

Sunday, June 17th

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Paper/Panel Session 6

1. Invited Panel: Affective Participation and Racial Identity in Psychic and Political Space: 2017 Muriel Dimen Fellowship Lectures

Chairs: Francesca Colzani, PhD, Chile and Roberto D'Angelo, MD, UK
Presenters: Bettina von Lieres, PhD, Canada and Zeynep Turan, PhD, UK
Discussants: Stephen Hartman, PhD, USA and Griffin Hansbury, MA, LCSW-R, USA
Moderator: Avgi Saketopoulou, PsyD, USA

Abstract:

Honoring Muriel Dimen's belief that an interdisciplinary conversation with professionals working in other academic fields would open new vistas for relational theory, clinical practice, intellectual inquiry and political action, The Muriel Dimen Fellowship, chose its first two recipients this year. Each fellow will present papers that are the culmination of a year's study of relational psychoanalysis: Bettina von Lieres, a political scientist, studies affective modes of participation among "silent citizens" in contexts of political disruption. Zeynep Turan, an architect, examines the psychic and political links between gentrification and the range of large scale affective processes that shape the flow of affluent urbanites that turn underserved neighborhoods into homogeneous landscapes. The fellows are joined in conversation with their research mentors, Stephen Hartman and Avgi Saketopoulou, as well as with the psychoanalyst Griffin Hansbury as discussant.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Engage in an interdisciplinary conversation to describe how affect functions relationally in acts of political participation and urban geography;
2. Compare non-participation in the political sphere and dissociative states to evaluate how withdrawal from civic life functions as a political act;
3. Describe psychic mechanisms of radicalization that foster gentrification and turn undeserved neighborhoods into homogeneous landscapes.



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2. Invited Panel: Being the Change: Theoretical Multiplicity, Clinical Uncertainty, and Relational Renovations

Speakers: Rachel Sopher, LCSW, USA and Kim Bernstein, PhD, LP, USA
Discussant: Anthony Bass, PhD, USA
Moderator: Stefanie Glennon, PhD, USA

Abstract:

This panel considers theoretical difference within relational psychoanalysis as a key position from which to articulate an important aspect of what defines it: its fundamental break with a kind of reification that operates through conceptual certainty, which remains the legacy of the scientific and philosophical positivism of early psychoanalysis. Unlocking from the notion that multiple schools of thought are little more than an unfortunate manifestation of our not yet having arrived at the one true psychoanalysis, we embrace the idea, embedded within the relational perspective, that our multiplicity is in fact a more robust and truthful representation of the human condition in pursuit of knowledge about itself. Whereas this conference takes up the question of the relationship between inner and outer realms of experience—specifically, how what’s going on in the outside world profoundly impacts us and our work in the analytic dyad—we are also interested in the way psychoanalysis remains uncertain about whether and how much to privilege unconscious fantasy over concern with our experiences in actuality. Working respectively from object relational and constructivist/cultural-contextual perspectives, we are organizing our paired presentations around the dialectic of inner/outer realms of experience as constitutive of our different orientations within relational psychoanalysis. And from these perspectives, we unpack key psychoanalytic concepts that have tended to remain anachronistically concretized over time. Both presentations will balance theoretical understanding with extended clinical examples that illustrate the conference’s theme of the ways hope and dread in the external world can manifest internally. Case material focuses on the uncertainty inherent to the mutually generative analytic processes of discovery and creation, as well as the embeddedness of both patient and analyst within the therapeutic relationship and the world in which that relationship takes place.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Identify key concepts in contemporary psychoanalysis and the ways they have changed or remained static over the course of psychoanalytic history into the Relational turn;
2. Articulate the ways their relationships to theory affect their clinical decision making and therapeutic interventions;
3. Have a working understanding of the value of theoretical multiplicity from a relational perspective.



Sunday, June 17th 9:00 am – 10:30 am Paper/Panel Session 6

3. Clinical Problems in the Treatment of Trauma Patients

Speakers: Susan McConaughy, PhD, LCSW, USA; Ron Nasim, MA, Israel; and Alexandra Trencseni, MA, Germany
Discussant: Sheldon Itzkowitz, PhD, ABPP, USA
Moderator: Laura Molet, PsyD, Spain

Abstract:

Comparing Relational Fields in Four Evidence-based Child Trauma Treatment Models
Susan McConaughy

Widely used, evidence-based child trauma treatment models structure the relationships among the partners (child, therapist, parent) in very different ways. This presentation will focus especially on how each model views the possibilities of engaging parents in the child’s recovery from trauma. By examining the roles parents are asked to play – or sidelined – in the therapeutic components of each model, we will form a clearer sense of the implicit and explicit assumptions each model makes about the possibilities of collaboration with parents. For example, who has knowledge that is valuable for the child’s recovery; who is responsible for the child’s recovery and how; and who has acknowledged and unacknowledged influence in the child’s recovery. The relational fields imagined in each model will be diagrammed and discussed. Comparing different successful models can help us articulate our own positions and aspirations as clinicians empowering parents to actively contribute to their child’s healing from trauma.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Articulate the major roles that parents are asked to play in each of four EB child trauma treatment models in wide use;
2. Identify the implicit and explicit assumptions each model holds about the possibilities of parent participation in the child trauma treatment process;
3. Reflect on their own values and skills as clinicians in engaging parents in genuine collaboration.



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3. Clinical Problems in the Treatment of Trauma Patients (continued)

Speakers: Susan McConaughy, PhD, LCSW, USA; Ron Nasim, MA, Israel; and Alexandra Trencseni, MA, Germany

Discussant: Sheldon Itzkowitz, PhD, ABPP, USA

Moderator: Laura Molet, PsyD, Spain

Abstract:

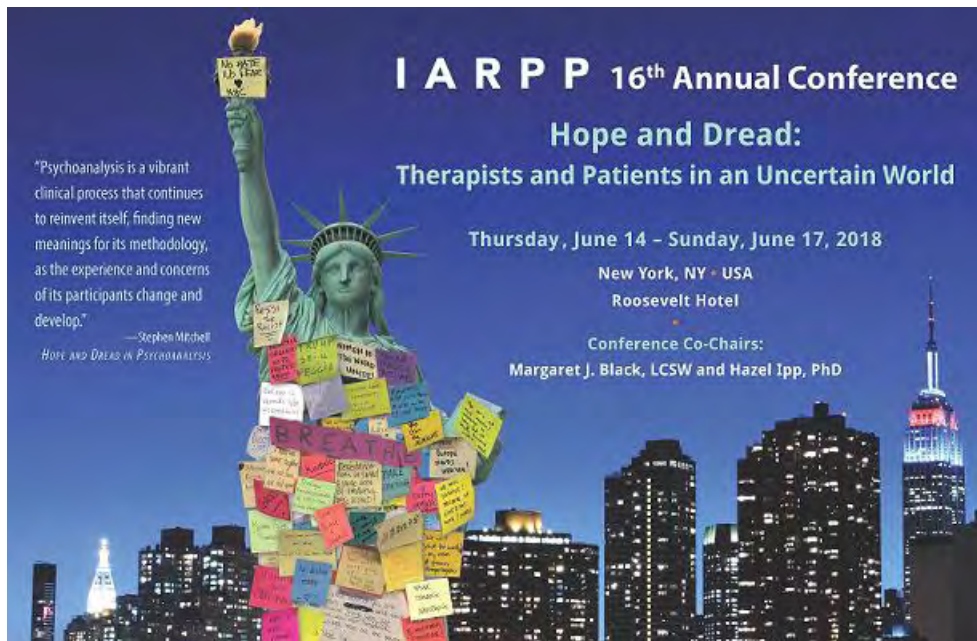
Dreadful vs. Innovative Moments in the Termination Processes in the Treatment of Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA) Survivors

Ron Nasim

Individuals as well as societies undergoing times of uncertainty, trauma or terror, often fanaticize on the completion of these times, as well as the wish for the disappearance of the oppressor/s. Nevertheless, abusive relationships fasten the abuser and the abused in an untangled tie (e.g Benjamin, 2013; Grand, 2013). It strengthens the sense of dependence, lack of separation and inevitably the sense of terror from separation. Moreover, when going through times of oppression or abuse, one might start to know and recognized himself only as he is seen through the eyes of his abuser, which can make, in terms of identity processes, the termination phase so confusing and overwhelming. Salberg (2011) believes terminations in psychotherapy can be best understood as cocreated enactments of complex unconscious processes between patient and analyst as they weave together loss, loneliness and the disconnection of intimacy for both partners of the analytic dyad. Grand (2009), discusses termination as both necessary and impossible, noting the paradox of healing by the intimacy of loss. Bromberg (2006) states that "in this final stage of treatment, a relational context of new shared meaning could be created (or more accurately, cocreated) from what was being enacted around the termination itself" (p. 19). Following these authors, in this presentation, we would like to consider dreadful vs. innovative moments in the termination processes in the treatment of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) survivors.

Learning Objectives:

1. The presentation will enrich the learner's thinking about termination processes in the treatment of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) survivors, a subject that hasn't been written about within the relational paradigm as well as elsewhere;
2. Leaning on 20 years (combined) of working with CSA survivors, the presenters' illustrations from case materials will enhance the learner's clinical tools and understanding more fully the paradox of healing by the intimacy of loss;
3. The ideas to be discussed shall apply to broaden the thinking about Individuals as well as societies undergoing times of uncertainty, trauma or terror.



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3. Clinical Problems in the Treatment of Trauma Patients (continued)

Speakers: Susan McConaughy, PhD, LCSW, USA; Ron Nasim, MA, Israel; and Alexandra Trencseni, MA, Germany
Discussant: Sheldon Itzkowitz, PhD, ABPP, USA
Moderator: Laura Molet, PsyD, Spain

Abstract:
Time, Freeze and Future – When Chronic Disease and Trauma Meet (in) Therapy
Alexandra Trencseni

Using mostly the example of CFS/ME as an not yet medically sufficient legitimized = explained disease, that usually worsens by traditional psychosomatic treatments in rehabs, I explain how stasis, droop and freeze in trauma – and in permanent exhaustions within chronic diseases like CFS/ME or e.g. post cancer fatigues, are very different modes of subjective time-experience, and need to be recognized as such and differentiated in the cure. – Resilience is said to be supported by a capacity to focus on the future by being open for differences to the traumatising past. Applying a distinction by Pierre Bourdieu on time as given either from outside versus created by an acteur’s practice, I will look at resilience of ›acteurs‹ within a state of socially invisible (extreme) physical fragility – exploring how this might affect psychoanalytic psychotherapeutic (teleological) narratives.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Understand differences in the time experience of traumatised and chronically ill patients, differentiating stasis, droop and freeze for each;
2. Recognize interdependencies between the subjective time experience of severely chronically ill, disabled people (e.g. CFS or post-cancer fatigue), the individuals’ subjective time experience/loss in current Neoliberalism, and therapeutically induced modes of experiencing time/s;
3. Reflect familiar psychoanalytic narratives along their teleological setting and widening perspectives and understanding of healing in time.



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9:00 am – 10:30 am

Paper/Panel Session 6

4. Therapists and Patients in a Dying Ecosystem: Hope and the OtherDread

Speakers: Elizabeth Allured, PsyD, USA and Susan Spieler, PsyD, USA
Discussant: Susan Bodnar, PhD, USA
Moderator: John Skrovan, PhD, USA

Abstract:

With widespread scientific consensus that climate change is largely anthropogenic, it follows that humans have the capacity to undo some of the damage. Engagement is an extremely important factor in the global climate emergency. Are we doing all we can to reduce harm that will otherwise make life on earth increasingly difficult for future generations? This paper will examine factors that contribute to disengagement and will introduce the term “Climate Dread”. I suggest that climate dread is a profound dread of loss of our holding environment -- our ecosystem. “Climate Dread” is a version of Freud’s “annihilation anxiety“, Winnicott’s “unthinkable anxiety”, Kohut’s “disintegration anxiety”, Bion’s “nameless dread”, Schur’s “primary anxiety”. Unlike Freud’s “annihilation anxiety” (and the others), “Climate Dread” is complicated by guilt and shame due to the anthropogenic nature of climate change. It is the unconscious guilt and shame that contribute to disengagement. Recent psychoanalytic literature about disengagement from climate change focuses on 3 defense mechanisms: denial, disavowal and dissociation. While these defenses accurately explain apathy, disengagement in times of crisis is dangerous, particularly when circumstances (extreme heat, storms, wildfires, drought) may be fatal. Experts in climate communication (Lertzman, Marshall, Gore, Macy) suggest that engaging people in climate change requires delicately balanced messages about difficult information **AND** hope. When widespread extinction appears to be our fate (Kolbert 2016) and many are disengaged, is hope possible? This paper will consider the roles of unconscious guilt, shame and signal anxiety in addressing this question.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Learn how “Climate Dread” (Spieler 2017) is uniquely different from previous analytic concepts such as “annihilation anxiety”, “unthinkable anxiety”, “disintegration anxiety”, “nameless dread”, and “primary dread”;
2. Learn the importance of engagement in the climate emergency and what psychological factors interfere with engagement;
3. Be able to explore hopelessness and disengagement in the climate emergency with patients.



Sunday, June 17th 9:00 am – 10:30 am Paper/Panel Session 6

5. The Process of “Othering” In and Out of the Consulting Room

Speakers: Mehr-Afarin Kohan, MD, FRCPC, Canada; Loray Daws, PhD, Reg Psych, South Africa; and Maria Marchetti-Mercher, MA Clin Psych, DLitt, South Africa

Discussant: Nina Thomas, PhD, USA

Moderator: Alan Kintzer, PhD, USA

Abstract:

On The State of “Speechlessness”: When Analysts Are Mid-Recognized By Their Patients

Mehr-Afarin Kohan

Relational psychoanalysts have been seeing ghosts, belonging to both patients and analysts, that can haunt the analytic dyad, especially if left unprocessed by any of the parties. Drawing on two clinical examples, I explore a state of ‘speechlessness’ that followed comments by patients that alluded to assumptions about my ethnic and religious background. I make a case that in these encounters misrecognition by the patient led to a confusion of self-states, leading to fragmentation in me and ‘speechlessness’. I further explore how certain ghosts of my past were called into the room in these encounters and how I was possibly haunted by them.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Apply the idea of ‘multiple self-states’ to understand how an analyst’s background can impact her presence in the consulting room;
2. Describe how stereotypes activated by the patient can lead to a state of fragmentation and speechlessness in the analyst;
3. Gain a better understanding of the importance of working through one’s ghosts in order for the analyst to be fully present in the consulting room.



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5. The Process of “Othering” In and Out of the Consulting Room(continued)

Speakers: Mehr-Afarin Kohan, MD, FRCPC, Canada; Loray Daws, PhD, Reg Psych, South Africa; and Maria Marchetti-Mercher, MA Clin Psych, DLitt, South Africa

Discussant: Nina Thomas, PhD, USA

Moderator: Alan Kintzer, PhD, USA

Abstract:

Transnational Families, Otherness and the growing phenomena of ‘border psychology’- a view from South Africa

Loray Daws & Maria Marchetti-Mercher

In this paper the authors will present some of the most salient aspects of two research projects which have focused on the impact of present South African emigration on family life. An Important dimension of this phenomenon, often ignored in scholarly writing, is an examination of the experiences of those left behind, in other words those people who are not part of the migratory nucleus but whose lives are deeply affected by the departure of their loved ones. The current paper therefore wishes to foreground the voices of those unable to follow their families into new identities of Otherness. We will examine their experiences within the context of the recent work on transnationalism acknowledging that both those living and those staying behind deserve the same scholarly and clinical attention. Specific attention will be given to the role of technological media in the creation of a “virtual family” within the context of transnational writings on migration.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Analyze the present South African socio-political context as a territory of Otherness, separation and emigration;
2. Critically assess the role of emerging technologies and their role in creating “virtual families” as away to deal with ‘border psychology’;
3. Apply the principles emerging from the paper to the the therapeutic context especially with regard to the perennial mourning linked to migration as well as the changing self-object needs intransnational families.



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6. Bridging a Sea of Fire: What’s Possible? “Where Are We Going After Sachsenhausen?”

Speakers: Judy Roth, PhD, USA; Carol Gilligan, PhD, USA; Manal Abu Haq, MSW, Israel; Naama Hochstein, MA, Israel; and Elana Lakh, PhD, Israel

Facilitator/Interlocutor: Judy Roth, PhD, USA

Abstract:

Our panel raises an urgent challenge facing those working in zones of crisis: Is it possible to create alternative, liminal spaces where we can see, hold, and interrogate terrible truths, when political realities cultivate dissociation as a defense or as part of their own ethos? And can these spaces withstand the reactivity or profound anxieties, humiliation, or demoralization that can ensue when the fog of denial begins to lift? Our papers address relational provisions needed to hear and inscribe the deep psychological meaning and anguish that underlie people’s profound attempts to sustain hope. We address the challenges that arise in creating and maintaining these holding environments and explore what transpires for those being harmed, those harming, those helping, and those who are bystanders.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. List the unique contribution and struggles of relational therapists in violent and social and political contexts and to reflect on possible ways to augment our relational range;
2. Apply the concept of “trauma process” to describe and analyze activity of therapists in the socio-political sphere;
3. Describe the relational impasses and possibilities in therapy, when therapists and patients share the same challenging political environment.



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7. Relational Approaches and Group Analysis in an Uncertain World: A Plea for Mutual Recognition

Speakers: Haim Weinberg, PhD, USA and Ravit Raufman, PhD, Israel
Discussant: Stavros Charalambides, MA, Greece
Moderator: Davide Belluardo, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

Relational approaches suggest a different reading of the unconscious from that of the one-person psychology Freudian approach. Moving to two-person psychology, we examine the creation of the unconscious and acquire "knowledge" about it through dialogue with the other, rather than examining specific contents located in the patient, existing a priori and illuminated in therapy.

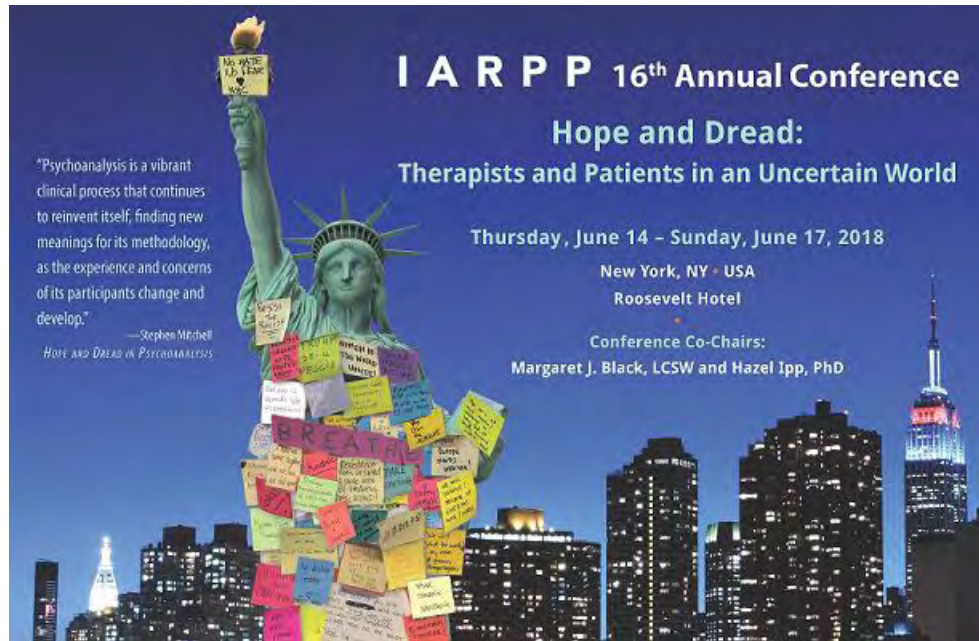
The social unconscious is the co-constructed shared unconscious of members of a certain social system such as community, society, nation, or culture. It is constructed of shared anxieties, fantasies, defenses, myths, and memories of the members of a particular social system. Its most important building blocks are chosen traumas and chosen glories. Group analytic conceptualization of the social unconscious preceded its time by emphasizing such intersubjective concepts as multiplicity, mutuality, and radical openness, long before intersubjective or relational writings were first published. The intersubjective field is a co-creation of the psyche of the people involved in the interaction, meaning that it is not the simple result of the people's unconscious but is a new co-unconscious belonging to neither participants, existing between them. Extrapolating from two people to a group or even society (moving from two-person to multi-person psychology, or the matrix), this is the space of the social unconscious.

In the two presentations of this panel we will explain and define the concept of the social unconscious, connect it to the relational unconscious, and apply it to individual and group analysis, especially in traumatic situations and traumatized societies, living in an uncertain world. We will bring vignettes from clinical material and discuss them.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Define the social unconscious;
2. Compare the relational unconscious and the social unconscious;
3. Utilize the idea of the social unconscious in their clinical practice.



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8. Contemporary Perspectives when the Body Has a Central Role in Treatment

- Speakers: Hilary Offman, MD, FRCPC, Canada; Giuseppe Magistrale, PsyD, Italy; and Judith Brisman, PhD, USA
- Discussant: Judith Rustin, LCSW, USA
- Moderator: Caryn Sherman-Meyer, LCSW, USA

Abstract:
The Otherness of Fat: An Enactment of Epic Proportions
Hilary Offman

Though we inhabit a privileged psychoanalytic world, being fat evokes such an objectionable sense of otherness that it is even typically excluded from consideration with other social disabilities. Thus, it is not surprising that when both therapist and patient are ‘fat’ and ‘female’, intersectional conditions are ripe for an enactment of epic proportions. When my patient Emily abandoned her chaotic lifestyle to become ‘fat and fabulous’ like me, at first I believed our likeness indicated identification on the path to mutual recognition. But with dramatic weight loss, Emily embraced new levels of sexual promiscuity, increased alcohol abuse, and the impulsive decision to participate in her mother’s suicide, propelling our relationship into a state of complementary “twoness” (Benjamin, 2017). While I dissociated my own feelings of shame and narcissistic injury, on the exact anniversary of her mother’s suicide, Emily drove impaired headlong into a tree, as if haunted by her mother’s disapproving ghost. Only with “collaborative reflection” (Hoffman, 2006) could I disclose how disavowal of my diminished feelings contributed to our enactment and in doing so, Emily and I began to explore how “normative unconscious processes” (Layton, 2006) and transgenerational legacies of submission impacted our intersubjectivity. Without the affirmed recognition of our agentive selves through “identification with difference”, (Benjamin, 1998) renouncing or projecting states of longing became our only options, leaving us not only unable to locate our own desirous self states, but also unable to access the tolerable versions of otherness necessary for the creation of lustful subjectivity (Frommer, 2006). Yet with a willingness to acknowledge my own contribution to her suffering, differences that once evoked dreaded submission could be reformulated with peaceful surrender (Ghent, 1990), and a relationship once stuck in identificatory love (Benjamin, 1998) could resume its evolution towards mutual recognition. For Emily and I, the permission to mutually deconstruct the dialectics of sameness and difference, influence and autonomy (Mitchell, 1997), and hope



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Discussant: Judith Rustin, LCSW, USA

Moderator: Caryn Sherman-Meyer, LCSW, USA

Abstract:

The Otherness of Fat: An Enactment of Epic Proportions - continued

Hilary Offman

and dread (Mitchell, 1993) facilitated our reaching for potentials neither of us had yet to consider (Hoffman, 1998) as we realized that neither of us would ever be the same again.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Identify and critique examples of otherness in their own clinical practice;
2. Identify and apply the concept of “identification with difference” to an understanding of the development of a lustful subjectivity;
3. Identify and apply the concepts of acknowledgment and collaborative reflection to an examination of their own clinical enactments.

Abstract:

Escape from the feeling body. Self-objectification as a painful response to unbearable uncertainty.

Giuseppe Magistrale

The following paper proposal is meant to be a detailed study of the role of psychoanalytic practice in the treatment of eating disorders, and the increasingly frequent disturbances that involve self-objectification. More specifically, an attempt will be made to describe how the obsession towards one’s own bodily features (such as shape, weight etc.) and the neglect of internal bodily feelings could represent a painful attempt to control affect disorganization and relational uncertainty as a result of a traumatic attachment. In order to enrich this idea, the theory of embodied cognition (Varela, Thompson & Rosch 1992) will be used as a theoretical background alongside with the concept of self-reflexivity introduced



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8. Contemporary Perspectives when the Body Has a Central Role in Treatment (continued)

Speakers: Hilary Offman, MD, FRCPC, Canada; Giuseppe Magistrale, PsyD, Italy; and Judith Brisman, PhD, USA

Discussant: Judith Rustin, LCSW, USA

Moderator: Caryn Sherman-Meyer, LCSW, USA

Abstract:

Escape from the feeling body. Self-objectification as a painful response to unbearable uncertainty. - continued

Giuseppe Magistrale

by Aron (2000, 2015). A clinical description will be provided in order to put theory into practice and discuss the impact of social trends and risk factors in psychoanalytic practice.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Examine the features of traumatic attachment, embodied cognition and self-reflexivity in the characterization of eating disorders;
2. Assess the role played by self-objectification in the control of affect disorganization and relational uncertainty and its implication in the analytic dyad, with the help of a clinical vignette;
3. Analyze the impact of social trends (such as the increasingly importance of one's own external features and attitudes) and risk factors on society and clinical practice.

Abstract:

Heathen Talk: Integration of Symptom Focus, Dissociation and the Analytic Stance in a Changing World

Judith Brisman

Current analytic thinking regarding dissociation tilts in the direction of therapist as authoritative other. However we are imbedded in a culture in which the need for authoritative positioning is ever questioned. Indeed in our fast paced cyber-informed world, access to information has leveled the playing field and allowed an unprecedented equality with regard to information-seeking and knowing. In the analytic arena though, an unwitting hierarchical structure is still, for the most part, imbedded within the treatment stance



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8. Contemporary Perspectives when the Body Has a Central Role in Treatment (continued)

Speakers: Hilary Offman, MD, FRCPC, Canada; Giuseppe Magistrale, PsyD, Italy; and Judith Brisman, PhD, USA

Discussant: Judith Rustin, LCSW, USA

Moderator: Caryn Sherman-Meyer, LCSW, USA

Abstract:

Heathen Talk: Integration of Symptom Focus, Dissociation and the Analytic Stance in a Changing World - continued

Judith Brisman

itself. Using work with dissociation and the eating disordered patient as a template for thinking, this paper presents a less hierarchical, symptom-focused approach in which the patient is urged to embrace an active investigative role, one that allows the patient as much responsibility as the analyst in the realm of knowing and understanding. As much work gets done outside the therapy room as is done within. Does this immediacy render the work superficial and non-analytic? This paper argues that indeed it does not—and hopes to explain why.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe current psychoanalytic approaches regarding work with dissociation;
2. Describe the specific ways, within our current sociological and political culture, that authority and hierarchy are being challenged; the learner will be able to assess whether an implicit hierarchy exists in the analytic arena itself;
3. Describe and approach that challenges an authoritative stance in the analytic culture and allows for a more collaborative engagement with the patient in which the possibility of both symptom reduction and deeper self-understanding is enhanced.



Sunday, June 17th 9:00 am – 10:30 am Paper/Panel Session 6

9. Contemporary Ethical Challenges for Psychoanalysis

Speakers: Charles Levin, PhD, Canada; Robin Brown, PhD, USA; and Simone Drichel, PhD, New Zealand

Discussant: Micha Weiss, PhD, Israel

Moderator: Valeria Pulcini, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

This is Not Our House: Relationality and Human Exceptionalism

Charles Levin

Since human exceptionalism, or species narcissism, lies at the root of our traumatic political history, the relational paradigm needs to reconsider the anthropocentric assumptions of “interpersonal” and “field” models. Elaborating on some key allegorical propositions in the film *Mother!* (Aranovsky 2017), this paper will explore the implications for psychoanalysis of the ethical idea that humans are only guests in the house of being, and not its owners. Extending the intersubjective principle that human development entails full recognition of the subjectivity of the nurturing other (Benjamin), I will attempt to broaden the Hegelian concept of recognition so that dyadic intersubjectivity, though still central to our work, will be understood as a problematic subset of relationality as a guiding ethical principle.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Be able to explain the importance of human to non-human relationships in psychic life and psychoanalysis;
2. Gain understanding of how the ideology of human exceptionalism may contribute to individual and social pathology;
3. Be able to describe the historical dynamics and future promise of relational psychoanalysis as a form of therapy and a theory of mind.



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9. Contemporary Ethical Challenges for Psychoanalysis (continued)

Speakers: Charles Levin, PhD, Canada; Robin Brown, PhD, USA; and Simone Drichel, PhD, New Zealand

Discussant: Micha Weiss, PhD, Israel

Moderator: Valeria Pulcini, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

Working Psychoanalytically with Privilege

Robin Brown

This presentation takes a critical look at the notion of privilege, particularly in terms of its implications for clinical practice. With reference to case material, the author explores how the idea of privilege might impact the therapeutic relationship. Privilege is suggested to be an inherently shaming construct with adverse implications for clinical work. Different approaches to shame are explored in relationship to aggression. The author suggests that the danger of implicitly prescribing “correct” perceptions of privilege can be clinically detrimental. It is argued that thinking in terms of privilege in the clinical setting often reflects an effort to prematurely “know” the other, and that this tendency can lead to a form of enactment that is constituted in the effort to achieve recognition.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Assess the ways in which notions of privilege might shape the clinical encounter;
2. Analyze the implications of privilege in relationship to case material;
3. Discuss the perceptions of privilege in terms of their own clinical experience.



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9. Contemporary Ethical Challenges for Psychoanalysis (continued)

Speakers: Charles Levin, PhD, Canada; Robin Brown, PhD, USA; and Simone Drichel, PhD, New Zealand

Discussant: Micha Weiss, PhD, Israel

Moderator: Valeria Pulcini, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

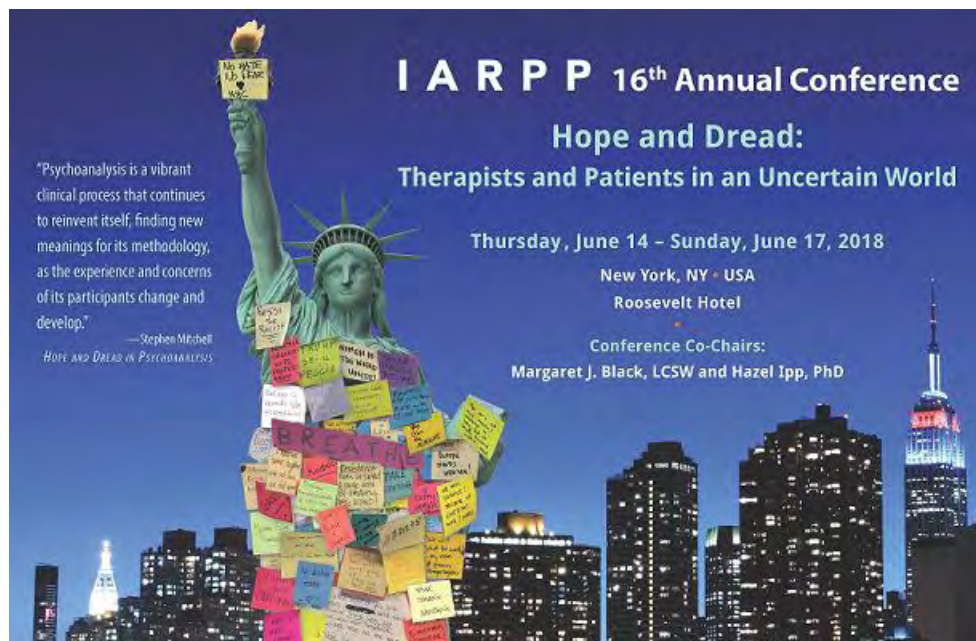
Hope and Dread of the “Ethical Turn”: Emmanuel Levinas between Masochism and Surrender
Simone Drichel

This paper addresses some of the persistent concerns that Levinas’s ethics may harbour a “masochistic”—or otherwise unwholesome—conception of subjectivity. Mobilising Emmanuel Ghent’s distinction between masochism and surrender, and extending it into ethical terrain, I argue that what Levinas offers us is not the dreaded spectre of “moral masochism,” but instead an altogether more hopeful conception of an ethics based on surrender.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Explain the difference between masochism and surrender in Ghent’s work;
2. Discuss the role vulnerability plays in Levinasian ethics;
3. Describe the ways in which psychopathology can function as an “ethical impairment.”



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10. Working with Trauma in Current Political Climate of Uncertainty and Traumatic Politics

Speakers: Joan Sarnat, PhD, ABPP, USA; Daniel Shaw, LCSW, USA; Peter Kaufmann, PhD, USA; and Jenny Kaufmann, PhD, USA

Discussant: Amy Cooney, PhD, USA

Moderator: Alexandra Eitel, MA, USA

Abstract:

Supervising in an Uncertain World: Working with Trauma in the Supervisory Relationship
Joan Sarnat

When a patient brings trauma into the consulting room--be it from political oppression and violence, societal discrimination, or a familial situation-- primitive anxieties and the defenses against them sometimes lead to impasse in the psychoanalytic process. Therapists turn to supervisors or consultants for help in understanding and resolving these impasses. And in the context of a perverse and destructive political situation like our current one in the United States, not only are traumatized patients further triggered, and their therapists as well, but supervisors, too, face special challenges in working with trauma. I will describe my experience of supervising a therapist who was working with a severely traumatized patient. I will track how the patient's trauma interacted with my supervisee's anxieties as well as my own. Only after presenting this supervision to my peer consultation group, was I able to process and symbolize affects that had become unbearable for both my supervisee and me. Only then did the supervisory and therapeutic relationships come back to life. Finally, I will show how a relational model of psychoanalytic supervision, because it provides theory and technique tailor-made for addressing primitive anxieties and resulting defenses, is helpful in working with clinicians who encounter severely traumatized patients in this, our increasingly uncertain, world.



Sunday, June 17th 9:00 am – 10:30 am Paper/Panel Session 6

10. Working with Trauma in Current Political Climate of Uncertainty and Traumatic Politics (continued)

Speakers: Joan Sarnat, PhD, ABPP, USA; Daniel Shaw, LCSW, USA; Peter Kaufmann, PhD, USA; and Jenny Kaufmann, PhD, USA

Discussant: Amy Cooney, PhD, USA

Moderator: Alexandra Eitel, MA, USA

Abstract:

Supervising in an Uncertain World: Working with Trauma in the Supervisory Relationship - continued

Joan Sarnat

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe how impasse can flow from the therapeutic relationship to the supervisory in supervising traumatized patients, as the supervisor's mind goes dead along with the therapist's mind;
2. Decide when to seek consultation for one's supervisory work, in order to bring both supervisory and analytic relationships back to life;
3. Explain why a relational model of psychoanalytic supervision is valuable in working with traumatized patients and supervisees, especially in a perverse and destructive socio-political context.

Abstract:

Authoritarianism and the Cultic Dynamic: Traumatic Narcissism in American Politics Today

Daniel Shaw

This paper elaborates Erich Fromm's analysis of the malignant narcissist, informed by the author's researches into the relational dynamic of the cult leader and her followers. The author maintains that such figures hold a delusion of infallible omnipotence, which has the critical function of denying profound mental instability. Drawing from his personal and professional experiences with the psychotherapy of former cult members, and from the theory of traumatic narcissism and relational systems of subjugation,



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Abstract:

Authoritarianism and the Cultic Dynamic: Traumatic Narcissism in American Politics Today - continued

Daniel Shaw

the author offers a psychological conceptualization of the narcissist leader and his followers with clinical implications for the treatment of survivors of authoritarian and cultic relationships and communities.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe the implications of the theory of traumatic narcissism, and the author's research on the areas of cults, for therapeutic intervention with survivors of authoritarian and cultic relationships and communities;
2. Articulate the traumatic nature of the harm done to victims of traumatizing narcissists.

Abstract:

Emerging from the Shadows of Parental Narcissism: Trump as a Catalyst

Peter Kaufmann & Jenny Kaufmann

Many of our patients have grown up in families organized as oppressive systems in which the feelings or needs of one or both parents are met at the expense of the subjectivities of their children. We've found that the clinical process with these patients involves one of emergence in which the patients gradually emerge as their authentic selves as they evolve a more complex perspective on their family pattern and their parents and feel freer to be their authentic selves. An analogy could be drawn between the patterns that operate in narcissistic families and the larger social systems that operate within this country which have meant that people with the privilege of race, class and gender have been able to wield power at the



IARPP 16th Annual Conference

Hope and Dread:

Therapists and Patients in an Uncertain World

Thursday, June 14 – Sunday, June 17, 2018

New York, NY • USA

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Conference Co-Chairs:

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"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

Sunday, June 17th

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Paper/Panel Session 6

10. Working with Trauma in Current Political Climate of Uncertainty and Traumatic Politics (continued)

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Discussant: Amy Cooney, PhD, USA

Moderator: Alexandra Eitel, MA, USA

Abstract:

Emerging from the Shadows of Parental Narcissism: Trump as a Catalyst - continued

Peter Kaufmann & Jenny Kaufmann

expense of those who don't have privilege. One way to look at the political and social process in this country is to look at it in terms of the emergence of the less privileged so that those who represent diversity in terms of wealth, race and gender have gained more power and possibility.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Articulate the steps involved in emerging from the shadows of a narcissistic parent;
2. See how Trump's election can be seen as a backlash against the emergence process;
3. Link how patient's thinking about their reactions to Trump can help them get in touch with and further work through the differentiation process from their own parents.



Sunday, June 17th 9:00 am – 10:30 am Paper/Panel Session 6

11. Losing and Finding Our Mind During Times of War, Sociocultural Trauma, and Social Unrest

Speakers: Marie Hoffman, PhD, USA and Theresa Clement Tisdale, PhD, PsyD, USA

Discussant: Margy Sperry, PsyD, USA

Moderator: Tanya Anagnostopoulou, PhD, Greece

Abstract:

War, sociocultural trauma, and social unrest have profound impact on the human psyche at all levels of society. In the panel presentation, historical examples of this impact will be presented along with the *othering* that occurred in the past and is happening now in the life of immigrants, people of diverse religious cultures, and those considered political outsiders. Sources from psychoanalysis, neuroscience, and interpersonal neurobiology will be used to identify how thought, emotion, and behavior are impaired by trauma. With this backdrop, two female analysts, one of Syrian and Egyptian decent, and one of European decent will relate how individual and cultural identity have influenced their analytic theory and practice. Case vignettes will be offered that illustrate a range of othering experiences of both patient and analyst. Each analyst will describe sources used to create a moral third that grounds her in personal and professional life.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Describe historical instances of war, social unrest, and sociocultural trauma and the impact of these realities on vulnerable groups;
2. Assess the multiplicity of factors that contribute to the phenomenon of othering, illustrated through case vignettes and discussion between panel members and attendees;
3. Identify and apply sources and standards of humanity and morality to life as an analyst in multiple contexts.