



Sunday, June 21st 8:30 am – 10:00 am Paper/Panel Session 6

1. When Minds Meet: The Work of Lew Aron

Speakers: Samuel Gerson, PhD, USA; Spyros Orfanos, PhD, USA;
and Galit Atlas, PhD, USA

Interlocutor & Moderator: Jessica Benjamin, PhD, USA

Abstract:

*Blood Brothers: Observations on a Friendship Bond- **Spyros Orfanos***

Over the decades, there has been increased psychoanalytic attention paid to sibling relations. Attention to close friendship bonds, however, has not been paid. Friendships, male or otherwise, can be a lifelong process and highly influential throughout the life cycle, in one form or another. The presenter's conscious and unconscious relationship with Lew Aron will be discussed and conceptualized in the context of a long-term professional relationship, a personal loving bond, and death anxiety.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. Distinguish 3 psychoanalytic differences between sibling bonds and friendship bonds.

Abstract:

Galit Atlas

Inspired by Aron's interest in integrating an author's theory with social context and their personal history, I will present Lew's thinking as it is related to his subjectivity, particular life events, objects, and personal as well as professional history.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. Describe elements of the analyst's subjectivity as it appears in his theory.



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Paper/Panel Session 6

2. Shame, Trauma, and the Analyst's Subjectivity

Speakers: Jean Principe, PhD, USA; Robin Young, PhD, USA;
and Konstantina Adamopoulou, MSc, Greece

Moderator: Maria Tammone, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

The Unspeaking: Trauma as Countertransference- Jean Principe

As relational analysts, we regularly consider transference and countertransference throughout a session to inform and advance our work. A patient, with a history of trauma that is not apparent initially in sessions, may evoke in the analyst, feelings of countertransference unlike others. These feelings may be associated with a past trauma experience on the part of the analyst. This examination will deepen awareness of our countertransference when working with a patient with trauma in order to expand our clinical experience.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. Identify three common examples of countertransference.
2. Describe use of trauma in relational theory.
3. Apply transference/countertransference interpretations when working with trauma patients in order to deepen clinical understanding.

Abstract:

SHAME: The Pervasive Impediment in Psychoanalysis- Robin Young

If anxiety is paradigmatically the symptom of a one person psychology, conceptualized classically in terms of inner conflict and more recently in terms of affect regulation, shame is quintessentially a relational problem, experienced in the presence and under the gaze of an Other. Handling shame therapeutically is fraught with the potential for impasse and enactment when the analyst herself unconsciously uses the analysis in the service of managing her own shame. In subtle ways, both the analyst and the patient treat shame like a 'hot potato' that neither can bear to hold. This paper will explore the impediment of shame. It will then go on to explore 2 theoretical paradigms that address working with shame using clinical vignettes to illustrate.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. Describe how Shame in the patient impedes the therapeutic process.
2. Describe how Shame in the therapist/analyst impedes the therapeutic process.
3. Apply the paradigms of self psychology and relational psychology in working with Shame in the treatment situation



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2. Shame, Trauma, and the Analyst's Subjectivity- (*Cont'd*)

Speakers: Jean Principe, PhD, USA; Robin Young, PhD, USA;
and Konstantina Adamopoulou, MSc, Greece

Moderator: Maria Tammone, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

*Therapists' self-disclosure as a tool of co-created authenticity. When the therapist identifies with patient's traumatic areas- **Konstantina Adamopoulou***

In the present paper I present the process of preparation required to unravel the detached self-states of evilness of the therapeutic pair (Davies, 2004), the attempt to escape from the phenomenon of the perfect patient and the perfect therapist (Ainsworth 1982). I will then try to explain how my self-disclosure as a therapist opened the room to a "dark side" of the patient to be told and revealed but also the difficulties and two-way enactments that followed.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. In this paper I will try to explain how I tried to contain the re-conceptualizing empathic attunement from the dark side of the dyad (therapist-patient)
2. How we can open the space for identify patient's traumatic areas and how we can be with him in these areas, resisting our own feelings
3. I will finally try to show how I used my subjectivity and my countertransference, to help the dyad to move on our therapy to a brand new place by expressing my feelings and my thoughts clearly



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Paper/Panel Session 6

3. 'Fieldwork': Speakable, Unspoken and Unspeakable States from a Bionian Field Theory Perspective

Speakers: Duncan Cartwright, PhD, South Africa and Peter Goldberg, PhD, USA

Discussant: Rachael Peltz, PhD, USA

Moderator: Marina Amore, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

This panel will explore the conference theme from a Bionian Field Theory perspective. Core theoretical assumptions will be explored to frame an understanding of how an analyst, working broadly within a BFT perspective, conceptualizes and engages with speakable, unspoken and unspeakable states in the analytic field. Central to BFT is the idea that the analytic field is the intersubjective product of sensate and oneiric processes that produce an array of emergent experiences that require further 'fieldwork'. As well as providing content for the field, emergent experiences also exist in different states of evolution and appear to take on functions that process, define and influence the qualities of the field. These 'products' manifest in speakable, unspoken and unspeakable ways. Using clinical material, the first two papers explore the analyst's approach or 'positioning' in working with such states as they manifest in the field. The final paper will be a discussion paper offering a critique and drawing together unique aspects of working within this framework.

Learning objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Introduce and discuss core aspects of Bionian field theory
2. Explore the implications of working from a BFT perspective.
3. Understand speakable, unspoken and unspeakable states through the lens of Field Theory
4. To illustrate BFT using case material



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4. How Analytic Writing Catalyzed the Implicit, Unspoken, and Unspeakable in the Analyst and the Field

Speakers: Karen Martin, USA; Marcia Dobson, PhD, PhD, USA; and
 Brenda Solomon, MD, USA

Moderator: Suzi Naiburg, PhD, LICSW, USA

Abstract:

Three analysts explore how writing changes them and the field by deepening their relation with themselves and their patients. This process brings out the implicit, putting words to the unspoken and attending to the unspeakable.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. Identify at least one way clinical writing offers the clinician a method to express what was previously unspeakable in the patient.
2. Identify at least one way that clinical writing offers the clinician a method to express her own internal processes previously dissociated.
3. Identify at least one way that embodied states can be captured in clinical writing.



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Paper/Panel Session 6

5. Confrontations, Quarrels, and Resistance in Power Dynamics

Speakers: Don Greif, PhD, USA; Malin Fors, MSc, Norway;
Rachel Kabasakalian McKay, PhD, EdM, USA; and David Mark,
PhD, USA

Interlocutor & Moderator: Adriano Bugliani, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

Quarreling with Culture and the Value of Discontent: Clinical Implications- Don Greif

Sigmund Freud was torn about civilization—indeed, he was one of “its discontents,” the term he used in *Civilization and its Discontents*. According to Lionel Trilling, Freud had a “quarrel with culture.” Though it was not the primary element in his thinking about culture—the need to accommodate to culture was his emphasis--Freud also sought, in Trilling’s view, to establish a place for the self to stand apart from culture. I believe Trilling’s insights into Freud’s discontent with civilization, ambivalence towards culture, and wish to find a place for the self to stand apart from culture--and his view that Freud’s struggle epitomized a central challenge of the self since the advent of modernity--have far-reaching implications for the way we think about our patients and practice psychoanalysis. I will demonstrate, through clinical and biographical vignettes, that the ability to quarrel with culture and to value discontent--and to make use of adaptive apartness--play an essential role in everyday experience, emotional suffering, psychological development, and therapeutic change.

Learning objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Describe Freud’s quarrel with culture.
2. Describe the value of “adaptive apartness” and utilize it in their clinical work.
3. Describe the importance of standing apart from and being a part of culture and apply it to psychoanalytic therapy.



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8:30 am – 10:00 am

Paper/Panel Session 6

5. Confrontations, Quarrels, and Resistance in Power Dynamics- (*Cont'd*)

Speakers: Don Greif, PhD, USA; Malin Fors, MSc, Norway;
Rachel Kabasakalian McKay, PhD, EdM, USA; and David Mark,
PhD, USA

Interlocutor & Moderator: Adriano Bugliani, PhD, Italy

Abstract:

Riots and Riotousness- A Celebration of Humor as Queer Resistance- Malin Fors

Following Elisabeth Young-Bruehl's thought that prejudices are social defenses; this paper is addressing humor and parody as a tool to interpret homophobia as an obsessive compulsory social defense and investigate how several well known successful queer political actions throughout history built on humor

Learning objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Enumerate three social defenses of prejudice according to Young-Bruehl.
2. Name three important queer political actions.
3. Describe cultural appropriation of pride celebration.

Abstract:

The Implicated Relational Analyst: Navigating confrontations with difference, power and vulnerability in the therapeutic relationship- Rachel Kabasakalian McKay & David Mark

Drawing inspiration from a recent IARPP Colloquium on the work of Erich Fromm, in which the relevance and hopefulness of his ideal of universal humanism is affirmed even as it is subjected to necessary critique regarding the lack of appreciation for both the enlivening aspects of difference and the crushing effects of oppressions that exploit those differences, we suggest that the spirit of Fromm's ideal can be preserved constructively only if we can navigate confrontations with differences in power. Working from a relational clinical sensibility, we explore ways in which this operates within the intimate dyad of the analytic relationship: whoever else two people are to one another, there are moments - -especially likely under conditions of perceived scarcity -- when aspects of differing social locations with regard to power and oppression will be foregrounded, charged, and at least temporarily threaten trust and safety in the relationship. In engaging one another through such confrontations, these power differences can be named, and personal responsibility for harming the other through enacting these dynamics acknowledged. The resolutions of such enactments may be characterized both by a spirit of "radical equality" and mutual recognition, and a restoration of connection strengthened by direct engagement with difference.



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5. Confrontations, Quarrels, and Resistance in Power Dynamics- (*Cont'd*)

Speakers:

Don Greif, PhD, USA; Malin Fors, MSc, Norway;
Rachel Kabasakalian McKay, PhD, EdM, USA; and David Mark,
PhD, USA

Interlocutor & Moderator:

Adriano Bugliani, PhD, Italy

Learning objectives:

The Implicated Relational Analyst: Navigating confrontations with difference, power and vulnerability in the therapeutic relationship- Rachel Kabasakalian McKay & David Mark

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Describe one central consequence of differences between patient and analyst in race, gender, sexual orientation, and class under relational conditions of scarcity and abundance.
2. Describe one relational condition in which identity differences between patient and analyst suddenly “light up” and must be named.
3. Name two relational consequences of the resolution, however temporary, of enactments centrally involving identity/social location differences between patient and analyst.



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Paper/Panel Session 6

6. Multiple Identities, Hidden Subjectivities: The Biracial-Upwardly Mobile Psychoanalyst

Speakers: Susan Rios, MS, LCSW, USA and Adam Rodriguez, PsyD, USA

Discussant: Veronica Abney, PhD, USA

Moderator: Lourdes Casares, PhD, USA

Abstract:

Race, social class, and the American Dream our fathers offered us in their migration here are the cornerstones of our multiple identities as biracial psychotherapists from lower-working-class backgrounds living upper-middle-class psychoanalytic lives. An early careerist and more senior analyst share their immigrant Latino family stories, honoring their origins while exploring the internalized object worlds of multicultural identifications. Living in their “invisible ethnic skins,” presenters revisit their cultural subjectivities addressing spoken and unspeakable influences on the treatment relationship while presenting clinical material that will elucidate the infinite possibilities of multiplicity. Our discussant, a psychologist/psychoanalyst, and recognized lecturer on trauma and dissociation, lends her voice to the dialogue engaging the panelists and audience in a discussion.

Learning objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Explore and understand dissociative and splitting processes related to class and race in analysts and patients.
2. Examine hidden subjectivities that fall outside of the conventional “Black/White” binary and their impact on clinical work and within the psychoanalytic community.
3. Critique current conceptualizations of how patients and analysts together construct and discuss race and class identities.



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Paper/Panel Session 6

7. Challenging the Motherhood Mandate: Locating Desire, Agency, and Subjectivity

Speakers: Hillary Grill, LCSW, USA; Caryn Sherman-Meyer, LCSW, USA;
and Sharyn Leff, LCSW, USA

Moderator: Sally Bjorklund, MA, LMHC, USA

Abstract:

The implicit and explicit feminine imperative—the motherhood mandate—that women must bear and raise children is challenged in this presentation. Participants will learn that because psychoanalysis remains influenced by gendered presumptions there has been a lack of curiosity regarding the breadth and depth of the experience of motherhood. We will expand our understanding of the psychological and emotional processes leading to decisions about motherhood. We argue that maternal desire and ambivalence have been clinically hidden. The singular place for many patients to consider the complexities of motherhood is in the intersubjective analytic space, therefore there is urgency in facilitating introspection and dialogue around that which has been silenced in the treatment room. This panel delves into deeper meanings of motherhood by examining sex, gender, feminism and individual history in three cases: a single-mother-by-choice, and a lesbian and her trans male partner and an adoptive mother.

Learning objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the sociopolitical perpetuation and psychological impact of the motherhood mandate and will be able to utilize this new information therapeutically.
2. Examine and assess traditional definitions of motherhood and compare them with contemporary conceptualizations of gender, feminism, sexuality and non-traditional parenthood.
3. Recognize and list several ways that personal ambivalences about mothering contribute to impasses in the analytic relationship and will learn effective techniques to work with such impasses.



Sunday, June 21st 8:30 am – 10:00 am Paper/Panel Session 6

8. Shame and Its Influence on the Spoken, the Unspoken, and the Unspeakable

Speakers: Yael Greenberg, PsyD, USA; Robert Benedetti, PhD, USA; and Janet Benton, PsyD, USA

Interlocutor & Moderator: Joyce Klein, LICSW, USA

Abstract:

The three papers presented in this panel each discuss spoken, unspoken, and unspeakable experience as it occurs in the therapeutic dyad. Each paper is organized around the concept of unconscious process, referring to, in order of presentation, implicit exchange, “enigmatic unspoken currents,” and unformulated experience. All of the papers also explore the function and importance of shame. The first paper discusses the implicit, unconscious, silent exchange of shame between analyst and client, how the analyst’s own shame became speakable by her, and how this then gave the patient an opportunity to access her own shame and to grow as a human being. The analyst also reflects on how she, too, grew as a human being. The second paper references a gay therapist’s interpersonal rupture and shaming experience with his father. The author discusses how this unspeakable, and thus unspoken, early experience of silence and shame influenced his later experience as an analyst. The analyst gives voice to the experience of having been silenced earlier in his life about his “‘not-me status’ ” and how that experience influenced his work with patients. The third paper addresses the issue of blocked ability to formulate and express unformulated experience. What is the therapist to do when the patient says he is unable to speak the unspoken because something is unspeakable? The therapist discusses the particular ramifications and interpersonal interactions that occur when a patient asks the analyst to read the patient’s mind. When, as a therapist, is this possible or wise, especially when the analyst knows that shame has blocked the patient in the first place and could continue doing so? How does the analyst handle

Learning objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Describe how Shame gets expressed in the work of the analytic dyad.
2. Become attuned to how shame experienced as a child affects a gay analyst’s development.
3. Describe how Shame influences unformulated experience.



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Paper/Panel Session 6

9. The Pleasures and Banality of the Negative and The Unknown

Speakers: Jade McGleughlin, LICSW, USA; Stacey Novack, PsyD, USA; and Uri Hadar, PhD, Israel

Discussant: Chana Ullman, PhD, Israel

Moderator: Diana Faydysh, MA, USA

Abstract:

The Analyst's Necessary Nonsovereignty and the Generative Power of the Negative- Jade McGleughlin

Psychoanalysis has not reckoned with unrepresented mental states except in their power to disrupt, prevent integration, or limit thinking. The fundamental assumption remains that the unrepresented needs representation; what is unsymbolized, needs marks. Instead I will argue that our failure to theorize the unrepresentable, or what I call the negative, as a force in the psyche that speaks on its own terms, limits creativity and our capacity to be with our patients. Unrepresented states are not void to be filled, but creative force, what I will call the negative, that expands beyond ordinary un/consciousness. To unpack the enigmatic concept of the negative and the importance of the analysts nonsovereignty, this talk will engage in three modes. I begin with a critique of the pressure to give form to the unformed, what Bion called alpha function, where in Post Bionian Field theory, the therapeutic action is based upon unrepresentable mental states finding representation in the mind. Second, I experiment with how our clinical writing might reflect nonsovereignty; I write with the performative “we,” combining my story with a patient’s as if we were one person introducing the unpredictable and the analyst’s vulnerability. Finally, I turn to slides of Agnes Martin, whose art highlights work in the negative that is not translated but is felt as a persistent force through time. When we can perceive the existential encounter with the incalculable, unrepresentable and unsayable centers of psychic life that resist representation and demand to be encountered by other means, transformation is possible.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize discuss the human illusion of sovereignty.
2. Describe how the unrepresentable elements of psychic life may function in both destructive and creative ways.
3. Apply the principals of a nonsovereign clinical stance with patients including the concept of “living alongside” the patient.



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9. The Pleasures and Banality of the Negative and The Unknown- (*Cont'd*)

Speakers: Jade McGleughlin, LICSW, USA; Stacey Novack, PsyD, USA; and
Uri Hadar, PhD, Israel

Discussant: Chana Ullman, PhD, Israel

Moderator: Diana Faydysh, MA, USA

Abstract:

*On Being Deceived: Dynamics of Knowing and Believing in Real and Virtual Relating- **Stacey Novack***

This paper explores the psychic challenge of discerning reality from unreality in the context of contemporary social media technologies that increase vulnerability to deception and engage complex reality-testing processes. Grounded in a relational psychoanalytic perspective, the paper explores the complex motivations for believing and the special roles that idealization and need play in our relationship to social and virtual reality. Employing a Winnicottian developmental paradigm, the paper considers the psychic location of online social life and calls into question its transitional capacities. The problem of deception in the contemporary analytic situation is also addressed through two brief clinical vignettes that illustrate the challenge of maintaining the necessary tensions between knowledge of the other and hiddenness. Finally, the paper argues for the need for a “pleasure principle” associated with otherness, mystery, and uncertainty.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Describe three forms of deception that exist in online social platforms, as well as the psychological adaptations internet users have developed to protect against deception;
2. Identify dynamics of deception that characterize the analytic situation and their impact on transference and countertransference;
3. Assess the utility of Winnicott’s concept of “transitional phenomena” for understanding deception in virtual and social life.



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9. The Pleasures and Banality of the Negative and The Unknown- (*Cont'd*)

Speakers: Jade McGleughlin, LICSW, USA; Stacey Novack, PsyD, USA; and Uri Hadar, PhD, Israel

Discussant: Chana Ullman, PhD, Israel

Moderator: Diana Faydysh, MA, USA

Abstract:

The banality of the unspeakable- Uri Hadar

The accolade ‘unspeakable’ is usually used to describe extraordinary events or experiences, often with a catastrophic element, if not outright catastrophic. But something unspeakable always accompanies speech. Speech is essentially a porous medium that some dimensions of experience always escape it. I do not refer here to the unconscious, which is always already structured like a language and may be spoken after being processed in analysis. I also do not refer here to trauma whose surfacing may freeze the mind. Rather, it is the dimension of the Real of experience that always remains unspeakable simply because it is of a different order. Speech can capture certain aspects of experience, but always leaves some aspects unspoken, not because of circumstantial reasons but because of some dimensions of experience that are unspeakable. However, the fact that something is unspeakable does not mean that speech cannot be used to bring it out, to point in its direction and approximate its valence. I shall present this idea in a rigorous manner and illustrate its workings with clinical vignettes.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the nature of what cannot be spoken.
2. Understand the manner in which speech approximates the unspeakable.
3. Use the above ideas in analytic psychotherapy.



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Paper/Panel Session 6

10. Speaking of the Unspoken, Unsymbolized, and Unrepresented in Self and Space

Speakers: Sigal Eden Almogi, PhD, Israel; Smadar de Lange, PhD, Israel; and Rose Gupta, PsyD, LCSW, USA

Interlocutor & Moderator: Alejandro Avila Espada, PhD, ABPP, Spain

Abstract:

Speaking of the Unspoken in Self and Space- Sigal Eden Almogi & Smadar de Lange

Self and space are interrelated. Space is within and without. We develop in relation to space. The space within develops and forms our psychological identity. From a multiple analytic perspectives we will discuss how the inner and outer world, verbally and nonverbally, influence each other, and are indeed interchangeable in our psychological conceptualization. Exploring ways for freedom to choose, for having the capacity to be the explorers and navigators of the scope of the self and space are suggested in this panel.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. Achieve greater understanding about the “space between realities” (Bromberg, 1993, p. 166). This understanding enables better navigation in the therapeutic space towards standing in that space that Bromberg (1993; 1996) depicts as an ability signifying a healthy psyche.
2. Expand one’s capacity to navigate towards: individuation, differentiation and authenticity. With the capacity to achieve one end of the scale, one is able to have the flexibility and dynamic in moving towards the other side of the scale if needed: merger, identification, and falsehood.
3. Bring greater accuracy to psychological conceptualization. With the assistant of this model the therapist is able to discern a distinct developmental line with its challenges and the skills needed for its achievement. This accuracy enables first sharpening the therapeutic goal, and secondly to rely more securely on the psychological strengths the client had already acquired in his or her more cultivated developmental lines.
4. Explore ways in which therapist and patient can create openings for new forms of relational dynamics through co-construction of a “psycho-geographical therapeutic home.”
5. Consider how using visual images of patient’s physical home advances our understanding of mental states that are absent from verbal expression.
6. Identify how the use of feminist theory may inform important ways of thinking about and working with our patients.



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Paper/Panel Session 6

10. Speaking of the Unspoken, Unsymbolized, and Unrepresented in Self and Space- (*Cont'd*)

Speakers: Sigal Eden Almogi, PhD, Israel; Smadar de Lange, PhD, Israel; and Rose Gupta, PsyD, LCSW, USA

Interlocutor & Moderator: Alejandro Avila Espada, PhD, ABPP, Spain

Abstract:

Finding Frankenstein: The analyst's intersubjective collision with unsymbolized thought and unrepresented mental states- **Rose Gupta**

I chose the wordless world of Frankenstein. the ballet, to symbolize an unrepresented and unsymbolized self and object relationship as a result of the transgenerational transmission of trauma. Drawn from a broad lens of international intersubjective theorists who emphasize the shared notion that it is the encounter between minds that dynamically structures the psyche, I highlight that it is not only out of the “we” a self emerges, but it is with the extended use of the analyst’s mind within the context of an analytic “we” that it becomes possible to reconstruct a self. I describe the inevitable intersubjective collision with the patient’s unrepresented state embodied and symbolized by Victor Frankenstein whose life and death pas de deux with his “creature” ends in his own annihilation. Clinical material and treatment strategies describing the retrogressive use of the analyst’s mind will be presented from work with a patient internally depleted by her traumatic encounters with an un-inscribed, unsymbolized, annihilating Other.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. Apply intersubjective theory to concepts of unrepresented states and unsymbolized thought.
2. Analyze and be able to implement a greater use of the analyst’s mind in the clinical encounter with the patient’s traumatic, unsymbolized self and object configuration.
3. Describe an unsymbolized object by differentiating processes of symbolization from the early introjection of objects.



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Paper/Panel Session 6

11. Unspeaking Spirituality and Religion in Psychoanalysis by Speaking our Rhetorical Problem

Speakers: Earl Bland, PsyD, USA; Brad Strawn, PhD, USA; and Roy Barsness, PhD, USA

Moderator: Lewis Barth, PhD, PsyD, USA

Abstract:

In a recent NYT op-ed Johnathan Merritt (2018) observed that despite most people's claim to be religious the vast majority are uncomfortable talking about religion and rarely do. In our psychoanalytic community we might invert part of this reflection by stating: despite most analyst's claim to be non-religious or spiritual-but not religious, the vast majority are uncomfortable talking about religion and rarely do. When Sorenson (2004) suggested we "mind" our patient's spirituality he was advocating that we become bothered by our patient's religious and spiritual experiences in a manner that allows them to be spoken. This call, along with other important influences, have no doubt contributed to fewer analysts reflexively ignoring, minimizing, or pathologizing the religiousness/spirituality of patients. Contemporary movements in psychoanalysis have opened up ways in which spirituality and religion may be understood as healthy expressions in a well lived life. Nevertheless, we find many clinicians remain tentative as to how to work with spiritual/religious issues or how to speak of faith beyond the thin advice of diversity speak or multicultural frameworks. We believe part of this problem is related to what Thornton Wilder referred to as the "rhetorical problem" of religion, which we would reconceptualize as the rhetorical problem of psychoanalysis and spirituality/religion. In Wilder's context the "rhetorical problem" was not about religion's inability to articulate itself, rather, he thought that if religion was to remain vital it would need "new persuasive words for the defaced or degraded ones" (Wilder & Bryer, 2008). Even though we have achieved momentous leaps in the reconceptualization of theory and technique, our current psychoanalytic context has not fared much better. Much of our clinical dialogue regarding spirituality/religion remains ensnared within archaic psychoanalytic thought patterns where words like obsessive, intrusion, prohibition, exclusion, discrimination, repressed desire, displacement, masochism, and fundamentalism all swirl indiscriminately. Despite ongoing debate, Peter Gay's (1989) attribution of Freud as a "godless Jew" retains a formative influence on our training, theorizing, and practice. All of this despite unspoken evidence of our patient's clear and enduring preoccupation with things spiritual/religious. This panel, containing three different papers, speaks to different components of our rhetorical problem.



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11. Unspeaking Spirituality and Religion in Psychoanalysis by Speaking our Rhetorical Problem- (*Cont'd*)

Speakers: Earl Bland, PsyD, USA; Brad Strawn, PhD, USA; and Roy Barsness, PhD, USA

Moderator: Lewis Barth, PhD, PsyD, USA

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. Access and analyze the language of psychoanalysis as it relates to the spiritual and religious experience of patients.
2. Engage their own work with patients by identifying and examining the dimensions psychoanalytic process that may hinder patients from speaking about their spiritual or religious experiences.
3. Recognize and describe possible ways to engage patients in a manner that increases their ability to address both conscious and unconscious aspects of their spiritual or religious experience.



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Paper/Panel Session 6

12. The Emerging Clinical Mind: An Intimate Dialogue within the Supervisory Matrix

Speakers: Taz Morgan, MA, USA and Gabrielle Taylor, PhD, USA

Discussant: Michelle Harwell, LMFT, PsyD, USA

Moderator: Robyn Sewitz, PsyD, LCSW, USA

Abstract:

The three papers in this panel give voice to that which most often goes unspoken -- the private conversation between supervisor and supervisee around patient care. The work of any psychoanalytic supervision focuses on helping the young clinician learn to make the unspeakable speakable by identifying the unconscious at play in the patient's life and within the clinician. The intimate alliance between the supervisory team and developing therapist is a significant variable in the outcome of therapy. The emergence of a supervisee's clinical mind often mirrors the vulnerability in the client's growth process. This interactive panel will bring together members of the supervisory matrix to explore a young clinician's development with one client in one year through the eyes of her individual supervisor, group supervisor, and herself. We will take a look at the complex system that holds a supervisee en route to becoming her own clinical self. We will examine the nonlinear attributes that manifest in an experiential, collaborative, and relationship-focused supervision that help a clinician build complex therapeutic skills or more specifically, the skillful use of therapeutic skills. We will purport this coparticipatory alliance is what facilitates the birth of the clinical self

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this panel, attendees will be able to:

1. Discuss how relational supervision can hold the dilemmas and complexities specifically facing early career clinicians.
2. Identify three attributes necessary in their maturational development.
3. Define Dan Stern's concept of "moving along" as a non-linear aspect in the process of clinical growth.