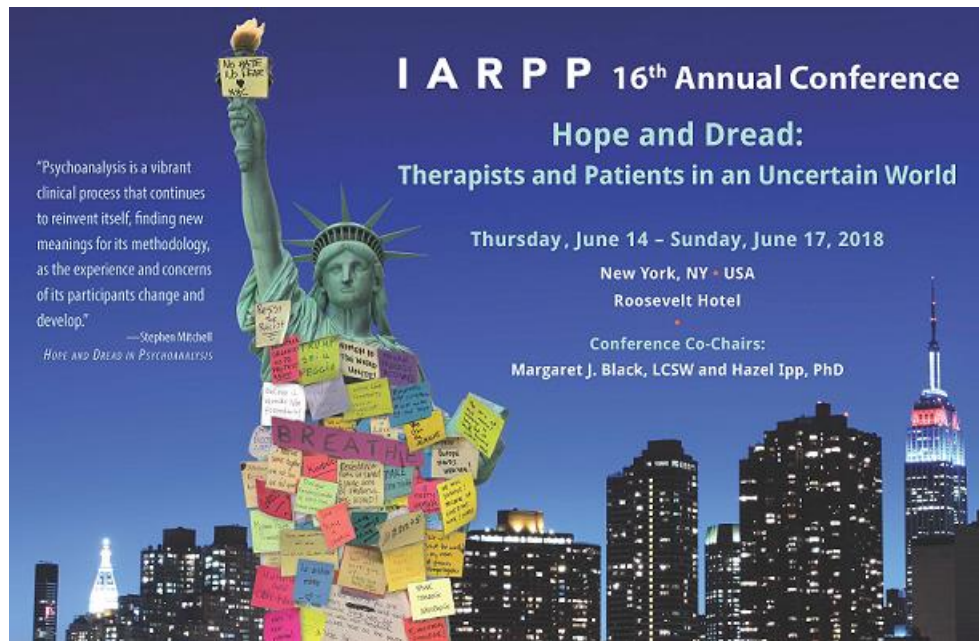
Moderator: Maria Tammone, PsyD, Italy

### Abstract:

*Our Fledgling Selves and the Threat of Annihilation : Growth of a Survivor and her Survivor-Therapist out of Complex Trauma*

### ***Terence Teh***

The human self naturally seeks to grow to its full potential and the primary means of this growth is in relationship with fellow human beings. However, trauma of all varieties, be they natural or man-made disasters or a myriad of types of interpersonal violence, continually threaten to extinguish or stunt the development of personal being. In this uncertain world, and particularly for many Survivors of complex trauma, it can feel as if annihilation is just around the corner. In this paper, I document the dogged growth of one such Survivor, Melissa (pseudonym), a professional woman in her forties, who managed to eke out islands of high functioning despite multiple traumatic factors starting from birth. These factors included a traumatogenic adopted mother, childhood sexual assault, schizophrenic brother, and an abusive marriage lasting over a decade. Melissa grew up in a milieu of dread and accommodation to dread, which only increased over during her marriage. Her pathological accommodation was exploited by her husband, who pushed her into a sadomasochistic lifestyle. Melissa’s depression, parasitic sense of emptiness, and chronic deliberate self-harm were symptomatic of her stunted sense of self. My work with Melissa began after she initiated separation from her husband, which sadly led to a further deterioration in her sense of self. Melissa developed a therapeutic relationship with me, a Survivor-Therapist with my own history of complex trauma, over an ongoing therapy spanning six years. This therapy used the principles of the Conversational Model developed by Meares and Hobson to nurture the growth of self and recover from trauma. I aim to describe how pathological accommodation and sadomasochism interacted in Melissa’s case with regard to the maintenance of dysfunctional attachments and their impact on her sense of self. These processes also contributed substantially to her deliberate self-harm which had a self-punitive character. I explore our cotransference within the bidirectional transference field as a Survivor and



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

**9. Building Relational Intimacy in the Face of “Negative Emotions”  
(continued)**

**Speakers:** Alessandro Riva, PhD, Italy; Diane Barth, LCSW, USA; and Terence Teh, MMedSc, BMedSc, Australia  
**Discussant:** Rose Gupta, PsyD, USA  
**Moderator:** Maria Tammone, PsyD, Italy

**Abstract:**

*Our Fledgling Selves and the Threat of Annihilation: Growth of a Survivor and her Survivor-Therapist out of Complex Trauma - continued*

**Terence Teh**

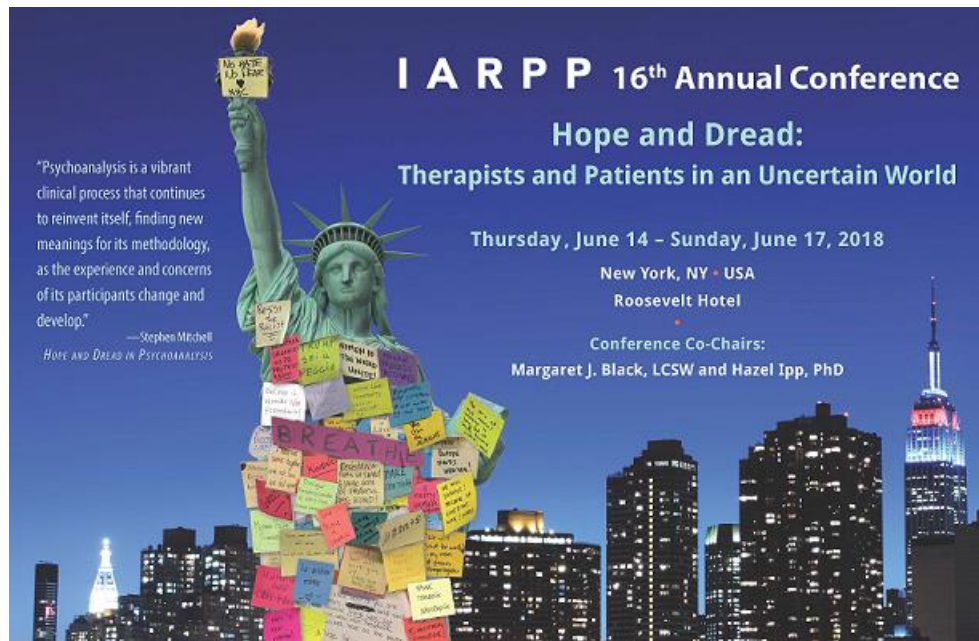
Survivor-Therapist dyad, how dread was experienced by both of us, and how we managed to negotiate this dread. Melissa’s therapy has progressed through three phases so far: a traumatic and traumatising phase; a phase of desired merger with me, which in itself was associated with a different type of dread; and a phase of twinship and growth of self. I explore how our cotransference changed through these phases, including the management of pathological accommodation and sadomasochistic urges. I describe associated parallel processes that I experienced as a Survivor-Therapist both in myself and in my relationship with my supervisor. I describe how I experienced and negotiated vicarious trauma in my work with Melissa and how this affected our therapy. I outline some potential benefits and pitfalls of being a Survivor-Therapist engaged in this type of work.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Explain pathological accommodation and its interaction with sadomasochism in the maintenance of dysfunctional attachments;
2. Describe cotransference issues within a Survivor and Survivor-Therapist dyad;
3. Detect and manage vicarious trauma in therapy.





**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

## **10. Gender and the Body**

**Speakers:** Sandra Hershberg, MD, USA and Robin Young, PhD, USA  
**Discussant:** Marsha Hewitt, PhD, Canada  
**Moderator:** Mimi Spiro, LCSW, USA

### Abstract:

*The Female Gaze in/on the Female Body in Art and Psychoanalysis: The Case of Paula Modersohn-Becker and Epistemic Injustice*

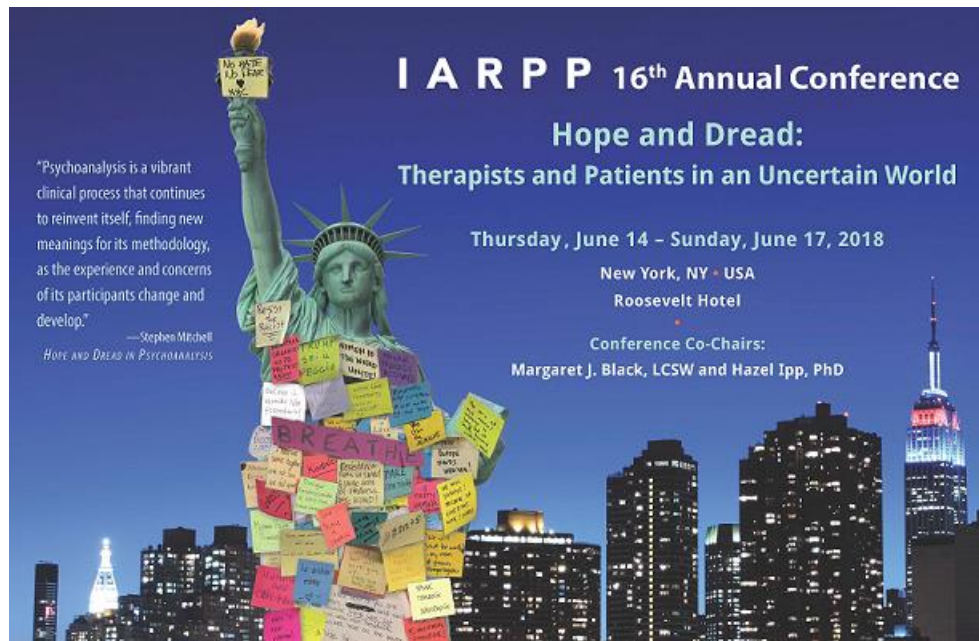
### **Sandra Hershberg**

The work of artist Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876-1807) who in 1905-07, painted her body and those of mothers and babies in the nude, defied centuries of representations of idealized female nudes and nudes painted through the male gaze. It was a remarkable achievement. While she was painting in a mode congruent with what would become the leading edge of modern art, she refused to yield to the pressures of the traditional art establishment at the time, to erase her own subjective knowledge of her body, as no woman artist had painted her own procreative body until that moment. I will discuss the significance of this achievement from the perspective of psychoanalytic theory (contributions of Balsam, Benjamin, Chodorow, Harris) related to women artists representing their procreative bodies in art and the philosophical concept of *epistemic injustice* (Fricker; 2007). This undergirding philosophical notion provides additional understanding of the way prejudicial treatment impacts “the injustice that a speaker suffers in receiving deflated credibility from the hearer owing to identity prejudice on the hearer’s part” and impinges on the way such knowledge is disseminated and can be invalidated in the public discourse.

### Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe the development of artist Paula Modersohn-Becker and her unique vision and subjectivity in depicting her nude body and that of mothers and babies;
2. Describe the relationship between the work of Paula Modersohn-Becker and the gap in psychoanalytic theory regarding the procreative female body;
3. Describe the philosophical concept of epistemic injustice.



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

### **10. Gender and the Body (continued)**

**Speakers:** Sandra Hershberg, MD, USA and Robin Young, PhD, USA  
**Discussant:** Marsha Hewitt, PhD, Canada  
**Moderator:** Mimi Spiro, LCSW, USA

**Abstract:**

*Dread of the Female Body in Psychoanalysis*

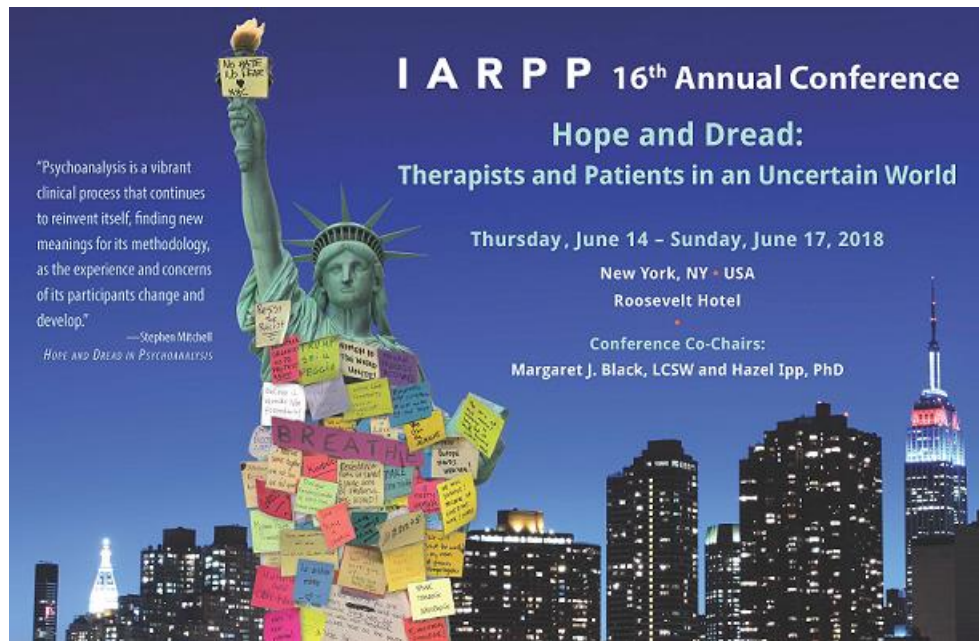
**Robin Young**

This is the story of my professional journey from a one-person psychology to a two-person psychology. I spent more than 30 years practicing psychoanalysis within a conflict model. Repeated iatrogenic responses to clinical treatment with female patients compelled me to question what I was doing. On my journey to begin to understand this I conducted an exploratory qualitative research study of psychoanalysts self-defined as working within a conflict model (or one-person model). I chose the revised theories of female development to explore with them. Their not knowing and/or not remembering these theories led to the profound conclusion that within this one-person model of psychology is an inherent ‘dread of the female body’. I use 2 clinical vignettes of the same patient to illustrate. The first vignette is of her ‘classical’ or one-person model psychoanalysis. The second vignette is of her analysis in a two-person Relational model of psychoanalysis.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Describe how the one-person model contributed to a ‘dread’ of the female body as exemplified in the recursive pattern of remembering and losing the female body in psychoanalytic theory;
2. Critique clinically the problems within the one-person model of psychoanalysis that emphasizes drives has contributed to this;
3. Describe clinically how the two-person psychology of the Relational School of psychoanalysis with its emphasis on affect regulation and recognition has helped eliminate this problem.



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>                      3:45 pm – 5:15 pm                      Paper/Panel Session 5**

**11. Looking at Our “Whiteness” in the Current Sociopolitical Context**

**Speakers:** Karen Weisbard, PsyD, USA; Julie Leavitt, MD, USA; and Joyce Block, PhD, USA  
**Discussant:** Warren Spielberg, PhD, USA  
**Moderator:** Joyce Klein, MSW, USA

**Abstract:**  
*Hineni- Here I Am: A Personal Awakening and Clinical Experience with Whiteness, Police Violence, and Family Relations*

***Karen Weisbard***

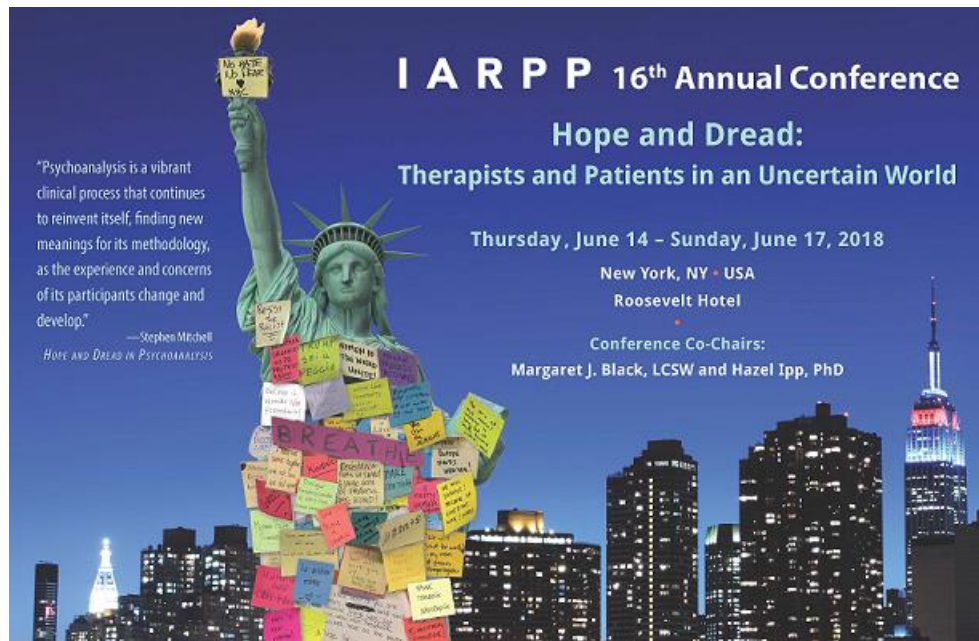
“Hineni – Here I am” are the words Abraham speaks when he is called by God to sacrifice his son Isaac. In this paper I will use the Torah portion, Akedah (the binding of Isaac), to further our understanding of race in our nation. Reform Jewish teachings on vulnerability, justice, acts of loving-kindness, and the change process interplay with relational psychoanalytic concepts of complicitness, repair, and self-reflection. My clinical case, of a white liberal wife and her white liberal policeman husband in our current world of police brutality toward black men and women, will allow entry into these dreaded and hopeful places.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Learn the Torah portion, Akedah (the binding of Isaac), and its significance for current issues on race;
2. Better understand what whiteness in our nation currently means and entails, and have a better understanding of the concept of sacrifice;
3. Be able to apply the issues of complicity, identifications, and repair in the clinical case presentation to their own work, and have a better understanding of these concepts in both relational psychoanalysis and Reform Judaism.





**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Paper/Panel Session 5**

**11. Looking at Our “Whiteness” in the Current Sociopolitical Context  
(continued)**

Speakers: Karen Weisbard, PsyD, USA; Julie Leavitt, MD, USA; and Joyce Block, PhD, USA

Discussant: Warren Spielberg, PhD, USA

Moderator: Joyce Klein, MSW, USA

Abstract:

*Transformations in Whiteness: Breaking Through Racial Hallucinosi*

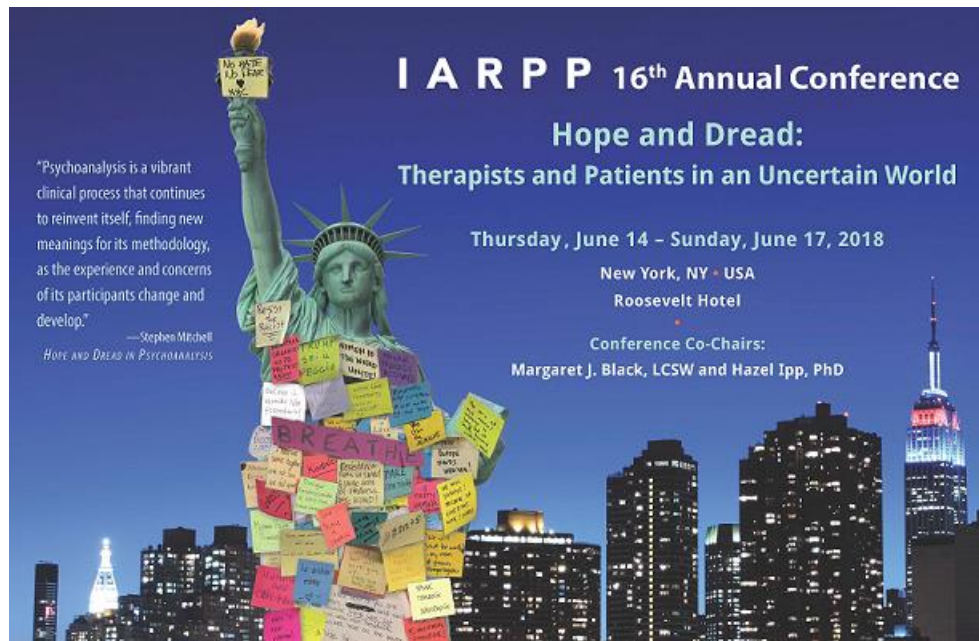
**Julie Leavitt**

Beginning with the overarching psycho-social racial project of “white supremacy,” this paper weaves thinking from psychoanalysis as well as critical/cultural theory, race theory, geography and philosophy to address the importance for whites to form language and sites for speaking and critiquing our “whiteness.” I will move from U.S. society at large to the psychoanalytic communities in which we dwell and work, imagining ways to practically confront white blindness in institutional pedagogy and life, as well as in our consulting rooms.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Conceptually and practically analyze “whiteness” as an identification that may find its way into consciousness through community efforts to speak about and decipher the impacts of whiteness simultaneously by and on whites themselves;
2. Demonstrate applications of new forms of language to bring “whiteness” as a race and a racial project into awareness for definition and critique;
3. Apply cultural queries of “whiteness” to psychoanalytic practice, not just through work with people of color, but between white analyst and patient, in which racial identifications regarding whiteness can enter the field to reveal layers of inter-psychical identification, dis-identification and meaning.



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>                      3:45 pm – 5:15 pm                      Paper/Panel Session 5**

**11. Looking at Our “Whiteness” in the Current Sociopolitical Context  
(continued)**

**Speakers:** Karen Weisbard, PsyD, USA; Julie Leavitt, MD, USA; and Joyce Block, PhD, USA

**Discussant:** Warren Spielberg, PhD, USA

**Moderator:** Joyce Klein, MSW, USA

**Abstract:**

*Checking our IDs at the Door: Aspirations for Mutuality Against the Backdrop of Racism and Cultural Appropriation*

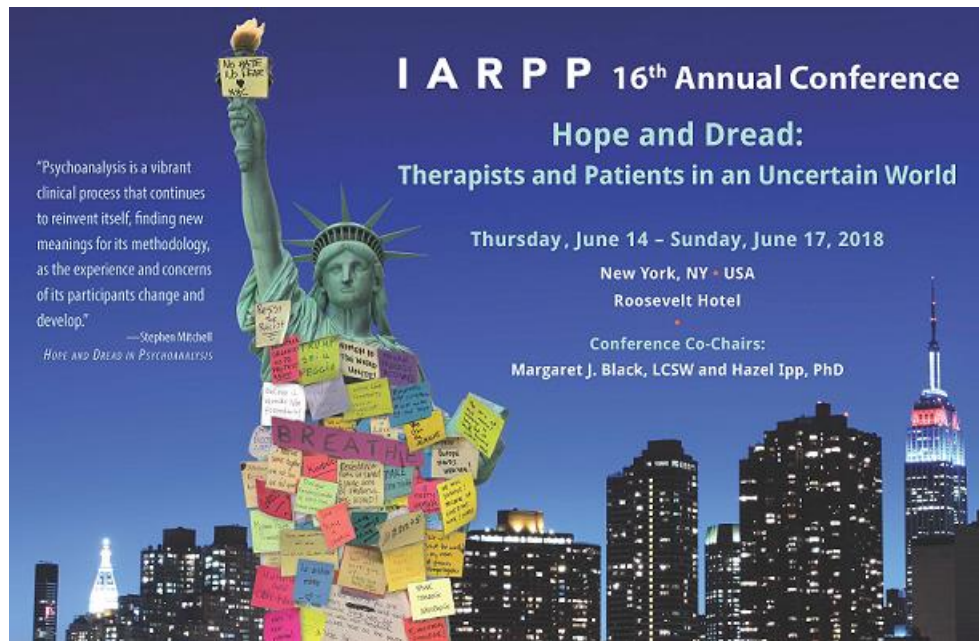
**Joyce Block**

When a black middle aged man says to his white therapist of eighteen years “I’m tired of having to show my ID all the time,” this is both a literal and metaphoric statement about his languishing desire for, and shame-inflected fear of, recognition, within a world polarized between the Us who belong and the Them (of whom he is one) who are guilty for not belonging, unless proven otherwise. Against the backdrop of the contemporary American landscape, that includes racism, violence, mutual suspicion and its denial, as well as the inter-generationally transmitted history of slavery and Jim Crow, this paper will examine how the psychotherapeutic relationship is simultaneously healing and disruptive, as it stands in contradiction to the idealization of invulnerability and invisibility that is constitutive of this black man’s self-respect and identity. Heightened moments of intimacy, impasses and shared, unarticulated wishes to be the exceptional Other, are all part of the therapeutic mix. When the binary of past and present breaks down, other binaries - - black versus white - - move in to occupy the spaces. Love, influence, and “unbidden” connection between the patient and therapist introduce the danger of “cultural appropriation.” As the boundaries of trust shift, and old ID’s are “checked at the door,” the future remains uncertain.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. To explain how the contemporary political and cultural landscape, that includes racism, violence, and systemically maintained hierarchical relationships reverberates with the inter-generationally transmitted trauma of slavery and Jim Crow to provide ample blood for the ghosts of the past to feed upon;
2. To contrast the culture of relational theory and practice with the normative culture outside the therapy office, and explain how this potentially creates a new binary (Us and Them) that challenges the therapist’s and patient’s efforts to tolerate and even recognize difference;
3. To describe the origins of therapeutic impasses with reference to aspirations to exceptionalism and “racial melancholia” that patient and therapist share, and by extension identify reasons for ambivalence about mutual recognition.



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>                      3:45 pm – 5:15 pm                      Paper/Panel Session 5**

**12. Communication on the Telephone, Computer, and in Real Life: The Impact on Relationships and Treatment**

**Speakers:**                      Julia Davies, PhD, USA; Dan Friedlander, MA, Israel; and Juliet Heeg, LCSW, USA

**Discussant:**                      Sarah Mendelsohn, LCSW, USA

**Moderator:**                      Tanya Leach, JD, USA

**Abstract:**

*Connected Solitudes: Unique Qualities of Therapy by Telephone*

**Julia Davies**

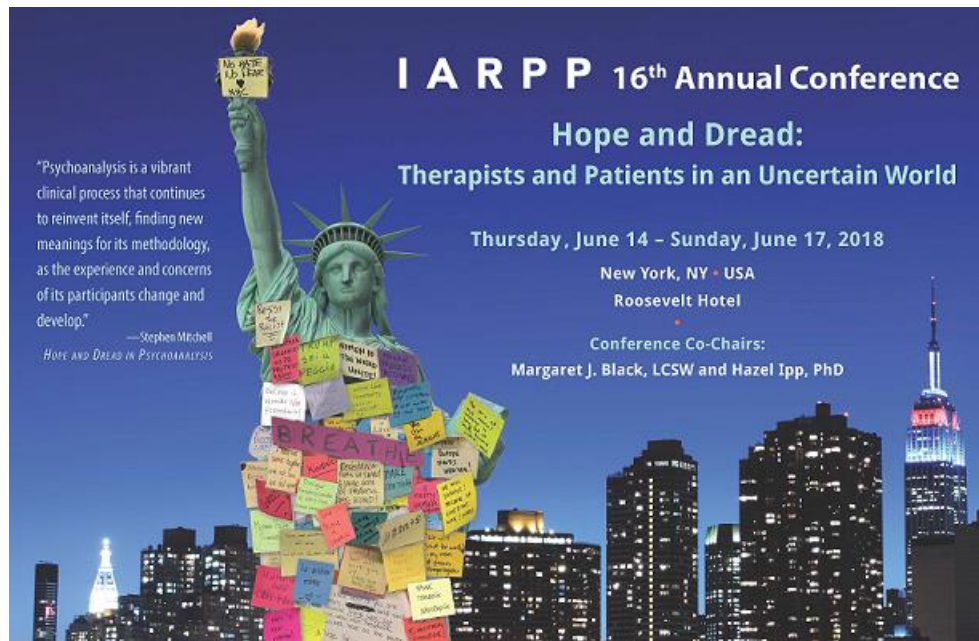
In this paper I discuss the unique qualities of emotional perception and receptivity that can occur in therapy by phone, and I discuss dimensions of in-person and phone treatments that may enhance or detract from therapeutic efficacy. The absence of bodily presence in phone therapy may paradoxically allow both participants to tune into subtle emotional experiences with greater acuity than is possible in person. Visual signs of gender, race, dress, and other aspects of physical presentation can increase an unconscious focus on otherness, while the absence of these indicators may liberate both participants from preconceived categories of difference. I argue strongly against the use of therapeutic communication by text or email that removes words from their rich affective envelope. I present a phone treatment that makes transformative use of the emotionally connected solitudes of patient and therapist, and elucidates the patient's experience of the phone connection as the "emotional umbilical cord" she was denied in early life.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Assess the appropriateness of therapy by telephone for individual patients;
2. Assess the appropriateness of audio-visual modalities for psychotherapy for individual patients;
3. Assess the differential meanings of visual and auditory expressiveness in therapy.





Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm

Paper/Panel Session 5

## 12. Communication on the Telephone, Computer, and in Real Life: The Impact on Relationships and Treatment (continued)

**Speakers:** Julia Davies, PhD, USA; Dan Friedlander, MA, Israel; and Juliet Heeg, LCSW, USA

**Discussant:** Sarah Mendelsohn, LCSW, USA

**Moderator:** Tanya Leach, JD, USA

### Abstract:

*Two Weddings, a Funeral and a Concert: The Impact on the Therapeutic Relationship of Therapists Actual Participation in "REAL" life events in Patient's Moments of "Hope and Pain"*

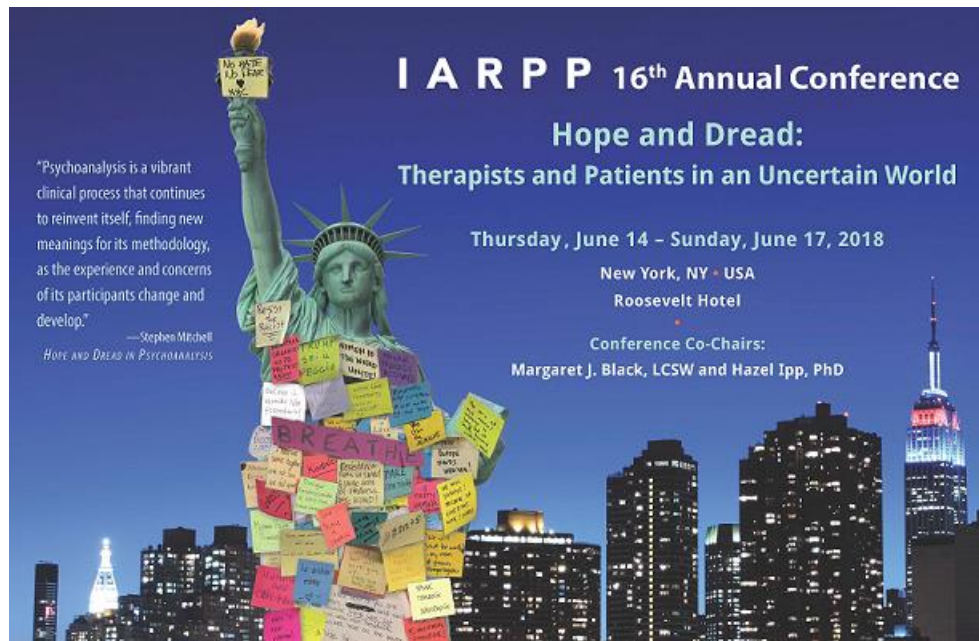
**Dan Friedlander**

The therapeutic relationship exists within multiple levels of reality—including that of ordinary life and that of the therapeutic frame. This paper explores "real life" events in Patients' lives and the participation or absence of their therapists from these actual events. Through four real life events in patients' lives in four different therapies; Two weddings – one attended by the Therapist the other was not, a 'Shiva'- a condolences visit to a Patient's home after a death of a parent, and an orchestra concert in which a patient was playing that the therapist attended. In all four events, significant and dramatic influence on the therapies have occurred and they had become crucial mutual relational moments in the therapies. This paper looks into the need for Recognition by a significant "other" and the ways patients invite their therapists to attend (in action) critical "real" moments in their lives. If we thoughtfully consider what is available to us to help patients change their lives, the real-relationship can be a powerful force in the work. In this context, Setting will be discussed as a "process" rather than a static set of boundaries and limitations.

### Learning Objectives:

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

1. Apply the terms Therapeutic / Real relationship to aspects of Relational interactions between Patient and Analyst/Therapist;
2. Assess the pro and cons of Actual participation of Therapists in Patient's events in real life and the outcomes of these participations on the Therapy;
3. Gain a wider perspective and ability to critique such "real life" participation from a Relational stance and point of view.



**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>                      3:45 pm – 5:15 pm                      Paper/Panel Session 5**

**12. Communication on the Telephone, Computer, and in Real Life: The Impact on Relationships and Treatment (continued)**

**Speakers:**                      Julia Davies, PhD, USA; Dan Friedlander, MA, Israel; and Juliet Heeg, LCSW, USA

**Discussant:**                      Sarah Mendelsohn, LCSW, USA

**Moderator:**                      Tanya Leach, JD, USA

**Abstract:**

*Social You and Me-dia? Or Uncertainty and Unconscious De-Coupling in the Digital Age*

**Juliet Heeg**

While computer-mediated connections through Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and texting, can free up couples to meet their often disparate needs for intimacy, couples are increasingly feeling *Removed* from each other as the title of Erick Pickersgill’s photo exhibit suggests. Why emote when you can emoji? Why call when you can text? Why meet face-to-face when you can Facebook...and so on. Couple relationships are becoming more vulnerable because couples are less able to express vulnerability, to really talk and be recognized by each other in a more complex, full way. The de-centering of the couple relationship, is leaving many at a loss as to what meaningful connection is. This talk explores how to embrace uncertainty and a sense of “thirdness” in opening up meaningful dialogue with couples struggling to connect in the digital age. Jessica Benjamin’s work on intersubjectivity and mutual recognition will be discussed (2007). Clinical examples and references to current books on social media relations will be used: *(The Age of Perversion, (Knafo), Irresistible (Alter), Screen Relations (Isaacs Russell), Magic and Loss, (Heffernan), Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in the Digital Age, (Turkle).*

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Examine their relationship to technology (especially smartphones) and how it influences the treatment of digital communication in a couple’s relationship;
2. Consider the role the digital world can play within a couple’s relationship and to examine how the “care and connection” received from smartphone is disturbing and/or enhancing the couple’s connection to each other;
3. Explore how clinicians can bring a sense of “thirdness” to speak to the triangulated relationship of the couple and their smartphones.