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What is the Division Up to Now?

Mary Beth Cresci, PhD

Members of Division 39 may assume that the Spring Meeting and our program at the APA Convention in the late summer are the most active times for the Division. However, during the fall and winter the officers and Board members of the Division are also quite busy. In November we hold an all-day Executive Committee (EC) Meeting (with the presidents, treasurer, secretary, and council representatives), and in January we hold a briefer EC Meeting and an all-day Board of Directors Meeting. The Fall EC Meeting is a time when we review the year and anticipate new initiatives for the upcoming year. At the January Board Meeting we approve the annual budget and establish many of the agenda items that will carry us forward. I think you will be interested to learn about some of the issues we explored at these meetings and the directions we have embarked on to strengthen the Division and provide support for our members. As you will see, the Board depends heavily on many committees and task forces that work actively on our behalf throughout the year.

One of my concerns has been to attract early career professionals to our Division and to provide programming and social networking opportunities that will help them feel at home with us. We have an active Early Career Professionals (ECP) Committee cochaired by Marilyn Charles and Winnie Eng. Yet they are handicapped by the fact that our Division dues are high. The jump from $25 for graduate students to $95 for members who have completed graduate work is a considerable leap. APA eases the pain for ECP’s to be APA members by establishing a stepped-up dues structure so that ECP’s can slowly adjust to their new postgraduate status. Unfortunately, the APA dues statement does not allow divisions to list different dues rates for ECP’s. This technical difficulty did not seem to be an adequate reason to give up on finding ways to make Division membership affordable to ECP’s. So, with the agreement of the EC, I established a Task Force on ECP Dues headed by Devon King, chair of the Membership Committee. The task force reported to the Board in January and proposed a motion to offer reduced dues to ECP’s. The Board of Directors voted to reduce ECP dues to $50 and to enable ECP’s to join the Division or get refunds through the Division’s administrative offices. The task force consulted with our treasurer, Marsha McCary, and APA staff to learn how we could identify ECP’s who are Division members and to devise ways to advertise the reduced rate to ECP’s who are not yet members of our Division. We believe this is an important step to ensure that the latest generation of professionals will join our Division and help it to thrive.

Another concern expressed by Bill MacGillivray, our incoming President-elect, was the importance of determining whether the committees and Board are representative of the many constituencies within the Division, are providing an inviting environment to attract members of various diversities, and are providing opportunities for them to move into governance positions. These constituencies include members of various ages, educational backgrounds, ethnicities, and sexual orientation. To gather information on this issue and generate recommendations to the Board I appointed Bill to head a Task Force on Diversity Issues and gathered a strong group to work with him representing the diversity within our Division. Bill has had several meetings of the task force and will be providing a report with recommendations at the August Board Meeting. (For more information, see...
the report on this Task Force on page 38.)

Henry Seiden, chair of the Publications Committee, joined us at both the November EC and the January Board Meetings. In anticipating that Bill MacGillivray would be stepping down as newsletter editor when he assumed the Division presidency, Henry had challenged all of us to think ahead to the sorts of publications that would best serve our membership. He proposed that we divide the newsletter into two publications to reflect the varied functions that the newsletter has filled under Bill’s editorship. One, to expand on the intellectual dialogue that the newsletter provides through book reviews and thought essays, would be met through a psychoanalytic review and would remain in print form published on a quarterly basis. The other, to provide Division news and professional announcements in a timely fashion, would be met through a new online newsletter to be “published” via our listserv.

“Rhea Farberman, Director of APA Public Relations, [has] prepared an APA press release highlighting the . . . evidence supporting psychoanalytic approaches to psychotherapy. The press release will disseminate the points made about psychoanalytic psychotherapy to the general public as well as to our fellow psychologists.”

on a bimonthly basis. With the approval of the Board at the January Meeting we agreed to divide the current newsletter into these two components and have a different editor for each. Thus, beginning in mid-2010 the psychoanalytic review will be edited by David Lichtenstein and the e-newsletter will be edited by member-at-large Tamara McClintock Greenberg. We are very excited about these new ventures and believe they will serve our members well. In addition, of course, we will continue to publish our journal Psychoanalytic Psychology under the editorship of Elliot Jurist. (For more information, see the Publications Committee report on page 38.)

Marsha McCary, our treasurer, has not only been carefully monitoring our income and expenditures and ensuring that we build up our reserves. She has also thought about how our Division can encourage and support educational and treatment programs and research that advance the profession of psychoanalysis. She presented to the Board a preliminary proposal to establish a separate fund for the Division of Psychoanalysis within the American Psychological Foundation. Once this fund is established, our members will be able to make contributions that will support psychoanalysis via scholarships, research grants, early career awards, projects for under-served populations, etc. Furthermore, we can publicize these awards as a means to demonstrate the wide range of activities informed by psychoanalytic thought. Dolores Morris, Nancy McWilliams, and I will be working with Marsha to get this fund established. We hope you will see the value of this effort and will help to make it successful.

The Task Force on Public Relations, chaired by Nina Thomas, has been meeting throughout 2009. The task force has undertaken a major endeavor—to find ways to put a new face on psychoanalysis to show the public the value and opportunity that psychoanalytic treatment offers. The task force has come up with some wonderful ideas to involve all of us in this effort at the Spring Meeting in Chicago.

The Task Force’s attention to public relations issues is already making a difference. For instance, Nina mentioned to us at the Board Meeting that the definition of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy on the APA web site was woefully uninformative and out-of-date. After the Board Meeting we began an online dialogue among the entire Board to rewrite that definition. We developed a definition that gives the public an accurate and inviting picture of our form of psychotherapy.

When we contacted APA staff to make this change on the APA web site our request was met with speedy results. Please check out the new definition in the section on different approaches to psychotherapy at http://www.apa.org/topics/therapy/psychotherapy-approaches.

Nina also took on another initiative to publicize the value of psychoanalytic psychotherapy to a broader audience. When we learned that Jonathan Shedler’s article on the efficacy of psychoanalytic psychotherapy was going to be published by the American Psychologist, Nina contacted Rhea Farberman, Director of APA Public Relations, and alerted her to the significance of this article. Rhea prepared an APA press release highlighting the article’s evidence supporting psychoanalytic approaches to psychotherapy. The press release will disseminate the points made about psychoanalytic psychotherapy to the general public as well as to our fellow psychologists. You can find links to the press release and the Shedler article on the Division 39 web site.

In addition, shortly after our Board Meeting Dr. Melba Vasquez, the newly-elected APA President-elect, contacted us to say that she will be preparing a statement to support the APA resolution on the effectiveness of psychotherapy. She has asked us to provide her with statements and citations demonstrating the effectiveness of
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Frank Summers, Ph.D., ABPP

OPENING EVENT
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Jonathan Shedler, Ph.D.
on his American Psychologist article
“The Efficacy of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy”
Wednesday, April 21st, 8–9:30pm,
including coffee and cake

CO-CHAIRS:
Scott D. Pytluk, Ph.D. and Andrew B. Suth, Ph.D.

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psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy. We are pleased to have this opportunity to give her the information she needs to ensure that psychoanalysis is included in the resolution.

At the January Meeting our Board adopted measures to address the difficult conundrum of APA’s contract with the Manchester Hyatt Hotel for the 2010 APA convention in San Diego. In 2004 APA signed a contract with this hotel to provide some of the accommodations and meeting rooms for the convention. A contract like this provides substantial penalties if APA reneges on its contractual obligations. In 2008 the hotel’s owner made a large personal contribution to support California’s Proposition 8 which banned same-sex marriage. Also, the hotel has been picketed by union organizations who want the opportunity to unionize the hotel workers. In response to members who wanted APA to break the contract, APA responded that the organization could not afford the penalties involved in cancelling the contract. The APA leadership promised that they would plan programming to highlight the social science research on sexual orientation, the abilities of gay and lesbian parents, and the benefits of marriage for all people. In spite of these considerations, our board voted to request that our Division events be scheduled at venues other than the Manchester Hyatt. In addition, we directed our Council Representatives to introduce a new business item at the February 2010 APA Council of Representatives Meeting requiring that APA examine labor practices and social justice issues in developing contracts for APA meeting venues.

Just prior to the January Meeting the Board received a final report from the Interdivisional (39/42) Task Force on Managed Care. The cochairs, Ivan Miller and Gordon Herz, had previously written informative analyses of the impact of managed care on our practices and had recommended a series of actions that the APA Practice Directorate could undertake on behalf of private practitioners. Frank Goldberg, the Division’s Federal Advocacy Coordinator and a member of the Interdivisional Task Force, discussed the frustration that the task force had experienced. He also distributed an essay he had written that outlined how the APA Practice Directorate could help the private practitioner. The disbanding of the task force requires that we develop new initiatives if we are going to oversee and influence the efforts of the APA Practice Directorate in its support for private practice. The Board discussed a number of options for moving forward, including communication with the leadership of the APA Practice Directorate and the establishment of a new Task Force on Private Practice for the Division. We will also consult with Division 42 to see whether the Interdivisional Task Force can be reconstituted with an updated charge from both divisions.

In addition to all of the above topics, the Board addressed a major issue affecting our Division membership. A number of our members, many of whom have been active leaders in the Division, have been withholding dues as part of the withholdAPAdues.org movement to protest APA’s positions on social justice issues, especially APA’s original reluctance to ban psychologist participation at detainee sites. After an APA referendum made it clear that a majority of the voting APA members supported the ban, APA passed a resolution to ban psychologist participation at those sites. However, many of the withhold dues group believe that APA has not done enough to enforce the resolution or to support revision of the APA Ethics Code sections that have been termed the Nuremberg defense. Some members have chosen to resign from APA rather than rejoin at the end of the two-year grace period that APA has provided. Our current Division bylaws require that psychologists who are qualified to be members of APA must be APA members in order to be members of our Division. We do have another category of membership, affiliate member, which allows non-APA members to continue to be part of the Division. Affiliate members, however, are not allowed to vote or hold office. The Board has been asked to change our bylaws to enable those members who withdraw from APA to continue as full members of our Division. The Board agreed that we need to study this issue to see what the advantages and disadvantages would be to the Division if we change our membership categories. To address this issue, I have formed a Task Force on Membership Issues chaired by Larry Zelnick. We have written a charge for the task force and chosen its members. We anticipate that the task force will be reporting back to us at the April Board Meeting.

As you can see, the Division Executive Committee, Board members, and task force and committee members are busy people. I hope you have found this summary of some of their many activities informative. I encourage you to send any comments about our plans to the newsletter editor so we can publish them for all to see. I also encourage you to volunteer to help our various committees and task forces accomplish their important goals.

Reference
I read with considerable interest President Cresci’s remarks in the Summer 2009 issue of Psychologist–Psychoanalyst. What really caught my attention was the part dealing with the more politically charged issues (e.g., social justice, definitions of torture, appropriate clinical interventions with homosexuals, and multiculturalism). Although I have opinions about issues in all of these areas, I am concerned that Division 39 is rapidly moving toward becoming too much of a political organization.

I recently co-authored a chapter with Dr. Robert E. Wubbolding, a nationally acclaimed reality therapist, in which we presented a critique of the current emphasis in counseling and counseling psychology on social justice and multiculturalism (Thomas & Wubbolding, 2009). In this chapter, we also discussed the disturbing trend in the psychology profession, generally, toward taking political positions in areas where there is scant psychological research data to support one position versus another.

These trends, which apply to psychoanalytic psychology as well, have the potential to affect the quality of research and scholarship in the field, the perceptions of the field by the general public, and the roles and functions of practicing clinicians. For example, in many clinical settings, there has been a change in emphasis away from treating clients as individuals toward treating clients as members of one or another minority group. Also, instead of emphasizing client assets and opportunities, clients are regarded and often encouraged to think of themselves as victims of a dominant and exploitative White culture. Moreover, persons in association leadership positions have frequently chosen to define emphases within psychological specialties along racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual preference lines instead of in terms of professional functions such as assessment and diagnosis, psychotherapy, theory-building, and research.

Quite frankly, I was attracted to psychoanalysis in the first place due to the lack of political correctness in its journals, books, and organizational structures. With the exception of his disdain for Woodrow Wilson, Freud was basically apolitical. Instead, his primary interest was to advance the science and practice of psychoanalysis. The purpose of analysis is to analyze, not proselytize about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, social justice, gay rights, torture, the sanctity of multiculturalism, or whatever. Unfortunately, despite their good intentions, I believe some of the Division’s members are confusing their political views and interests with their professional roles as psychologist-psychoanalysts.

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In Memoriam  Lester Luborsky 1920 - 2010

Lester Luborsky, emeritus professor at the University of Pennsylvania, one of the founding fathers of psychotherapy research, died at his home in Philadelphia on Oct 22, at the age of 89.

Lester first thought of becoming a botanist, but when he discovered a collection of Freud in his landlady’s attic, he changed his mind. He went off to Duke University for his doctorate, becoming a clinical psychologist who spent his lifetime career bringing two worlds together—psychotherapy and scientific research. He went on to the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kan., where he did psychoanalytic training and research for 11 years. He returned to Philadelphia in 1959, and was on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania ever since. From 1974 to 1976, he was the principal investigator of “behavioral control methods for the treatment of essential hypertension,” a $600,000 project funded in part by the National Institute of Mental Health. From 1990 to 1998, he was the principal investigator for a $3 million project funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a study of psychosocial treatments for cocaine abuse.

He developed methods to investigate what makes psychotherapy work, and became a pioneer in psychotherapy research. He was a respected teacher and mentor who, according to Dr. Dwight Evans, the chairman of the psychiatry department of the University of Pennsylvania, “had a tremendous impact on the field.”

According to Mardi Horowitz,

Lester was a solid and persistent thinker and researcher. He developed systems for case formulation and also major outcome measures, such as the Health Sickness Rating Scale that made it (in modified form) into the DSM III. He was a genius at taking clinical observations into doable formats, going superbly from qualitative definitions to quantitative methods, without losing clinical richness. He was a really nice guy who wrote lucidly and encouraged those who followed him.

We can ask no more from any leader in our field, and we will continue to use his work.”

Sid Blatt notes, Lester was a giant in 20th century psychology and a very kind and decent person. His impact on the field was enormous and he will be deeply missed by his many friends.”

His colleague, Paul Crits-Christoph wrote,

He was one of the great, leading figures in the field of academic psychotherapy for half a century. Those among us who did not have a chance to get to know him in person will remember him not only as the author of the highly cited review of comparative studies of psychotherapies in which he applied the Dodo bird verdict “Everyone has won and all must have prizes,” to the effectiveness of various psychotherapies. Lester Luborsky also developed the concept of the Core Conflictual Relationship Theme (CCRT), and made countless other valuable contributions to our field.

In 1973 and 1974, he was president of the Society for Psychotherapy Research. In 1973, he was a visiting professor at Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Rome, and in 1981 and 1982 at Universität Ulm in West Germany. From 1979 to 1982, he was a director for the American Mental Health Foundation. In 2000, he was on the international advisory board of the World Congress of Psychotherapy. In terms of awards, 1999 was a special year. The American Psychological Foundation gave him its Gold Medal Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Applications of Psychology; and the American Psychoanalytic Association gave him its Award for Distinguished Psychoanalytic Theory and Research.


He is survived by his three children: Lise, a lawyer, Ellen, a psychologist, and Peter, a teacher and linguist; four grandchildren, Miranda, Alex, David and Marie; and three great-grandchildren, Kora, Noah and Elijah.
One of the intriguing parallels between psychoanalysis and poetry is the process by which one gets from muddle to meaning, from the smallest, swimming details of experience to the big picture—and then back again with the detail clarified and illuminated as never before.

Seen right (and said right), the detail implies the whole—no less than that the whole contains, organizes, and orders the parts. Every percept, every gesture, every word is part of a tapestry of meaning. This, of course, is a fundamental assumption and a working algorithm in psychoanalytic practice. It is no less in the practice of poetry.

Here is a poem by a contemporary poet, Eamon Grennan¹, that speaks to that awareness. Grennan is an Irish citizen and divides his time between Ireland and this country. He’s a professor at Vassar, widely published on both sides of the Atlantic and the winner of many distinguished poetry prizes. The poem is called “Detail” and is from his recent volume Still Life With Waterfall (2002)².

I was watching a robin fly after a finch—the smaller chirping with excitement, the bigger, its breast blazing, silent
in light-winged earnest chase—when, out of nowhere over the chimneys and the shivering front gardens, flashes a sparrowhawk headlong, a light brown burn scorching the air from which it simply plucks like a ripe fruit the stopped robin, whose two or three cheeps of terminal surprise twinkle in the silence closing over the empty street when the birds have gone
about their business, and I began to understand how a poem can happen: you have your eye on a small elusive detail, pursuing its music, when a terrible truth strikes and your heart cries out, being carried off.

So, this is “how a poem can happen.” Note the poet’s almost photographic deconstruction of the process: you’re an interested observer with “your eye on a small elusive detail, pursuing its music” when Bang!, the truth strikes. This is Grennan’s method; and it’s a credit to his quiet genius that he makes us feel that we could do it too: walk

¹ Grennan’s biography is readily available on the Internet at http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/824

Importantly, illumination is not an accident. It’s a matter of readiness. In one of its earlier iterations “Detail” was called “Lesson.” The first part of the lesson here (for poets and their readers and for analysts and their patients) is that an alert receptivity is a necessary condition of insight. Here’s what Grennan says in an interview³ about insight:

Most of us live in a sort of linear and horizontal way, but what lyric poems and poetry are trying to do is . . . live in a vertical way down the shaft of one of those single horizontal moments . . . Another image may be dowsing for water—you walk around the landscape and then the willow wand dips and you say, dig here! And, you find water.

Of course finding (or stumbling on, or for that matter falling into) metaphorical water, that is to say, finding truth, requires art. The world doesn’t necessarily give up its secrets so easily. Here’s what Grennan has to say in “Up Against It” another poem in the same collection. He contemplates the bees that have drifted into his house and “cannot understand the window they buzz and buzz against.” They “cannot fathom how the air has hardened and the world they know with their eyes keeps out of reach . . . They can only go on making the one sound that tethers their pure electric fury to what’s impossible.”

So it is with us he must mean: so often we bumble around in an essential stupidity—like the uncomprehending bees, furious in their ignorance and desire.

And the stakes are high. The search for truth may well start out as a sweet contemplation of life on a sunny day. But the matter itself is grave. The robin’s surprise is terminal. The observer’s illumination is heart stopping. The truth that strikes us may be joyous for being true but terrible for what it teaches.

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³ The interview can be read in full at: http://poems.com/special_features/prose/essay_grennan.php#bio
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Individual (print and online): US$67 / £40 / €54
Psychoanalysis at the Margins provides a fascinating read for all those with a passion for psychoanalysis. Author Paul Stepansky, the former editorial director of The Analytic Press, writes with authority, knowledge and an obsession for historical detail. Not simply a history of psychoanalysis, his book also provides an in-depth critique of the fall of psychoanalysis and persuasively argues that psychoanalysis must embrace its marginalized status if it is to survive.

His major theme is that we have, in fact, shot ourselves in the foot by creating so many splinter groups, each with their own journal, and often with great animosity toward those who think differently. He points out that not only has psychoanalysis not built on the “common ground” discussed by Wallerstein twenty years ago, but rather has become increasingly intolerant of psychoanalytic colleagues who hold different views. (He cites the unfortunate incident in the pages of Psychoanalytic Psychology that began with Jon Mills’ critique of Stephen Mitchell’s views and descended into repetitive personal attacks. He is quick to add that he takes no sides in this dispute.) He describes Arnold Richards as someone who encourages dialogue with those who are not Contemporary Freudians like himself, primarily for the purpose of winning them over to the views held by his group.

Stepansky is clearly not afraid to speak his mind, which I admire. I also agree with his perception that psychoanalytic culture is generally stuck, waiting to be restored to its former glory (which he says will never happen), while shamelessly fighting over what is left of the pie. He points out that our actual behavior undermines our efforts toward any new ascendancy.

My argument is that in America the internal fractionation of psychoanalysis into rivalrous and even sect-like groupings and the marginalization of the field have proceeded in tandem over the past three decades; historically, the two trends are intertwined. (p. xvii)

As a psychoanalytic editor and publisher, he offers a unique perspective on how psychoanalytic theorists who overly-specialize have actually shrunk the market for psychoanalytic books by creating smaller and smaller cadres of book buyers who will only read books written by members of their in-group. Rather than writing for the more general analytic audience that existed 20 or 30 years ago, authors and book buyers tend to write and read only those works by and for members of relatively small theoretical camps. From Stepanksy’s point of view, this trend contributed to the downfall of psychoanalytic publishing. With smaller and smaller sales for each new psychoanalytic book, many of them losing money, publishers first limited, then dropped, their analytic catalogue altogether.

He mentions several of the books that sold well for The Analytic Press in the 1990s, but also notes that the figures paled in comparison to those who were analytic but wrote for a more general audience, like Paul Wachtel and Nancy McWilliams, who have sold tens of thousands of books for Guilford Press. These authors are the exceptions, however. Reaching out and presenting analytic ideas to those not already in the fold has not been popular in the analytic world.

Stepansky rightly notes that we have not accepted craft status and handed down craft knowledge for future generations of therapists, nor have we integrated our sophisticated theoretical ideas—either of which might have carved out a viable position for us. As a result, psychoanalysis becomes more marginalized by the day. He presents several possible outcomes if we continue down this path. But in the end he appears to be recommending a combination of reconciliation among psychoanalytic thinkers, as well as a willingness to integrate psychoanalytic ideas into the mainstream, particularly with the burgeoning neuroscience research, which has confirmed
many basic psychoanalytic ideas. He says,

I myself hope that researchers will continue to delineate the interrelationships between psychoanalysis and neuroscience, because I believe this integrative approach holds the greatest promise of bringing psychoanalysis into the scientific mainstream in a manner that comprehends and grants dignity to nonanalytic mechanisms of therapeutic action in realms as disparate as psychotropic mediation and cognitive-behavioral interventions. (p. 218)

I believe Paul Stepansky has much to offer psychoanalysis in this volume and I personally agree with most of what he has to say, which naturally lends itself to a more positive review. (By way of disclosure, even though I published with The Analytic Press and am mentioned briefly in the volume with regard to the sales of my books, my contact with Paul Stepansky over the years was limited to discussing publishing and I have no personal relationship with him.)

In spite of my general agreement with his views, I think it only fair to point out some of the weaknesses in his arguments and the manner in which the book was written. Stepansky is a scholar who has written previously on the history of surgery and who is meticulous in his research. I think the inclusion of so much medical history, along with voluminous footnotes, will present a hurdle to some readers and seem too digressive. For others who share his passion for historical detail, it will no doubt provide a welcome opportunity to gain insight into how psychoanalysis specialized in an idiosyncratic way that differed greatly from medical specialization. He contrasts the success of medical specialization, including its books and journals, with the failure of psychoanalytic specialization, making a compelling argument for how and why this occurred. I think this argument is relevant to his thesis, but I question whether so much detail about the medical world was necessary.

What was noticeably absent from Dr. Stepansky’s analysis of the fall of psychoanalysis, specifically as it relates to psychoanalytic publishing, was the role played by psychoanalytic publishers themselves. It seems unlikely that they had no hand in decades of bad decisions about the direction of psychoanalytic publishing. Certainly they were more aware than anyone else of the increasingly small audiences and frequent financial failures of psychoanalytic books. If they were exhorting psychoanalytic writers to become more ecumenical and write with less jargon, I do not recall ever hearing about it. Rather, they seemed to bite the bullet and cut staff instead. It is my understanding that most analytic publishers have not provided professional edits for their books in decades, which eroded their quality. Publishing fewer books, but editing them well, might have raised the bar, and the audience, for psychoanalytic books.

Finally, is it realistic to think that psychoanalytic publishers were not influenced by the personal conflicts and political maneuvering within the psychoanalytic community that Stepansky documents? How many book contracts were signed based on the recommendations of powerful analysts who used them to reward the faithful? And wasn’t it easier for analytic publishers to accept these recommendations rather than to actively scour the meetings and journal articles looking for new talent with no power base? (I will never forget giving a paper at a Division 39 meeting as a relative unknown and being offered a book contract for *The Power of Countertransference* by a Wiley editor from the United Kingdom who was doing just that.)

Paul Stepansky has written a powerful, well-written and stimulating history of the rise and fall of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic publishing that both informs us and forces us to look at our own narcissism and lack of vision.

“Paul Stepansky has written a powerful, well-written and stimulating history of the rise and fall of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic publishing that both informs us and forces us to look at our own narcissism and lack of vision.”

**REFERENCES**


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As is typical of a Paul Wachtel book, *Relational Theory and the Practice of Psychotherapy* is expertly written, broad in scope, well suited for both advanced and novice practitioners alike, and a pleasure to read. Readers from a range of theoretical orientations will find themselves stimulated to think in new ways and at times will be challenged to reconsider some cherished ideas. The book is a three part act with the first focusing on the history of relational theory, the second on Wachtel’s review and refinement of his own theories, and the third emphasizing clinical applicability of this theory and integrates technical interventions from a range of theoretical orientations. The book in full provides the reader with a coherent history of relational thought in psychoanalysis. This history then serves as the backdrop and starting point for understanding both Wachtel’s current thinking about individuals and therapy. Finally, as in previous books by Wachtel, he finds ways to make his insights practically important and relevant to practicing therapists by focusing on their implications for a range of important therapeutic issues, such as understanding enactments and issues associated with therapists’ self-disclosure.

As stated previously, Wachtel has successfully crammed a multitude of topics into this book. He reviews the history of relational thinking and locates it within the larger body of the progression of psychoanalytic thought. He takes the reader through the journey from a one-person to two-person model of viewing people and how this informs what is done in psychotherapy. Simultaneously, he acknowledges that there is a great deal of heterogeneity among relational theorists and thinkers that has often contributed to confusion and a lack of clarity in the relational community. As such, he painstakingly attempts to clearly articulate his model and way of thinking regarding individuals, the contexts in which they exist, the nature of psychotherapy, and clinical technique. By locating his own thinking and past theorizing within the broader history of relational thought he logically and systematically reviews why he has refined and elaborated on previous theoretical executions by moving from cyclical-psychedynamics to a model that more explicitly includes the present context, the cyclical-contextual model.

While the latter portions of the book have an integrationist feel and include discussion of how some behavioral techniques (i.e., exposure) may be useful in psychotherapy, Wachtel’s relational model leads the way throughout the book. Thus, the use of therapeutic techniques is always housed in a larger understanding of the individual, the nature of therapeutic relationship, and the context the person finds themselves in (in and outside of the therapist’s office). By housing such interventions within his theoretical scope, Wachtel simultaneously speaks to clinicians of multiple therapeutic orientations emphasizing the importance of striking a balance between utilizing an overarching model to guide therapy while continuing to consider a wide range of technical interventions. Consistent with the practicality of his thought, Wachtel is careful to develop a clearly two-person model that avoids epistemological nihilism. For example, Early in the book, on page 24, he notes “We may not be able to perceive the other “objectively,” but neither are our perceptions simply arbitrary.” By avoiding the extremes and polarizations throughout the book, Wachtel manages to embrace the complexity of the therapeutic situation (and the role of the patient and therapist in it), while also providing practical guidance for developing understanding with patients that are “good enough.”

The book continues to embrace a number of psychoanalytic conceptualizations emphasizing the role of the past and the unconscious in patients present day lives, the significance of the therapeutic relationship, and the role of therapeutic exploration in the process of change. At the same time, Wachtel challenges psychoanalytic thinkers to go further still. For example, he argues for the importance of using psychoanalytic techniques and understandings...
to further explore and consider “the excluded middle,” referring to middle childhood and early adulthood. He is no less stringent in challenging his own theory and thinking, changing the name of his model from cyclical psychodynamics to the cyclical-contextual model, to account for the contextual influence on individuals’ lives and how aspects of lived situations impact the expression of dynamic states.

This book is likely to find a broad audience as the book has a strong integrationist feel. Throughout the book, concepts and research from domains outside of psychoanalysis have been integrated with psychoanalytic concepts. This will likely increase the appeal of the book to a broader audience. The book’s scope, review of the history and changes of how patients are conceptualized in psychoanalysis, the clarity of the writing, and the integration of concepts from outside psychoanalysis, makes this book the text for individuals unfamiliar with relational theory or psychoanalytic models for therapy who want to learn more.

One has to strain to find weaknesses with this book. Perhaps, the only weakness to be highlighted in that readers may feel pulled in a multitude of directions over the course of their reading. Though replete with case illustrations and clearly stated therapeutic implications, readers looking for a book that is more instructive and hands on with regard to “what do you say and why” may be better served by considering previous books by Wachtel (e.g., *Therapeutic Communications*). These criticisms are minor at best and the overall book is quite an accomplishment. The structural features of the book (e.g., the layout, production) are strong and the book is reasonably priced. I would highly recommend this book to others and believe that serious practitioners of psychotherapy, thinkers about personality, and students of psychoanalysis will all be equally pleased and stimulated by this book. Wachtel is to be commended again for matching depth of insight and thought with practical guidance rendering the book useful and thought provoking for seasoned and novice practitioners across theoretical orientations.

**References**


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Marilyn Nissim-Sabat is that rare breed of intellectual who is also a mental health practitioner and a committed humanist. And she authentically practices what she preaches. She enjoyed a long career as an academic, is professor emeritus of philosophy, received her graduate degree in social work, is a practicing psychoanalytic psychotherapist, and is devoted to promulgating concrete social change through political activism. Her recent book, *Neither Victim Nor Survivor*, spans a broad array of many topics on the psychology of victimization, gender, class, and racial inequity, feminist critiques of psychoanalysis and science, and the value of phenomenology for the human and behavioural sciences.

Professor Nissim-Sabat is a true existentialist in the phenomenological tradition: she views all people as (potentially) free and responsible for choosing how to live, act, and be regardless of one’s social circumstances or personal diversity. She has no patience for those who abnegate personal responsibility, including the failure to pursue social justice or confront political and cultural oppression. She is particularly sensitive to those who suffer from victimhood, whether externally impugned by others or self-imposed. She wants society, whose members blame each other for their personal and collective woes and who also fall prey to self-blame, to abandon the victim–survivor binary, which she believes is a reified abstraction that generates narrow self-interest and apathy, and is the anathema known as false consciousness. She states: “the propaganda in a society like ours that impels us to blame victims, ourselves and others, is a function of the profound inhumanity of the socioeconomic system in which we are embedded, a system that must be changed through a liberatory praxis” (p. 189). Here Nissim-Sabat espouses a neo-Marxist position of exposing and opposing oppression attributed to capitalistic society that undermines the enactment and very notion of freedom itself. She appeals to a greater valuation process based on a socialist–humanist consciousness that combats ideology with the professed goal of achieving a more liberated, humane society.

What this requires of its citizens is to become aware of and revolutionarily oppose the oppressive forces of capitalism (masquerading under the guise of democracy), institutional racism, misogyny, cultural objectification of women, and victim blaming that sustains such oppressive forces by falsely legitimizing social injustices based on entrenched ideologies that justify people’s motives and actions, including the tendency toward self-blame that is concomitant with many social problems and psychopathology. But even in the case of certain pathologies, such as addictions, she maintains that individuals are ultimately free to make their own choices, and that arguments from a lack of self-control or weakness of will (*akrasia*) are defensive excuses designed to dehumanize people by imposing renunciation of responsibility and displacement of the notion of free will. Indeed, she argues that the attribution of weakness of will is an example of victim blaming.

Although the thread that runs through the book centers on understanding the psychodynamics of victim blaming, this book really speaks to the broader voice of advocating for a radical philosophy of humanism based on a radical optimism that challenges the social complacency and institutional structures that oppress disenfranchised groups and peoples. The new humanity she envisions would be characterized by transcendence and wholeness that is both individually realized and socially fostered where there ideally would be no more victims and no more survivors, a world in which it is acknowledged that mere survival does not constitute a human life.

The breadth of essays in this book are diverse and interdisciplinary, covering many terrains that overlap with the fields of critical race theory, phenomenology, socialism, feminist epistemology, literary theory, moral philosophy, and, of course, psychoanalysis. Because readers of this
newsletter are likely to be most interested in her critique of
psychoanalysis, it is to this that I will turn my attention.

There are five chapters that specifically address
a critique of psychoanalytic theory, including one
of the inherent misogyny in Freud's classical views
on Oedipalization and female moral development,
psychoanalysis and phenomenology, additions and
self psychology, racion in psychiatry, and to a lesser
degree, a commentary on Lacan's Antigone, as well as an
interpretation of Toni Morrison's novel, Beloved. One of
the major contributions of Professor Nissim-Sabat's book is
her appealing and cogent series of arguments for adopting
Husserlian phenomenology as the foundation of a new
psychoanalytic science that displaces the positivism of a
natural science framework and the potential relativism and
subjectivism inherent in a purely hermeneutical approach to
psychoanalytic inquiry.

Given that contemporary psychoanalysis has
largely adopted the postmodern turn and has found many
traditions within continental philosophy appealing for
rethinking psychoanalytic theory, it is surprising that
phenomenology has not been given more attention.
Nissim-Sabat fills that gap and provides the first sustained
argument for why the field should adopt a Husserlian
perspective. Although proponents of phenomenology are
diverse in theoretical scope and focus, and are by no means
homogenous, phenomenology may be said to be first and
foremost concerned with the process of experience and how
phenomena are disclosed and appear to the human subject
via an analysis and description of consciousness. Husserl
in particular, and phenomenologists in general, typically
admit to a radical difference between the "natural" and
"philosophical" attitudes, the latter challenging scientific
epistemology. While natural science makes metaphysical
assumptions about how things really are in themselves,
including discovering objective laws and unchanging
"truth," phenomenology suspends its ontological
commitments in favor of an epistemological stance that
takes concrete human subjectivity and experience as the
proper objects of science. For Husserl, this is accomplished
by a radical repositioning of our methodological practices
that does not privilege the natural science attitude, but
rather displaces such an attitude through a purely formal
investigation into the structures and disclosedness of
subjectivity. Rather than assume the existence of natural
objects independent of consciousness, Husserl, following
Kant and the German Idealists, focuses on how meanings
and their relations, rather than things, are constituted via
transcendental subjectivity. Unlike the natural scientific
attitude that avouches an unadulterated realism that can
be observed and measured, the phenomenological subject
is never dislocated from its object of study and hence can
only make interpretations and convey meaning through its
own relations as immediately experienced in the lifeworld
(Lebenswelt). Here there is no distinction or separation of
subject from object, for this contrast is united.

Although there is a complicated set of relationships
between science and philosophy, Husserl advocates for a
foundational role phenomenology plays in the constitution
of any science, indeed, in the possibility for there to be
any science at all, including psychoanalysis. In order
to achieve its task, this requires philosophy to perform
a certain reduction or act of withdrawal from the usual
assertions we make about what exists or does not exist
in the world. The result of this reduction, suspension of
judgment, or bracketing is to reveal the world as a correlate
of consciousness. In fact, it is just such a reduction or ἐποχή
(epoché) that makes phenomenology a descriptive science,
the science of pure consciousness as such. Below, I will
discuss the implications of the phenomenological notion of
pure consciousness vis-à-vis the psychoanalytic notion of
the unconscious.

Nissim-Sabat carefully prepares her arguments
by pointing out the pitfalls of naturalism, as well as
the advantages of phenomenology over hermeneutics.
According to Nissim-Sabat, the natural science attitude
is full of unwarranted presuppositions about what is real,
objective, universal, absolute, unchanging, and causally
deterministic, which ultimately devolves into the bane
of material reduction. I particularly found instructive her
categorization of scientism as adhering to a) positivism
and naturalism, where science is seen as the only source of
knowledge; b) belief in a mechanistic "billiard-ball model"
of causation following fixed universal laws; c) affirmation
that material and efficient ontological explanations are a
sufficient condition for understanding process and reality,
hence privileging d) realism and e) a correspondence
theory of truth, which ultimately have their substance and
existence in matter; and belief that f) one can have objective
knowledge about the world independent of subjectivity
or consciousness (p. 44). Although one may object to her
broad generalizations to science in general, and Freudian
psychoanalysis in particular, she very eloquently shows
how these attitudes have formed an inedible foothold in the
theoretical corpus that underlies scientism and naturalized
views of epistemology, and that furthermore prejudices
science in its various investigations and methodologies.

Equally interesting is her analysis of hermeneutics,
which is frequently associated with a phenomenological
perspective, and has been welcomed by many contemporary
psychoanalytic theorists. Despite the fact that hermeneutics
collapses the subject–object divide, sees subjectivity
as necessary to all interpretations, and generally holds
an anti-scientific posture, Nissim-Sabat argues that it is
ultimately subject to relativism because of its disavowal of universals, and hence rejection of the possibility of any science of interpretation. Another reason, I might add, is that hermeneutics lacks a methodological criterion for which interpretation and meaning are conveyed, hence it cannot escape the circularity of collapsing into a radical subjectivism. Here, she argues, a phenomenological science becomes a more palatable alternative that insulates psychoanalysis from positivism and relativism. By dismissing the natural science standpoint, or rather, scientism, natural science’s own self-misinterpretation, she is also able to reconfigure and reincorporate the hermeneutic tradition within a proper phenomenological attitude that governs our sensibilities regarding interpretive theory and practice. Here our object of concern should be the lifeworld and all its variations, which is revealed to consciousness through the phenomenological reduction, hence the systematic bracketing or voluntary suspension of all ontological commitments. This disciplined suspension promises to disclose the psychic field of subjectivity “as a self-sufficient sphere, and thus as a proper object of scientific investigation” (p. 63). By reconceiving psychoanalysis as a nonnatural science that places the realm of the psychic as the proper core of psychoanalytic investigations, she hopes to open up an attractive space for psychoanalysis to flourish as a philosophical science of subjectivity. And she admirably accomplishes this under the rubric of freedom and humanism, which, as I interpret her, is her main philosophical and moral pursuit.

What would the adoption of the phenomenological method entail for psychoanalysis? We would have to set aside our theoretical biases and intellectual prejudices about our preferred orientations and simply observe mental phenomena as it shines forth or appears. I could envision a technical process where this would be instructive and even complementary to the free associative method, however, it would be very challenging for most of us to set aside our preferred conceptual frameworks, let alone our ontological worldviews that we import into every subjective act of experiencing. But is this not what science should aspire toward when it makes its observations, engages in data collection, and performs statistical analyses? Is it not supposed to be neutral, precise, and unburdened by theoretic bias when observing and classifying phenomena?

But if we adopt the phenomenological stance, what becomes of ontology? When asked to suspend all ontological commitments, is Nissim-Sabat asking us to do something that we are incapable of doing (at least from a practical standpoint) by virtue of the fact that every human action is prefaced and premised on ontological assumptions we import (especially unconsciously) in our subjective engagement with the world and reality? Here she would say “no,” because she is merely advocating for the suspension of judgments regarding the ultimate ontology of the world, not that there is a denial of Being per se; only that, following Kant, the ultimate nature of the world is in itself unknowable. In fact the phenomenological attitude is what is needed in any viable theory and method of scientificity.

If psychoanalysis does adopt Husserl’s phenomenological method, will it have to abandon the belief in an unconscious ontology, and unconscious processes in general, like the ubiquity of transference and defense, which are the historical pillars of psychoanalytic knowledge?

Does Husserl himself make certain ontological commitments when he avers the existence of a transcendental ego that pre-reflectively performs the acts of *epoché* as analysis of subjectivity qua subjectivity, something Sartre outright rejected? Does Husserl’s system (like Sartre’s) by necessity reject in toto the notion of unconscious operations, or can unconscious mentation be explained within the structures of subjectivity? If, by definition, phenomenology is a science of consciousness, this would seem to eclipse any possibility of apprehending or knowing unconscious activity because it is not accessible to conscious experience; and even if it was, it would betray the phenomenological attitude by positing ontological processes beneath (or behind) the veil of consciousness. But is there any possibility of observing subjectivity that could be conceived as the manifestation or instantiation of unconscious structure? Husserl rarely spoke of the unconscious in his writings, however, a cryptic feature of his analysis of the ego entails what he refers to as “passive synthesis” or “passive constitution,” which explains the formal mediating and unifying operations of the transcendental ego, what I would call an unconscious agentic organization responsible for all productions of consciousness. Although he did not adequately emphasize passive synthesis as the domain of the unconscious, here we may not inappropriately extend Husserl’s method to a proper study of unconscious phenomenology.

Nissim-Sabat is on the leading edge of contemporary psychoanalytic thinking. Not only does she offer a refreshing psychoanalytic humanism grounded in phenomenological science, she is an erudite, original, and impressive scholar who genuinely embodies the principles she espouses by daring to sound the rally cry of radical philosophy for social liberation. Psychoanalysis has everything to gain from philosophical fortification, and we should all take seriously the unique contributions she has to offer.

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In these two volumes Robert Lane has preserved his writings in an accessible form for future students and researchers. It is notable that many of the articles were written in tandem with colleagues, many of whom were among his supervisees. I was fortunate to have experienced an apprenticeship under his guidance that encouraged me to not only think about the process of treatment, but also to place my observations within a larger frame of theory and past literature on the subject. We now have available to us a collection of articles that distill the experience of those who were mentored in this very special way by Robert Lane.


Saralea Chazan, PhD

...motive and a second on the negative therapeutic reaction contain extensive literature reviews of the topic as well as clinical cases. The excellent bibliographies afford the reader a resource for further reading.

The second volume, as indicated in the title, utilizes developmental sequence as a means of organization. The first section takes note of issues arising during the therapeutic hour, including setting of fees, management of acting-out and self-disclosure, and the understanding of silence as a communication. These topics are all immediately relevant to the practice of psychotherapy. Following this are sections on childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Lane discusses cognitive ego psychology and the psychotherapy of learning disorders. Attention deficit disorder, anorexia, early infancy as discussed by Daniel Stern, panic and terror are other topics addressed in articles included in this section. The developmental sequence culminates in a discussion of clinical procedures including testing, supervision and termination.

What emerges for the reader is a full narrative of a professional life of commitment to and immersion in scholarship, teaching and the clinical process. Lane is clearly one of those individuals who has made significant contributions not only to the emergence of his profession, but who also participates currently in an active way in the issues challenging his profession. Spanning a full spectrum of interests from ego psychology to object relations theory to attachment theory, he is able to sustain his efforts and contributions to the field. Thank you Robert Lane!

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In psychoanalysis we imagine new selves; in family therapy we imagine new relationships.

Mary-Joan Gerson

Toward the end of her thoughtful and accessible book on the integration of psychodynamic and systemic theory and practice Mary-Joan Gerson notes that Salvador Minuchin was introduced to the participant–observational model when he was a candidate at the William Alanson White Institute and that he subsequently adapted this model to his theory of Structural Family Therapy. This reminded me of an experience that I as an extern at the Family Therapy Training Program of the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic. While waiting to begin supervision in Minuchin’s office, I noticed a copy of Contemporary Psychoanalysis in a slightly ajar desk drawer, a discovery I filed away in my mind. I was, after all, learning systemic family therapy and psychoanalytic thought did not have a place there. In fact, Minuchin eschewed psychoanalytic theory as did other systemic theorists at the time. The mere mention of “psychoanalysis” would place you squarely in the cross hairs of Betty Carter’s stern over-her-glasses frown of incredulity, which happened more than once in her class. Years later, after completing training in psychoanalysis, I reflected on that moment when disparate theories seemed to be colliding: what Minuchin was teaching and what he was reading seemed irreconcilable. Mary-Joan Gerson believes, and effectively demonstrates, otherwise.

Dr. Gerson begins her book with the following observation: “Families . . . are what psychoanalysts spend a great deal of time hearing about. And yet how one hears this material will be the question” (p. 1). How you hear about families and couple relationships will not be the same after reading this book and your clinical perspective, if not your actual approach to treatment, will be transformed. But the transformation from linear psychoanalytic to circular systemic thinking is not an effortless journey. Family systems theory and practice is not just an additional way of perceiving individuals, couples and family units; it is an all-together different way of approaching interpersonal and intrapersonal phenomenon. In training clinicians to work systemically I have found that this paradigm shift is not an easy one to master. Dr. Gerson notes,

For the analyst, the issues that arise in making this shift include everything from soup to nuts in the psychoanalytic canon. The contours of the treatment relationship are different, issues of neutrality and engagement take on different parameters, the tracking of transference and countertransference diminishes radically, and the inevitability of enactment in treatment takes on an entirely different coloration. Of these shifts, the diminishment in attention to transference and countertransference, the conceptual anchors of the psychoanalytic relationship, is the most unsettling for the psychoanalyst. (p. 207)

There are other differences between systemic and psychoanalytic practice that may contribute to an analyst’s discomfort. Dr. Gerson points out, “the family therapist . . . is not focused on capturing dynamics in well-honed, symbolically drenched verbal communication, as the analyst is. Rather, family or couples therapists wedge into the relationship system of the family and, like a symbiote, attempt to alter it from within” (p. 177). Systemic therapists become part of a family system and create change through proximity—by being effected by and effecting family rules. They feel the push and pull, the tug and shove of the family in order to know their experience and to be able to introduce novelty into the
system, to push them toward greater complexity.

A therapist’s use-of-self as an active agent of change is as important as an awareness of countertransference. To make this point Dr. Gerson quotes E.A. Levinson: “Psychoanalysis is about what is said about what is done” (p. 177), and then adds: “…family therapy involves what is done about what is said” (p. 179). In a clinical vignette demonstrating this difference (p. 200) Gerson utilizes guided imagery and family sculpting with a couple and tells one partner what to do in order to achieve a particular outcome, to have the couple experience change: not just talk about it but to experience it viscerally and in three dimensions. Therapist activity may be one of the most challenging tactical differences between systemic and psychoanalytic practice; and by including this vignette Gerson gives analysts permission to use themselves as instruments for effecting change.

On a purely nuts-and-bolts level Dr. Gerson offers an excellent and concise historical overview of the field of family therapy including capsule biographies of key contributors and summaries of their theoretical orientations. She also provides a description of techniques pertaining to diagnosis, assessment, and various interventions. Two theoretical concepts that are included, the family life cycle and genograms, are rooted in Bowenian theory and provide an excellent bridge between systemic and psychoanalytic praxis. Bowen’s transgenerational model, diagrammatically represented in genograms, and Carter and McGoldrick’s theory of the family life cycle provide a comfortable link between these two treatment approaches. The author makes this apparent in the following observation:

The attention to detail that goes with genogram construction, like a carefully conducted factual inquiry, potentially deconstructs the known and the defensively palatable, revealing loose threads or even threadbare areas of experience. It is quite astonishing how just-out-of-awareness experience bubbles up during certain genogram constructions in a way that invites psychoanalytic explanation. (p. 173)

Intrapsychic dynamics as well as inter-generational relationship patterns are revealed in the details of each partner’s family of origin history as it is examined, perhaps for the first time, through the process of creating a genogram. The family life cycle, a model that identifies significant social, emotional and relationship milestones that require mastery in order to avoid family disharmony, is well-suited for clinicians subscribing to traditional psychoanalytic views of individual development.

In addition to addressing several shared theoretical elements of psychodynamic and systemic treatment Dr. Gerson makes a case for having a unique theory of practice when navigating the complex terrain of family and couples therapy:

For those couples who come to see us basically well related, but stuck in a particular life transition, a psychodynamically oriented exploration of resentments and disappointments will be sufficiently helpful. But for those couples mired in chronic and redundant cycles of attack and counterattack, we, as therapists, are often trying to tilt windmills in quixotic fashion when we invite intensified self and other examination. (p. 9)

I would add that for those couples caught in rigid and volatile patterns of relating, the premature encouragement of intensive self examination and relationship processing can be counter-productive and, at times, treatment disruptive. Couples in states of high distress cannot tolerate the vulnerability required to be reflective, empathic and compassionate.

Dr. Gerson notes that, “…we often simply feel increasingly anxious and less focused without a clear theoretical perspective underlying our participation” (p. 24). She then provides a caveat:

In an effort to be helpful without rooting in a systemic frame and to avoid feeling uncomfortably vulnerable to treatment failure, analysts reenter the analytic frame and often make individual assessments and prematurely recommend individual therapy. There is a pull to feeling more sympathetic to the more self-reflective, self-expressive (though not necessarily the more systemically virtuous) partner in a couple. In contrast, working within a frame of systemic thinking, of interlocking dynamics, bolsters therapeutic stamina and vitality. (p. 211)

When we treat families and couples without a systemic theory of practice it can be difficult to respond effectively to the formidable influence of homeostatic forces that resist change. When we have a map, we have something to turn to if we lose our way; it helps us to determine where we took a wrong turn and how to get ourselves back on track. Dr. Gerson examines several concepts through the dual lenses of psychoanalytic and systemic theory. A discussion of systemic balance expands the meaning of traditional and contemporary psychoanalytic views of neutrality: “Adopting a systemic view when working with a couple or family enhances one’s ability to stay both balanced and non-collusive with whatever dysfunction is
The alternative of adhering to a linear perspective results in, “...analysts who try to grasp individual psychologies and individual transferences often feel(ing) uncomfortably lopsided in their working alliance” (p. 212). The ability to maintain a balanced stance in relation to both partners is fundamental to effective couple therapy. The inability to do so, in my experience, contributes to treatment failures, especially with couples encountering traumatic relationship disharmony. Since Gerson notes that there is a tendency for individual psychodynamic therapists to fall back on familiar linear paradigms when encountering difficult cases, a more thorough discussion of therapeutic balance would have been helpful. Never the less, the author says a lot when she concludes that, “What one must develop is an empathic response to a relationship system, not to the individuals within it” (p. 213).

In psychoanalytic treatment metaphor provides a space in which the analyst and patient have an empathic encounter: it telegraphs, in an intense way, the analyst’s fundamental grasp of the patient’s experience. In systemic treatment metaphor plays a central role in both theory and technique by expanding and illuminating the numerous layers of process and action that characterize family and couple relationships. Dr. Gerson states, “Rather than let the session meander with the implicit frame being transference and countertransference exploration, family therapists often identify, in fact organize, an entire session around a particular thematic emphasis. The metaphor serves to both focus the accustomed redundancy and to imaginatively release new interpersonal experiences” (p. 187). As a technique, “Metaphor liberates the redundant attributions that a couple or family have assumed were their lot in relationship life,” and “...metaphor is deliberately and strategically invoked to weld interlocking dynamics.” Dr. Gerson quotes Peggy Papp to emphasize the dynamic value of metaphor in systemic treatment: “Explanatory language tends to isolate and fragment, to describe one event followed by another in linear fashion. Figurative (metaphoric) language tends to synthesize and combine” (p. 198).

Enactments are an indispensable element in Structural Family Therapy. Minuchin believed that enactments provided therapists with opportunities to create the intensity essential for change to occur. Dr. Gerson states that intensity “addresses the difference between the family cognitively listening to a well-formulated interpretation and actually hearing a therapeutic message and feeling a pressing and emergent need for change” (p. 198). The punctuation, elaboration and magnification of enactments push the family, or couple, beyond their threshold of emotional and relational comfort, beyond their selective deafness, toward greater complexity. In my experience as both a psychoanalyst and systems therapist I have found enactments to be vital aspects of treatment. Gerson shares this perspective stating that, “Therapeutic enactments generate and affirm new possibilities of experience” (p. 198). She notes that in recent psychoanalytic literature, “Many analysts are now valuing the dramatization of conflict and the influence of therapeutic action, even when these processes occur beyond language and conscious reflection” (p. 198). She quotes The Boston Change Process Study Group’s (2005) belief that, “…change in implicit relational knowing does not need or even necessarily benefit from verbal commentary or post hoc explication to be therapeutic.” Newirth (2003) emphasizes the use of reverie and play over traditional interpretation suggesting a similar perspective in which interpersonal enactments often take center stage. Clearly there is an increasing mutual recognition of the value of therapeutic enactments in systemic and psychoanalytic praxis.

Dr. Gerson concludes her book with the following observation:

I do not think that either therapeutic modality, the analytic or the family systems approach, is truer than the other. The analytic approach is perhaps more prismatic, while the family systems approach more focused, but investigation and expansion at either level can be beneficial. (p. 261)

I would amplify her statement and say that the ability to embrace both perspectives significantly enhances clinical engagement with individuals, couples and families. This book has something to offer psychoanalysts, family systems therapists and those of us who integrate these two models. Analysts and systemic therapists will have an opportunity to visit each other’s clinical worlds in a personal and compelling way while integrative clinicians will find the clarity of Dr. Gerson’s comparison and elaboration of both perspectives to be affirming and refreshing.

REFERENCES
Marshall Silverstein has written an interesting and useful book. One of the nice things about it is that it is very easy to read, and reflects, I believe, the author’s serious effort to understand his subject matter and communicate his insights faithfully to the readers. His own research, as he describes it, is his efforts on the “neuropsychological dysfunction and premorbid functioning in relation to the course and outcome of schizophrenia and affective disorders” and what could say is a very closely related area, self-psychology, about which he has a number of publications. In other words, one of his tasks is that he is trying hard to carefully understand our current Axis II perspective on personality disorders. His intuition, as stated in advance, is to “demonstrate how self psychological views may potentially add to and deepen our understanding of the [various mental] disorders as they are presently denoted” (p. 4) in our diagnostic manuals.

If Silverstein only accomplished helping us appreciate the subtleties of self psychology and its applications, his book would be a major contribution. His affiliation with the old Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago (where he was a senior psychologist at Michael Reese, and also at Illinois State Psychiatric Institute), and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Chicago, surely brought him into contact with Heinz Kohut and/or his ideas, and who better to know than the man who invented self psychology? Having “grown up” myself, so to speak, at Michael Reese and the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis, and having greatly benefited from Kohut’s creativity and that of his colleagues in Chicago and elsewhere, I find Silverstein’s clarity in this regard enviable.

Let me provide more detail to illustrate the points above by citing his definition of selfobject as:

An internalized experience that functions to invigorate or strengthen the self, both in normal development as a legitimate need for sustaining self-cohesiveness, and in states of distress when its purpose is to restore to the relationship between the constituents of the self—for example, its cohesiveness and vitality—and ways other people or ideals and values serve to shore up the self . . . . Self object functions of mirroring, idealization, and twinship . . . . firm up or strengthen the cohesiveness of the developing self. Self psychology regards such selfobject deficits as frequently being more etiologically influential in causing psychopathology than intrapsychic conflict. For this reason, self psychology was an important development within psychoanalysis, because it expanded—and challenged—the prevailing ego psychological viewpoint. Moreover, its introduction of newly identified selfobject transferences substantially influenced technical approaches to treatment. (pp. 21-22)

From my perspective, this is one of the clearest and best summaries of what happened historically of a very complex series of developmental steps involving Kohut’s contributions and their aftermath. Those of us who lived through this period of radical change in psychoanalytic theory remember the difficulty the profession of psychoanalysis passed through, finally returning to a “cohesive” state itself that allowed the field and its practitioners to much better appreciate what patient’s were feeling, and how to address their needs.

The chapter of self psychology is, as you would expect from my comments already, a gem. But the beauty of this book comes from its seemingly never-ending extensions from self psychology into other fields within clinical psychoanalysis and psychology. And at every step, the reader is invited to understand in ways that almost impossible to confuse because of the lucidity of the prose, and the clarity of examples.

I highly recommend this book to anyone with a serious interest in psychoanalysis, but especially anyone who wishes to learn deeply about self psychology, its history, and its application to a variety of mental disorders. The excellence of the “guide” will make any reader’s journey a joy of insight.

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Rodriguez-Srednicke and Twaite cover a great deal of material in this volume. They review the nature, origins and prevalence of child abuse extensively as well as the various syndromes that are associated with it. They also have several chapters on treatment. They start by an overview of child abuse and the known characteristics of it. They inform us that the origins of parental abuse in childhood (according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, 1988) include several parental characteristics: becoming a parent at a very young age, being a single parent, having several young children close in age, being a substance abuser, having a history of poor impulse control and having suffered child abuse as a child. They add that parents who abuse children have a history of poor coping skills, particularly social skills. These deficits lead to social isolation and lack of opportunity to learn appropriate parenting skills. In short, all of the things that lead to difficulties in life also lead to individuals being potential abusers.

The findings that social networks and community support are factors in good parenting is also reinforced by independent findings that indicates that social networks, attachment and community support are factors in the resilience of people exposed to trauma of all kinds. We have long known that some people grow after adversity and some decline. There is recently a great deal of discussion of the question of who are the people who do not develop PTSD, who are the resilient ones? Who are these people? The data may be more complex, but essentially the answer is that these people are the ones who have social support and connection. Furthermore, those who are not resilient, also have the potential to create terrible things for other, in this case for their children. We need to understand that when we do not help those who are suffering, we are not only leaving them to suffer, but leaving their children to suffer.

Significant data is presented reinforcing the importance of community support and parent training for new parents, particularly those without families and social support networks and those who do not have financial resources. As analysts we see people who have poor social skills and who have history of abuse. What is our responsibility to their children? As a society, if we provide parenting help, we potentially help generations of children.

What continues to be clear to us as analysts who listen to individual’s stories is the numbers of adults who report having been abused as children. In this volume they report a decided difference between the reports of adults (particularly women) of childhood sexual abuse and the data obtained by agencies who obtain this data directly. Various agencies that report this data report between 2 and 19 children per 1000 are abused in childhood. Self reports by adult women yield 16 to 45 percent of adult females reporting having been abused in some way. Obviously it depends on what gets labeled as abuse. But the difference might also be a result of difference in reporting. Many cases of child abuse and child sexual abuse go underreported and may be more likely to be reported in adulthood. In any case when we listen to the stories of patients’ childhoods, we become aware of the prevalence of abuse in childhood. The data bears that out. It certainly makes us think that, no matter what the political controversy, that Freud was onto something when he came up with his seduction theory. Although there is a tendency to be dismissive of this part of Freud’s theory, let us not do so too quickly.

There is a comprehensive review of the literature on childhood abuse and the various syndromes associated with it. Child sexual abuse (CSA) is associated with attachment disorders, borderline personality disorders, eating disorders, as well as self destructive disorders and PTSD. A chapter is devoted to each of these connections.
There is extensive discussion of dissociation as a dominate symptom of CSA. Extensive literature review is presented along with clinical examples. This is helpful to anyone who is interested in the research data. What isn’t quite there is the notion of the centrality of dissociation in the adult survivors of abuse as described by a number of analytic writers.

The middle section of the book focuses on the assessment of adult survivors. This is an extensive review of assessment tools and how to utilize them. It is certainly and interesting and informative. Thos who do this kind of assessment would be well served by reviewing this section.

The final section is devoted to the treatment of survivors of childhood abuse. This section consists of three chapters, one on individual therapy, one on group treatment and one of treating survivors who have co-morbid substance abuse disorders. Clearly the topic can not be treated in depth in three chapters. What is useful is the systematic review of various kinds of treatment and some basic principles of treatment: establish security and trust in the relationship go slowly in asking for descriptions of the traumatic experiences because for some that is retraumatizing, set realistic goals, etc. The terms used are not that of a psychoanalytic framework. Dysfunctional schemas; deconditioning and the like are not the terms that analytic writers typically use or the way analysts talk about patients. Nonetheless, there is a great deal of salient advice for those who may not be familiar with the particular needs of adult survivors of childhood abuse. As such it can be useful to those who are not familiar with these patients. The book can also serve as a useful adjunct to the teaching about child abuse. Students would find the review of research and of assessment techniques particularly useful and faculty would do well to recommend the book in that light.

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It is not surprising that the best recent book about electric shock treatment is written not by a professional, but by a former patient who was administered electric shock treatment 25 years ago. Many professionals have become tactful in discussions of electric shock treatment because practitioners of electric shock frequently hold key positions in medical schools, universities, hospitals, government, and professional organizations. Psychoanalysts express their reservations most effectively by providing better alternatives, psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic therapy. Nonetheless, when working with severely disturbed patients, it was obvious that patients who had received electric shock treatments improved much more slowly in psychoanalytic psychotherapy than equally sick patients who had never received ECT.

Linda Andre begins her book with a chapter describing eloquently what it feels like to live with the aftereffects of electric shock treatment. In some ways it is a surprising description. Most patients do not describe their symptoms caused by electric shock treatment in detail. Of course, if the patient thinks (whether or not it is true) that you might have the power to order more electric shock treatment, they will tell you that there were no bad effects or that the treatment was very helpful. They know that any negative statement about shock treatment is likely to result in their being diagnosed as lacking insight and therefore requiring more shocks. In addition, brain-damaged patients in general tend to try to avoid being aware of their deficits.

However, if they are sure that you do not have the power to order more shock treatments, most patients who have had ECT, and most of their relatives, will relate the negative effects with which they live, although not usually in detail.

This book goes on to summarize carefully and accurately the scientific evidence for the effects of ECT. Andre provides a thorough as well as accurate summary of both the older research and recent research. Unlike the summaries that delete evidence of permanent amnesia or brain damage, put forth by professionals with a vested interest in ECT, her summary is up to date and accurate. This is the most useful and important part of the book. Incidentally, patients who have received ECT have the same rate of suicide, or a higher rate of suicide, than those who have not, according to available research studies.

Andre then summarizes the efforts of patients who feel that they have been injured by ECT to get the facts to the public, to professionals, and to the FDA. Andre continued the publication of Shockwaves after its founder, Marilyn Rice, died. Shockwaves was a publication issued by the Committee for Truth in Psychiatry, an organization primarily of patients who have received ECT. She describes the struggles of these people, who feel that patients and families have a right to accurate information before they receive ECT. Informed consent is meaningless if the truth is not told to the patient or whoever is authorized to give consent.

She details the heroic efforts patients have made to be heard. The FDA asked for comments on ECT, but then has ignored the mass of letters sent by patients, saying that only the opinions of doctors are evidence. When shock practitioners solicited positive letters from patients to the FDA after the deadline for submissions, only eight letters were produced, and three of these were found to be written by psychiatrists.

A recent study cited by Andre, carried out by SURE (Service User Research Enterprise, Institute of Psychiatry), an agency of the British government, involving hundreds of patients, reported, as a conservative estimate, that at least 30% of patients suffer permanent amnesia and a higher percentage reported permanent cognitive difficulty (Robertson & Pryor, 2006; SURE, 2002).

Andre describes how the FDA has avoided insisting on studies of safety and effectiveness from either the manufacturers or psychiatrists. She also describes how
psychiatry, from the 1970s on, has decided that the problem is not how to study the safety and effectiveness of ECT, but how to change public opinion, and that has been their successful tactic. She argues that neurological imaging techniques currently available readily describe brain damage, as does current neuropsychological testing. She maintains that these readily available techniques make possible accurate evaluation of the brain damage and functional damage caused by ECT, or their absence, but no such studies have been carried out.

Throughout Andre is dismayed and surprised that experts on ECT, including psychologists and psychiatrists, so often make clearly misleading statements about the facts, including their own and other published research as well as their own unpublished research. ECT proponents deny permanent amnesia or brain damage, or attribute them to the way ECT used to be administered. Each generation goes back to earlier ways of administering ECT. Some ECT proponents attribute permanent amnesia or brain damage to the medications or the “disease” of depression, but provide no convincing evidence. The only real advance has been in the medications used for anesthesia and seizure control, and in the maximum power of the machines. The medications also increase the threshold for seizures, so that the amount of electricity now used is much greater than it used to be.

This book provides us with a readable readily available source of information for patients, relatives of patients, students, and colleagues. It is the best book currently available. If you prefer (or need) a book written by professionals, psychologist Robert F. Morgan’s (1999) *Electro-shock Therapy Over Four Decades: The Case Against*, or psychiatrist Peter Breggin’s (2008) *Brain Disabling Treatments in Psychiatry: Drugs, ECT, and the Psychopharmaceutical Complex*, are strongly recommended.

**References**


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Freud’s antipathy toward and pathologizing of religion are well known, though not often explored and understood. Clearly Freud’s views shaped his disciples and subsequent generations of psychoanalysts. Winnicott and others represented a shift, signifying greater openness toward religious faith, though, for many other analysts, religion and religious experience continued to be problems to be analyzed. During the last twenty years, a number of prominent analysts have demonstrated interest in and appreciation of religion and spirituality (Eigen, Sorenson, Epstein, and Rizzuto, to name a few). They have recognized parallels between psychoanalytic concepts and principles and have noted psychological insights present within religious myths and rituals. David Black’s edited book, *Psychoanalysis and Religion in the 21st Century: Competitors or Collaborators?*, reflects this ongoing attempt to engage and re-evaluate religious faith and its varied traditions of meaning and care.

Black’s subtitle, “Competitors or Collaborators”, suggests some past and present tensions between analytic and religious perspectives. Moreover, the subtitle points to the various methodological stances analytic authors assume when relating to religious issues and topics. One stance is to examine religious truths/beliefs using analytic concepts, suggesting that analytic theory is either the arbiter of the relevance of this or that truth or the diagnostician of religious experience. This approach often fosters conflict and competition between analysts and religious people vis-à-vis truth and reality. A similar approach is to reinterpret religious stories or experiences using psychoanalytic concepts and developmental theory. This method often highlights the individual and collective functional, psychological aspects of a religious story/idea.

Other analysts, who see an area of overlap between psychoanalysis and religion, will attempt to draw parallels between particular analytic ideas and religious beliefs or myths, suggesting a more collaborative approach. Another collaborative method is to divine how religious stories and concomitant values influenced analytic approach. These stances are represented in the diverse chapters of this book, leaving the reader to choose between collaboration, competition, or some mixture as s/he seeks to engage religion from the perspective of psychoanalysis.

The editor, David Black, introduces the book by providing a brief overview of psychoanalytic theorizing about religion. For individuals unfamiliar with some of the key figures in the analysis of religious experience, this first chapter is an important beginning. Black concludes the chapter by informing the reader that the book comprises four sections, which he interestingly says is arbitrarily organized. The first set of chapters explores the issue of religious truth vis-à-vis psychoanalytic interests in reality and truth. The second section examines religious stories that contain psychological truths. This is followed by chapters that address the psychological functions of religion in human life. The final section addresses some of the parallels between religious traditions and psychoanalysis. It is not possible to summarize 14 chapters. Instead, I briefly touch on a couple of chapters in each section in hope of providing the reader with a taste of the varied banquet that awaits them.

Rachel Blass’ chapter, “Beyond Illusion,” is an intricate and passionate argument for the importance of retaining Freud’s concern for truth in addressing religious experience and in engaging in conversation with religious believers. Blass points out that since the mid-1980s analysts have made conciliatory approaches to religion, which tend toward a sympathetic stance toward religion. For instance, analysts view religion as an expression of truth and reality
within “a kind of self- or relational experiencing within the realm of illusion” (p. 24). Bass does not dismiss this perspective, but she argues that it accompanies a loss. Bass acknowledges Freud’s rejection of religion and his dismissal of new approaches to the notion of illusion vis-à-vis religious experience that appeared in his lifetime. Freud, she notes, rejected these approaches precisely because he was interested in truth and reality. While Bass does not accept Freud’s argument on the pathological sources of religious experience, she argues for the importance of retaining Freud’s criterion that founded his views of religion—truth/reality. Delving into Moses and Monotheism, Bass addresses Freud’s view of material and historical truth. Historical truth for Freud is not equated with external facts, but rather an amalgam of psychic and external reality. In Freud’s work, she argues, one notes a “radical shift in Freud’s position regarding the truth of religious ideas and their relationship to his own . . . . Freud’s focus is now on the truth and justifications of these ideas, not on their distortive nature” (p. 37). In addition, while Freud retained the view that religious ideas distort objective reality, he conceded that “all ideas [are] attempt[s] to grasp the primal realities of mankind” (p. 37). Both Freud and the religious believer, Blass points out, “share not only a concern for truth, but also the inevitable failure to grasp it fully” (p. 35). The newer approaches to religion, Bass argues, place the importance of truth and reality in the background, which screens the tensions and differences between religious and psychoanalytic realities—tensions and differences that can enrich both without necessarily diminishing either. This shared desire for truth and the humbling experience of seeing through a glass darkly can offer “a new arena for dialogue between opposing views” as long as analysts continue to address the thorny issue of reality and truth. In short, Blass believes that respectful competition will serve both analysts and religious believers as they seek to discern truths and realities.

Section two of the book comprises two chapters wherein authors explore religious stories (e.g., Job and the Christmas stories) for psychoanalytic truths. In particular, David Millar’s chapter, “The Christmas Story: A Psychoanalytic Inquiry,” examines nativity stories relying on traditional psychoanalytic concepts. Millar argues that the “metaphysical topography of the relationship between gods and men” concerns the relationship between the ego and the superego” (p. 99). Describing the developmental dynamics vis-à-vis the superego and ego and Klein’s notion of the depressive position, Millar suggests, in a complex and dense paragraph, that the “Christmas myth mediates, on the one hand, the idea of intervention that encourages movement towards relinquishment of omnipotence, loss of the idea of one’s own immortality, and acceptance of new risks, and on the other hand, the retreat of an illusional Oedipal system. . . . The appearance of resolution in the Christmas myth disguises the painful conflicts at the threshold of the depressive position, and the need to own cognitive dissonant cognitions, to become more able to stand guilt and responsibility for one’s actions” (p. 101). The notion that the Christmas story is a transformation of the “post-exilic myth” of the Old Testament is interesting vis-à-vis an individual’s psychic life, but hardly convincing, especially given the deeply complex diversity of Old Testament myths and how they function and functioned.

This thinly argued section is followed by a more extensive discussion of Dickens’ A Christmas Carol. Millar proposes that the haunting represents “the intervention of a flawed but good internalized father that Scrooge has triumphed over in the Oedipal situation” (p. 113). These ghostly visitations signify the workings of the psyche that involves a movement from a melancholic, obsessed state to a greater sense of freedom. Each ghost confronts Scrooge with his past and the consequences of his unacknowledged subjugation to grief and bitterness. A truth that is revealed in this religious story is “the recognition that all serious choice brings loss and the relinquishment of something treasured” (p. 113).

The third section of the book addresses the nature and psychological functioning of religious experiences. These six chapters cover some intriguing topics. Michael Parsons explores religious and psychological transformations. Jeffrey Rubin argues that spiritual experiences can enrich psychoanalysis and that psychoanalysis can enrich spiritual seekers. Francis Grier investigates the topic of the experience and practice of human and divine adoration and how it functions in the psychic economy. Kenneth Wright delves into the relation between preverbal needs and experiences and their relation to religious ideas of the sacred and redemption. Neville Symington posits that religion is the guarantor of civilization, the loss of which will surely lead to barbarism. These are stimulating chapters, meriting greater attention. The lack of space forces me to elaborate further on only one, Wright’s chapter.

While Wright argues that religious experience has its roots in the preverbal core of the self, he realizes that not everything about religion can be understood from this perspective. Wright begins by briefly suggesting that Freud’s theorizing about religion was in concert with the patriarchal society and religion in which he grew up, which ended up being manifested in his theory and approach to others. Patriarchal influence, Wright points out, focuses on aggression and the erotic, while more maternalistic approaches aim toward love (agape) as expressed in the mother–infant bond. Wright’s own theorizing follows what
he calls the maternal approach. With this background, Wright claims that adult verbal, religious constructions of experience contain nonverbal experiences rooted in the mother–infant bond. This bond establishes an aesthetic moment or non-representational knowledge—the knowledge of being recognized and contained. The religious quest, Wright argues, is linked to this aesthetic moment wherein the believer seeks recognition and containment. More particularly, the search for redemption is fueled by the existential need to be found, to be recognized. What is found and contained are often those aspects of oneself that were relegated to the trash bins of the psyche. It is also the desire to move beyond mere existing and to feel alive and real. Redemption, from this perspective, is the integration of the psyche wherein split-off parts are recognized, accepted, and contained. The spiritual quest is, in part, the aesthetic and transformational experiences of being found and concomitantly being alive and real.

The final section explores the connections and intersections between psychoanalysis and religion. If the various psychoanalytic theories represent anthropologies, one might find some connection to various theological anthropologies. Mark Epstein’s chapter, “The Structure of No Structure,” juxtaposes and explores the relation between Winnicott’s notion of unintegration and the Buddhist idea of no-self. Epstein depicts the self as a) self as experience, which is our “subjective experience through time;” b) self as representation, which is an internalized concept of who one is; c) self as system, which is “the entire constellation of self-representations” (p. 224). Contemplative meditation addresses each of these “selves.” In terms of the self as experience, meditation “deepens our sense of mystery of our being” (p. 224). Meditation also loosens our hold on self-representations that we grip tightly onto for a sense of security. While nothing changes in meditation, the self as system is reorganized. Greater awareness does not diminish our psychic conflicts and struggles, but provides an acceptance that accompanies non-striving. Similarly, Epstein argues, Winnicott’s state of unintegration is compatible with the “Buddhist suggestion that it could be salutary for the mind to learn how to relax into itself” (p. 228). Epstein goes on to note that Winnicott believed it is unhealthy to fear “the innate capacity of every human being to become unintegrated, depersonalized, and to feel the world us unreal” (p. 229). Hearkening back to Wright’s chapter, recognition and experience of those unintegrated aspects of oneself becomes important in psychological healing. Therapy, like Buddhist meditation, facilitates the capacity for unintegration, while aiming to enable a reorganization of the self as system. Spiritual and psychological growth embrace the paradox of integration in unintegration and unintegration in integration.

Since Epstein shows appreciation for Buddhism, let me conclude with a Zen story of two monks traveling to another monastery. On this particular day, the monks were to observe silence. Upon approaching a river, one of the monks noticed an old man trying to cross. Walking up to him, he asked, “Sir, do you need help in crossing?” The old man nodded. The monk placed him on his back and waded across the fast-moving stream. Once on the other side, he set him down and the monks proceeded on their journey. As the day waned, there was a tension in the silence. After the last rays of sun gave way to night, the other monk chastised his fellow for speaking to the old man. When he finished, his friend responded, “I left the old man at the bank of the river, but I see that you have been carrying him all day.” These two monks signify, in part, ways psychoanalysts have dealt with religion. The old man, like religion, is on the trail. It can be ignored, but one cannot deny its presence. Also, religion, like the old man, necessarily evokes a response. For some, religion evokes secret resentment or outright anger and scorn, giving rise to either competition or dismissal. Others have been more compassionate and understanding, greeting the religious traveler as a fellow instead of a foe.

Collaboration and appreciation are the responses that accompany curiosity, respect, and care. Perhaps, all of us carry aspects of each of these experiences and approaches. Since religion and spirituality are important for most Americans, it becomes therapeutically and ethically necessary to be aware of our own emotional responses to religious experiences. It is incumbent upon the competent analyst to be familiar with the history of psychoanalytic theorizing vis-à-vis religion and the various methods used in engaging religious perspectives.

“Since religion and spirituality are important for most Americans, it becomes therapeutically and ethically necessary to be aware of our own emotional responses to religious experiences. It is incumbent upon the competent analyst to be familiar with the history of psychoanalytic theorizing vis-à-vis religion and the various methods used in engaging religious perspectives.”

Ryan LaMothe
As the twentieth century came to a close we witnessed the death of three great philosophers at near decade intervals. Foucault died in 1984. Deleuze died in 1995, and Derrida in 2004. Each may be considered an important twentieth century philosopher who created significant bodies of work. All took psychoanalysis seriously. However, our ability to take each of them seriously varies. That should come as no surprise. After all, we continue to wrestle with the Cartesian dualism known to students of philosophy some years earlier. Although the present volume does refer to Foucault, its emphasis is with the work of Derrida and Deleuze and their relationships to psychoanalysis. The work is edited by Gabriele Schwab who was the director of the Critical Theory Institute at University of California Irvine in 2002 when several of the papers found in this volume were presented at a conference held on that campus. The conference title was “Derrida/Deleuze: Psychoanalysis, Territoriality, Politics.” As Schwab notes in her introduction, this was to be Derrida’s last appearance at an institution where he was a cherished member of the International Center for Writing and Translation in the School of Humanities.

The volume is not only concerned with Freud’s work, but as Schwab writing in her introduction and Greg Lambert whose paper anchors the book make clear, the concern is also with psychoanalysis to come. In these pages, the consulting room is not a privileged home for psychoanalysis. That is to say that psychoanalysis is considered to be applicable across contexts. Of course, such a thesis is no newer than critical theory or Freud himself. Yet, and this is also not new (i.e., Jacoby, 1975), if resistance to critical theory is commonplace, this volume offers some thought in the direction of a cure.

Derrida’s opening essay on transcendental stupidity was completed during his illness. Here Derrida speaks of a state: stupidity, which may be taken to be content specific, but is also a structure that occurs across contexts (how specific content might alter such a structure is beyond the scope of this review). Derrida’s focus is Deleuze’s use of the word, and Deleuze’s subsequent attack on Freud’s treatment of the Wolf Man, which may also be considered an attack on all of philosophy. The goal of this attack is to bring stupidity to modesty. The idea that stupidity is unique to the human condition and may be captured in concepts such as nihilism (cf., Deleuze, 1962/1983) and neurotic suffering reminded me of Lacan (in Turkle, 1978). Speaking at MIT in 1975, Lacan quipped that man is encumbered with excrement and does not know what to do with it. He added that only with civilized animals do we find a similar lack of discretion.

Further, that excrement is discrete in nature and even elephants know what to do with their excrement of significant magnitude. In this volume, I read Derrida and the other contributors to be following Lacan to say that an elephant unlike man cannot be stupid because an elephant has no idea of territoriality, so it is inappropriate to speak of disavowal in regard to elephants. Humans on the other hand, do have an ability to conceive of territory, and thus stupidity and disavowal.

There is a danger in attempting to synthesize the material found herein. However, a persisting inoculation is found throughout this collection of papers. These authors are well versed in critique and consistently remind the reader of difference. In particular is the difference between Deleuze and Derrida. A summary of such difference might be that while Deleuze emphasizes a pluralistic flow based in a belief of primary holism, Derrida emphasizes a post hoc space occurring beyond the pain of separation. In short, Derrida may be considered to problematize the self while Deleuze seeks to dismantle it.

Here there is rich variance moving through literature and politics. Gregg Lambert’s paper, the last in the volume, takes Deleuze and Guattari’s treatment of the Wolf Man to show that truth claims that are not generated in a context of modesty may result in nihilism. Lambert draws on literary giants such as Lewis Carroll, Samuel Beckett, and Franz Kafka to support the thesis that reason being perverted folds in upon itself. Lambert is hopeful in his argument that a
prognosis is dependent upon the manner in which resistance is situated. To my ear, this resonates with the relational turn and concepts such as intersubjective mutuality.

Dina Al-Kassin shifts the frame to political resistance. Utilizing the idea that for Deleuze, the task of philosophy is to create new concepts she focuses on the manner in which a relationship with estrangement—or shame—is a necessary component of creativity. Here, and also in another paper by Branka Arsic in the volume, disavowal in masochism is considered central to an understanding of resistance. In addition, Al-Kassin places psychoanalysis in a positive light in drawing on Derrida’s consideration pace Adorno that psychoanalysis is a site of resistance in a culture that seeks to avoid difficult thought. Yet, the concern that such a position is not assured for psychoanalysis is also found. This is seen in Al-Kassin’s use of Derrida’s idea that psychoanalysis will lose itself if it submits to norming.

Pace Fanon’s anticolonialism, Al-Kassin uses an example of South African mothers who in 1990 stood naked in front of bulldozers that were about to level their homes. Footage of this event was later shown nationally on the news. Al-Kassin provides an analysis of the event of being lost at home and the subsequent public shame as a case study of ethical engagement with resistance. In a manner consistent with Fanon’s political work, Catherine Malabou turns to Carroll and Kafka in her paper to illustrate the manner in which deconstruction for Derrida and Deleuze is a play in which a rupture between the relationship of a sign to its referent affords a capacity to turn metaphysics and deconstruction into each other. The challenge then may be considered the challenge of negotiating creativity and trauma. The refrain: as we are capable of disavowal we can be stupid or beastly thereby leaving trauma and dissociation in a wake where creativity might have been (c.f., Bass, 2000). Yet, there is a focus on the possibility of creativity. For example, Akira Mizuta Lippit turns to LaPlanche and Pontails work on phantasy and Zizek’s statement that “the unconscious is outside” to write on fantasies and dreams as acts of rewriting in relation to cinema.

Sara Guyer’s chapter takes on the problem of differentiation as a traumatized responsibility through Derrida’s radicalization of Levinas in noting that the refusal of violence may be considered violent in its very demand. Again, the concern with a truth claim read as truth that need not be situated as a claim. This Nietzschean thread that Derrida has followed to show the risks of sovereignty and subjectivity in the manner that Lewis Carroll’s Alice speaks to her food instead of eating it—a fashion that Klein might call paranoid. Certainly, deconstruction may leave one feeling that a depressive position or pace Derrida and Deleuze, a modest position is simply beyond what is possible.

The only difficulty I had with this wonderful little book runs along what Branka Arsic identifies as the problem of the analysts knowledge along lines of Cartesian certainty. Although the volume is commendable and recommended in no small part due to the poignant reminders that psychoanalysis is a theory whose applications extend beyond the clinic, the consulting room is painted in strokes of Cartesian nihilism—the clinician is stupid. Bumper sticker: enactment happens. Is that news? For me, this critique of the clinician read to me as essentialist. Certainly Freud’s (1918) consideration of the number of goats present for the Wolf Man as a defense against the primal scene is a case of bedrock essentialism. However, it is no longer 1918. Some of us get multiplicity, and even speak of bedrock envy (Fairfield, 2002). That such contemporary clinical scholarship was absent suggests a need for rapprochement between those who primarily work with literature and those who identify first and foremost with the clinic. Otherwise, we are left with what Stephen Mitchell (2002) noted in a critique of Derrida to feel like an immodest [and], “infinite regress of gotchas” (p. 110).

It is wrestling with the tension found between bedrock envy and the “gotha” of critical theory that for me became the center of this lovely book. Such a clinical stance is I think quite close to the psychoanalysis of the future that the book hopes for. It is true that the relational turn has masterfully shown that a humble space is often lost as we can be mis-attuned beasts. With such recognition we modestly work into and out of Cartesian knots.

**References**


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Well known to those affiliated with Division 39, and noted by Karen Izod in the eighth chapter of the volume under review, relational psychoanalysis is American in origin. Writing from her side of the Atlantic, Izod gently reminds that this American outcropping has roots in Winnicott, Fairbairn, and the British Independent Group. Possibly owning to the emphasis on a shared relational context, such a history has been explicit for some time (Greenberg & Mitchell, 1983). The collection of papers reviewed here affords an interesting relational matrix. Is it that the English now get relational, or that we on American shores get traction from looking to the English? Clearly the dichotomized quality of ‘or’ is wrongheaded here. This work is an illustration of the mutuality of “both/and.” The authors of this volume are hopeful that relational psychoanalysis could allow transparency in regard to practices among colleagues and critique what is taken for granted. It is notable that such issues have also been explicit for some time now (cf., Moscovici, 2008/1961). Given that, it may come as a mild surprise that there is much herein that is downright refreshing.

In his introduction, Herbert Hahn describes the manner in which Jody Messler Davis breathed new life into his origins with Tavistock, Karnac, and Winnicott as recently as 2005. The book’s origin is credited to a conference whose point was to encourage dialogues between academics, researchers, and clinicians. What attracted me to the volume is fairly simple. Anyone familiar with the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society (apcsweb.org) is probably also familiar with one of the book’s editors. Simon Clarke a Professor of Psycho-Social studies is a member of that association’s board of directors and with Lynne Layton edits the association’s journal. The other two editors, Herbert Hahn and Paul Hoggett are also working in the Center for Psycho-Social Studies at the University of West England. Past conferences have left the impression that the title of the Center is apt, and that it is a special place. Missing last fall’s conference afforded a healthy appetite for the book under review. Some may well consider such an appetite a bias. If so, it is revealed.

What at first left me wondering if I had mistakenly found a primer to relational psychoanalysis, fortunately changed into something remarkably different once I let myself sink into volume. With chapters on working with disenfranchised clients in the welfare system, research methodology, and the organizational culture of the workplace this collection of papers engages relational theory in an innovative manner that is worthy of the attention of clinicians, academics, and researchers of either stripe—including graduate students.

Lynne Layton’s opening chapter may be read as an introduction to relational psychoanalysis. Taken as a primer it works quite well. Fortunately, it also does more. True to the book’s title, “Object Relations and Social Relations,” Layton emphasizes the cultural focus found in the William Alanson White Institute in general and in the particular work of Edgar Levenson’s perspectivism in its capacity to frame “mutual enactments.” Layton traces this thread through the contemporary work of Donnell Stern in a satisfying manner, and situates this with her own work on identity which she notes is informed by Jessica Benjamin’s writing on recognition. Here Layton non-reductively focuses on splitting at the cultural level and the often traumatic manner in which such splits are internalized in the individual.

Susie Orbach follows Layton’s embedded stance in social movements and feminism to approach democracy in the consulting room. Here Orbach notes the danger of interpreting a patient’s desire in a manner that perpetuates a patient’s experience as unacceptable. The theme of Otherness is taken up throughout the book in regard to the manner in which the strangeness of the other may evoke a defensive dehumanized orientation.

To that end, Paul Hoggett addresses the paternalistic fashion in which the liberal welfare subject is too often engaged in a disempowered fashion that skirts a shared
vulnerability. Hoggett furthers this line of thinking in his critique of contemporary identity theory’s inability to render a living and feeling subject. Here Hoggett argues that Judith Butler is unable to grasp the difference between identification and internalization. Following what appears to be a theme, he then turns to Loewald to illustrate his point. What I like most about this line of argument is that it follows Lynne Layton’s paper in which Butler’s work is supported without such critique. Such diversity among chapter is most welcome especially as the book is simultaneously able to sustain a central flow while allowing such variance. In accord with Layton’s chapter and Butler’s work, Hoggett also asserts that suffering is the Other to modernity.

Lynn Froggett continues an engagement with the welfare subject in work with the youth justice system where she argues the importance of seeing the other as an equivalent center of subjective experience. In this regard, she critiques a behavioral model that assumes all subjects are rational while simultaneously noting the danger of idealizing a young artist and the importance of engaging both the destructive and creative aspects of clients in the youth system. From a clinical perspective, Froggett’s work in using the co-creation of poetry as a route to self expression warrants attention in regard to the use of art and as an example of a qualitative research program making good use of relational theory.

It comes as no surprise given his position in psycho-social research that Simon Clarke makes use of the Frankfurt School’s critique of positivism. He focuses on the capacity for self reflection in regard to its lack as a factor in stereotyping that leads to prejudice. Yet, ink has been spilled in Adorno’s wake, and Clarke evokes Fanon and Foucault to flesh out his Klenian frame in explaining his qualitative research program.

Wendy Hollway notes the power of the hyphenated psycho-social as it avoids a reductionist frame of an individual who is somehow separable from society. To this end, her research program entails engaging the question: are African and Bangladeshi new mothers different sorts of mothers than “black” and “white” “western” mothers, and does this vary by class. Her use of Bion’s skepticism of knowledge that is stripped of emotion as a pillar of her empirical research program is notable, and her writing on her research program is recommended for anyone with an interest in psychoanalytic research especially in regard to the use of interpretation and researcher subjectivity.

Karen Izod’s use of Klein and Bion in her consulting practice and work with the Tavistock Institute’s Advanced Organisational Consultation Society, where being an agent of change at the organizational level is her charge, makes for additional good reading of psychoanalysis outside of the consulting room. Here splits in departments and organizational meaning in general are understood in the paranoid–schizoid position and the consultant’s capacity to surface and manage tension. In this spirit, Margaret Page draws on feminist and post-colonialist management literature to situate her co-inquiry methodology in a subsequent chapter whose goal is to bridge divergent expectations. Her case illustration on an enactment with a group of college students around gendered issues illustrates the manner in which defenses shift contextually. Both Izod and Page highlight the manner in which ritualistic behaviors may lead to an agency reducing rigidity in which a protected space may afford a capacity to think and thereby regain a sense of agency.

Maybe it’s the frequency in which we evoke the third, but that’s where I’m perseverating in a polysemous if not concrete fashion in moving toward an ending. It is in the third chapter of the book under review that Paul Zeal finds an intercontinental playfulness worthy of an ending (and I might add, a beginning). Here Heidegger and Freud are the seeds found in Mitchell’s use of Loewald and set in conversation with Lacan on Jouissance. Picture the Socratic Greeks hanging around with R.D. Laing and Nietzsche.

“Here Heidegger and Freud are the seeds found in Mitchell’s use of Loewald and set in conversation with Lacan on Jouissance. Picture the Socratic Greeks hanging around with R.D. Laing and Nietzsche.”

REFERENCES

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A HEALING CONVERSATION, BY NEVILLE SYMINGTON. LONDON: KARNAC, 2006; 147 PP., $27.95

MICHAEL J. DIAMOND, PhD, ABPP

This short, down-to-earth, and pithy book, though simple in theme, is anything but simple-minded. The book seeks to answer the profound question of how an intimate conversation can have the power to heal an emotional problem. Based on a series of lectures to Australian mental health clinicians as well as interested lay attendees in 2004 and 2005, Neville Symington offers an insightful, unpretentious, and largely jargon free relational account concerning the healing effects of human communication—in short, why the talking cure works. Although not written for psychoanalysts per se, the result is a compelling and straightforward read that provides an integrative, contemporary psychoanalytic way of understanding the essential therapeutic action in psychoanalytic therapy.

Symington’s wide-reaching thesis is very much in the spirit of today’s pluralism. The author’s own creative, independent-minded thinking is supplemented by a plethora of expansive ideas together with those of less psychoanalytically well-known, philosophically inclined writers such as Charles Birch, G.K. Chesterton, John Macmurray, Peter March, and John Henry Newman; Jewish mystic as well as Jesuit metaphysical writers including Teilhard de Chardin; neuroscience researchers (and popularizers) like Damasio, Greenfield, and Hobson (though Symington contends that neuroscience must remain secondary to the unique affective encounter between human beings); and finally, major psychoanalytic theorists ranging from Freud to Bion, Bowlby, Klein, Tustin, and Winnicott. Classical mythology, biblical stories, and clinical vignettes are employed to further Symington’s thesis that stands in contrast to the more Cartesian view held by most of classical psychology and psychoanalysis.

The essence of Symington’s theory is that there is a fundamental emotional linkage existing between human beings that is processed within a different channel of knowledge than the way we process information about the nonhuman world. Most of the book goes on to explore and elaborate on the effects of this special channel of emotional communication wherein the mind and brain are understood as two ways of looking at the same thing and the “stuff of the mind” is said to exist in the most elementary particles of matter. According to this panexperiential viewpoint then, mind-stuff is the very fabric of the universe.

It is of particular interest to clinicians as well as patients, each for whom the book is written, that Symington uses his rich clinical experience to propose that therapists are able to understand their patients through what he calls imaginative reconstruction. He posits a “creator within” each personality that cannot be explained, though Symington implicitly relies on the Kantian notion of innate, a priori ideas and the “original endowment of eternal truths.” Assuming a constructivist view of the mind, Symington refers to Bion’s (1962a,b) notion of the alpha function as yet another way to refer to this inner creator. Most germane to the clinical encounter, Symington concludes that inner creative activity on the part of the therapist and patient produces the necessary deep, transformative communication along with the accompanying inner representations.

Symington proclaims that it is the analyst or therapist’s task to facilitate the patient’s capacity for deep emotional connection that allows for meaningful communication. This requires that the analyst/therapist, akin to the mother with her baby, need be open herself to something within her wherein she can “embrace her own experiences and contain them within the perimeter of her own individual person” (p. 60). By doing so, the clinician gives her patient the same ingredient that the mother gives her child and consequently, “emotional capital” builds up and growth occurs for each. In short, it is the therapist’s mental stance toward one’s own experience that enables the transition to take place in the patient.

It is noteworthy that Symington’s body of psychoanalytic writings (e.g., Symington, 1983, 2007) largely focuses on this mental stance as an orientation that depends upon the analyst’s spontaneous, inner creative actions. Such freedom can ensue only when the analyst is present as a person, who Symington maintains can exist when the different parts of the analyst’s personality are carried forth in a genuine, unified manner (a mode of being that he contrasts with a less genuine, aggregate mode based on external accommodation). Consequently, the “inner inviting presence” reflected in the analyst’s genuine bearing...
becomes generative for the patient to create in tandem his or her own unified person.

What makes the book rather reader-friendly is that Symington goes to some length to embody his more elusive, fairly ineffable ideas pertaining to emotional communication and therapeutic change. In fact, though not discussed by the author, I found Symington’s ideas on therapeutic action rather compatible with those of Hans Loewald (1960). Loewald, writing from what Chodorow (2004) calls “an intersubjective ego psychology” perspective, provides a more precise formulation relying on developmental, topographical, and structural psychoanalytic theory; nonetheless, like Symington, Loewald favors the idea of the internalization of an emotionally based relationship with the analyst. Symington stresses the inner representation created through the analytic communication and utilizes Bion’s notion of (the mother’s) reverie functioning as an agent for (the infant’s) internal psychic organization. In this respect, the external communicative mode comes to leave a lasting imprint upon the patient’s (just as on the infant’s) psychological make up. Loewald further argues that the patient’s emotional development rests on the analyst’s being at a higher-level of organization—an hypothesis that Symington discusses in terms of the analyst providing a unified, inviting presence (a “unified being”) in relation to the patient’s more aggregate, yet to be embraced, creative presence. Symington takes this up in a specific way in discussing a case: “If in an engaged relationship between two people, one of the two has faced her fear of death, then the other person has a good chance of being able to do so also” (p. 72). Such generative, creative communication involves the presence of a person in whom “these higher principles and (Bion’s) O as the highest are enfleshed” (p. 83).

Bion’s influence is evident throughout, although Symington distinguishes his notion of embrace from Bion’s containment. By making an effort to embody his concepts, Symington’s embrace connotes more of a tactile–sensory experience requiring subjective activity (for example, putting one’s arms around something) than does containment. Consistent with contemporary relational psychoanalysts, for instance Bromberg’s (2001) ideas on multiplicity and Donnell Stern’s on unformulated experience (2003), Symington argues that personality develops when its aggregate units are embraced (through sensory–affective registration), and thus therapists must be skilled in making direct contact with their own and the other’s experience.

In speaking to clinicians, Symington makes it clear that the analyst’s tendencies to rely on application of psychoanalytic models can obstruct their very enterprise and thus, rather than privileging theoretical conceptualization, the clinician’s use of intuition and Bion’s O are most essential. Symington challenges therapists constantly to exercise their faculty for using their creative, spontaneous intuitive mind in communication with their patients. When therapists fail to respond to their own “inner inviting presence,” the therapy itself becomes a spurious experience with neither party communicating deeply nor becoming transformed. As he states:

If I, as psychoanalyst or psychotherapist, embody my own inner inviting presence, then it has a strengthening effect upon the inner inviting presence of the other. If this were not the case, then the patient would be just as well if she stayed home and read a book. (p. 95)

In conclusion, by emphasizing an emotionally based, embodied approach to transformative communication, Symington highlights the importance of touching what is often most difficult to embrace in oneself and the other. He argues that true maturity is achieved when experience is entered in a more sensory–tactile way so that what is ultimately accepted can be fully represented. This idea is congruent with every school of psychoanalysis that I know of, from the most classically Freudian through the contemporary Kleinian, Lacanian and postmodern, though it is rarely so strongly emphasized. In any event, what makes Symington’s writings especially appealing is that he invariably finds a way to make the most elusive realms of conscious and unconscious analytic experience come alive by helping his readers to touch their own inner selves, specifically each reader’s own unique inner inviting presence, in the process.

REFERENCES

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JOSEPH BARBER, PH.D.

THE CREATIVITY AND THE TRAGEDY OF FREUD

This small biography is a gem—a brilliantly polished examination of a vital aspect of Sigmund Freud’s life and work: specifically, his creation of the theory of psychoanalysis and, in the service of this accomplishment, his remarkable perfidy of his teacher, Josef Breuer, the physician who had mentored Freud and, notably, had introduced Freud to Breuer’s development of the “talking cure.” Louis Breger, a psychoanalytic scholar and clinician, has published two previous biographies, Freud: Darkness in the Midst of Vision, which was a deep exploration of Freud’s life and work and Dostoevsky: The Author as Psychoanalyst.

As he did in his earlier Freud biography, in A Dream of Undying Fame, Breger provides a nuanced, balanced and ultimately respectful examination of the history of Freud’s initial forays into psychotherapeutic treatment under the guidance of Breuer and the nascent psychoanalytic ideas they developed in collaboration. Breger’s criticism of Freud’s ideas is tempered by compassion for Freud’s evident long-standing personal torment. Breger describes Freud’s lifelong obsession with becoming famous and, to that end, his betrayal of Breuer, with whom he broke professionally and socially and whom he eventually failed to credit for their critically important early collaboration.

Breger’s description of Freud’s early history increases our understanding of Freud’s development of some later, unsubstantiated theoretical views. For instance, Breger characterizes the conflict between Freud and his fiancée’s mother and older brother: “These fights were unconscious remnants of his reactions to all those sisters who took his mother from him as a child…” (p. 13).

Confirmeratory bias occurs throughout Freud’s writings and Breger brings it compassionately to life. He makes it clear that Freud’s mind, brilliant as it could be in the generation of ideas, was simply not open to the possibility of disconfirmation of these same ideas. He had to be right and he required unwavering loyalty from his colleagues. This was a central tragedy limiting his greatness and his humanity.

Freud and Breuer claimed that cathartic recall of traumatic memories “immediately and permanently” relieved hysterical symptoms (p. 73). However, as Breger notes, “it was much more difficult to achieve cures in practice than this statement implies” (p. 73). Contemporary evidence actually suggests that traumatic symptoms are less likely to be relieved by such clinical approaches than methods intended to produce competing, benign memories. If the claims of Freud and Breuer were correct, one would expect that, for instance, the vivid, cathartic flashbacks of soldiers would be self-limiting, if not altogether curative, which they are not.

Freud initially framed his formulations as hypotheses. However, with the passage of time—but with no supporting evidence—he came to express these formulations as fact. (p. 78)

Since Freud is otherwise so vulnerable to confirmatory bias and other logical errors in the service of promoting his assertion that, for example, sexual factors underlie all forms of neurosis, one wonders how reliable Freud’s claims might be of any of the details unearthed from patients’ reports. Breger does not raise this specific concern, but, in the absence of confirmatory evidence, for instance, we can never know the accuracy of Freud’s claim that a young girl had been “sexually molested each night by her governess” (p. 80). In fact, one might interpret the following to be a reflection of Freud’s awareness (or guilt?) of a fictional element to his case studies: “It still strikes me myself as strange that the case histories I write should read like short stories and that, as one might say, they lack the serious stamp of science.” (p. 81)

Freud’s thinking was highly metaphorical, a fact which enlivened his writings but which also limited their basis in science. More, this dissociated his ideas from
Breger quotes a letter to Fliess, in which Freud confesses, “I no longer believe in my neurotica,” adding that “there are no indications of reality in the unconscious.” (p. 95) A contemporary critic of Freudian theory would be hard pressed to express it more concisely.

Although Breger observes that it is this “fictional” quality to Freud’s narrative style that enriches his writing and renders it so compelling, the question of its factual accuracy remains open. One glimpses the apparent ease with which a thought Freud may have about his own psychology becomes a “fact” about everyone’s. “A single idea of general value dawned on me. I have found, in my own case too, the phenomena of being in love with my mother and jealous of my father, and I now consider it a universal event in early childhood.” [Italics mine.] (p. 95) Thus, Freud admits that he takes an experience of childhood feelings of his own (taken by him as real, though we cannot know why) and then, as if by magic, he considers the experience to be a universal one. One can make the case that Freud’s theories—his assertions about others’ psychology—were essentially projections of his own sense of self. The fact that there is a kernel of truth to some of them reflects that his own psychology was not so different than that of most humans.

Breger’s clinical acumen is beautifully rendered in his analysis of Oedipal theory:

Freud’s substitution of his universal Oedipal theory for one based on real traumas was a mixture of truth and speculation. It revealed his wish for his mother’s love and her loss to a rival, though he made the need for mother-infant attachment “sexual” and substituted his father for the many babies who took his place. At the same time, it made him into a warrior, a young Oedipus, in combat with a king. It also did away with real traumas, sexual or any other kind, and gave primary emphasis to instincts and fantasies. In this new theory, it was not what actually happened that was the source of fear, depression, and symptoms—“the worries that robbed me of my youth”—but rather the young child’s drive for pleasure, Oedipal fantasies, and sexual wishes that conflicted with moral standards. In addition, the theory itself—immediately promoted to “universal” status—became Freud’s bid for “eternal fame”; it would make him a great scientist. (p. 96)

Breger’s depiction of Freud’s personality, especially his desperate quest for fame, shows us a pitiable man. For all of Freud’s substantial talent at observation and, more, for his distinct and articulate expression, his personal torment was a profoundly limiting quality. With the benefit of contemporary psychological knowledge, one can readily see that many of Freud’s ideas were based primarily upon his rich imagination. His talent for fantasy was surely as capacious as that of his hysterical patients. This commonality likely contributed to his extensive range of ideas but not to their critical examination.

Breger suggests that Studies in Hysteria “began a revolution in our understanding of human personality and psychological disturbance.” He adds that Freud “pushed the field in a number of fruitful directions.” (p. 99) Freud’s emphasis on both the existence and the ubiquity of unconscious motivation and on the potential meaningfulness of dreams continue to be powerful cultural influences. However, when Freud chose to not test his theoretical formulations with empirical research, he also led the field astray. More, one might argue, he contributed significantly to the delay in the growth of the science of psychology, especially the delay in our understanding of personality and psychopathology. His overwhelming need for fame (and his corollary need, to be always correct) were, perhaps, satisfied. But his distortion of psychoanalysis from testable theory to a “cause” cast it into the category of dubious beliefs. “How different things would have been if, instead of a cult-like ‘cause,’ psychoanalysis had really been the science that it claimed to be…” (p. 114) If only, Breger suggests, Freud could have continued to collaborate with Breuer.

This book is a remarkably successful depiction of a central aspect of Freud’s life. Breger has written it as a scholar, yet it reads like a mystery, the solution to which is both compelling and tragic.

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COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS: MEMBERSHIP

DEVON KING, PHD

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS
The following provides final membership numbers for 2009, as well as numbers for 2010, paid through November 2009:

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Please note that our cumulative membership total for 2008 was 3381, thus we lost 29 members from 2008 to 2009.

The membership committee has been actively involved with the division to develop a proposal to reduce membership fees for Early Career Psychologists. Devon King is also an ex officio member of the Task Force on Diversity.

The membership committee is actively recruiting new members, as Dave Gluck, William Gottdiener, and Kathy Nathan all completed their second term on the committee as of December 31, 2009. The current membership committee members are: Devon King (Chair), Tanya Hess, and Johanna Malone (graduate student) At present, Devon King is the liaison to the Committee on Early Career psychologists. The committee would like to remind everyone that we are open to any ideas regarding membership recruitment and retention.

The following are new (or re-joining) members from July through December 2009. Please look over the list and be sure to welcome your new colleagues to our Division.

Russell Adams, MSW
Christine Ahn, PhD
Susan Alnasrawi, MA
Lauren Andriano, MA
Patricia Ashley, MA
Noa Ashman, MSW
Alejandro Avila Espada, PhD
Anna Badini, PhD
Sheree Bailey, MA
Becky Bailey, PhD
Lucinda Ballantyne, MSW
Diane Barclay, MSW
Karen Barnes, MA
Heather Bass, PsyD
Michelle Bauer, MSW
Emily Baum
Nirit Avraham Bayrach, MA
Judith Beale, MA
Michael John Beck, PhD
Ned James Beedie, MFA
Maya Belitski
Karen Berberian, PhD
Meryl Berlin, PhD
Kim Bernstein, PhD
Suzanne Blaising, MSW
Barbara M. Bolas, PhD
Mantsho Bolkanyo, MA
Claudia Bono, MA
Johanna Boyce, MSW
Gregory Concodora, MEd
Brian Coughlin, PsyD
Alex Crumbley, PhD
Becky Cruso, MA
Carmen Cuevas-Burke, LCSW
Linda Cummings, MSW
Christal Dahners, PhD
Orion Davidoff, PhD
Kathryn DeRoss, BA
John DiMartini, PhD
Daphne Dominguez, MEd
Andrea-Marie Duvalski, MSW
Janelle Eckhardt, PhD
Eleanor Egan, MEd.
Kay English, MSW
Mark Ettenson, MA
Carrie Evenden, PsyD
Patricia Everett, PhD
Gretchen Fair, MSW
Stephen Farmer, PsyD
Ahmed Fayek, PhD
Daniel Fishman, MA
Mary FitzGerald
Margaret Flaget-Greener, MA
Patricia Florence, MSSW
Peter Folger, MSW
Robert Ford, MS
Alessana Fordin
Sarah Forrester, MA
Jeb Fowler, MA
Adam Frankel, MA
Miriam Frankel, BA
John Frazee, BSJ
Amy Friedman, MSW
Jason Friedman
Holly Friedman Housman, MSW
Marilyn Frye, PhD
Toni Galace, BA
Shelley Galasso Bonanno, MA
Viviana Galindo
Barbara Gamble, MS
Elizabeth Gaskill, MSW
Daniel Gaztambide, MA
Karen Gennaro, MD
Gaiaria Germani, PhD
Naama Gershy, M.A
Brian Gieringer, MA
Jeanne Gilchrest, MA
Carol Ginandes, PhD
Irena Ginsburg, MS
Sarita Gober, MSED
Joan Goldberg, PhD
Ethan Graham
H. Mari Grande
Thomas Gray, PhD
Marjorie Greenberg, MSW
Ellen Guesseroff, PhD
Hillary Hamburger, MA
Restructuring Psychologist-Psychoanalyst

With the election of Bill MacGillivray to President-Elect and the need to replace him as editor of Psychologist-Psychoanalyst, we’ve taken the opportunity to re-think the structure and functions of the newsletter. A subcommittee of the Publications Committee consisting of Bill MacGillivray, Larry Zelnick, Nancy McWilliams and myself has been hard at work on this. Two considerations have been paramount: One, we want to make better use of the resources of the internet for time-sensitive material. Two, we’d like to continue the fine work Bill has done in making the newsletter an attractive vehicle for discussion and exchange within our own community of members. The plan below was presented to and discussed with Executive Committee at its November 2009 meeting. They received it warmly. There is a motion for approval on the agenda of the January 2010 meeting.

The Plan

We propose to split the Psychologist-Psychoanalyst into two separate publications, yet to be named, but referred to in this report as the Division 39 eNews and Division 39 Review:

- An Internet based Division 39 eNews for time sensitive announcements and reports to be available in a listserv-based, e-mail “flash” to be published on a monthly basis. The eNews would be a joint project of the Publications and Internet Committees.
- A separate Division 39 Review to be available in print and electronic format (pdf) for book reviews, articles of intellectual and clinical interest, discussions and debates, letters to the editor and etc. The tone and format of the Review would be less formal than that of our journal, Psychoanalytic Psychology, and would be conceived of as an in-print conversation among our members. The Review would be published quarterly.

The Editors

We put out a call for editors following a meeting of the Publications Committee at the Spring Meeting. We received seven CVs and letters of interest and conducted telephone interviews. We proposed David Lichtenstein, a senior member of the Division, as our choice for Editor of the Review. We proposed Tamara McClintock Greenberg a Member-At-Large of our Division for Editor of the eNews. We have also identified several candidates who are willing to serve on a Board of Editors as Contributing Editors of the Review. These are people who would bring special skills and interests to the work. Other members of the Division will be invited to serve on the editorial board of the Review, at the discretion of the editor. The editor of the eNews may require editorial assistance but this is yet to be determined.

The Division Board approved this plan at our January Meeting and it will be implemented gradually in the next three months. We think this plan, although requiring some initial investment, will serve the Division’s needs as we move into the second decade of the 21st Century. The current plan is to have the eNews inaugural issue in the spring and the Division 39 Review will begin with the summer issue. The names of these publications will be announced at the Spring Meeting.

Task Force on Diversity

In November 2009 the Executive Committee discussed a number of issues recently emerging related to diversity issues, including attracting and retaining graduate student and early career members, as well as making efforts to ensure that leadership positions on the Board and Committees reflect the broad array of diversity in our profession. Mary Beth Cresci decided to form a Task Force on Diversity to provide more information to the Board and to make specific recommendations, if indicated, to increase diversity among our members and leadership. The charge of this Task Force is to develop a “report card” to assess whether the Committees and the Board of the Division are representative of the many constituencies within the Division and are providing an inviting environment to attract potential members of various diversities. These constituencies include members of various ages, educational backgrounds, ethnicities, and sexual orientation. The task force will collect data concerning the degree to which the Division is inviting, getting, and maintaining the involvement of members from diverse backgrounds who can bring fresh perspectives to our Division mission and objectives. The Task Force on Diversity will be able to collect data to answer the following questions:

1. Are the committees attracting new members to the Division?
2. Are the committees developing viable ideas and concerns to bring to the larger Division community (e.g., by communicating on e-mail lists, publishing
in the newsletter and/or journal, or bringing concerns to the Board?)

3. Are the committee members and their constituents moving into other positions of leadership on the committees and on the Board of the Division?

At the present time there are nine members of the Task Force: Tanya Brown, Dennis Debiak, Bill Gottdiener, Tamara McClintock Greenberg, Bill MacGillivray, Sanjay Nath, Heather Pyle, Usha Tummala, and Kris Yi. Ex officio members are: Marilyn Charles, Tanya Cotler, Mary Beth Cresci, Devon King, Ken Maguire, Scott Pytuk, and Jonathan Slavin.

Although the Task Force is made up primarily of representatives from particular committees, it is important to keep in mind that these committees neither “own” issues of diversity, nor do their specific concerns exhaust the broad range of diversity. Finally, it is also important to note that the committees are not the only groups within the Division that have initiatives designed to promote diversity broadly defined. One of our tasks will be to gather information on current efforts of various groups in the Division and I hope to enlist Board members in providing this information as we move forward with this Task Force.

In many respects, the Sections were and are the original “battleground” for diversity within the Division and their efforts in the past and ongoing have been important in shaping how the Division sees itself and its mission. It would be enormously helpful to the Task Force for Section Representatives to provide information concerning Section efforts in the area of diversity as well. I have asked each Section Representative to send me a brief summary of Section efforts. Toward that end, here is a partial list:

- Sections II, VII, and VIII have represented specific treatment modalities, that is children and adolescents, groups, and couples and families.
- Sections V: Section V has early career awards.
- Section VI: Its mission is to promote psychoanalytic research, which tends to touch on several important areas including graduate students, early career professionals (especially academics), as well as the broader issue of involving research and researchers in our Division.

Here is a partial list of current committee activities related to diversity:

- Publications Committee: The journal has an award for an early career paper accepted for publication. The Committee also has a book prize for a first author.
- Sexual Identities and LGBT Issues Committee: This committee has forged strong relationships with Division 44 and other APA Divisions.
- Multicultural Committee: This committee has been very involved in the Multicultural Summit and bringing the Division into dialog with those APA Divisions that make up the Summit leadership.
- Graduate Student, Early Career, and Candidates Committees: These two committees have been involved in developing specific programs during the Spring Meeting to attract and interest members and potential members who fit in one of these categories. The activities have ranged from informal receptions to special closed programs. Early Career has a mentoring program to help first-time presenters write an attractive proposal for the Spring Meeting. I believe Graduate Student Committee has an ongoing e-mail list and communicates with APAGS.
- Membership: This committee is developing plans to offer reduced membership fees for early career professionals.

In April, I hope to report that the Task Force has accomplished the following:

1. A review of what the Division currently does in promoting diversity
2. A summary of the major concerns for the Division to address concerning diversity.
3. Beginning a priority list, that is, what are the most important and/or doable initiatives?
4. A plan to collect data.
Candidate Outreach

During 2009, the Candidate Outreach Committee continued to expand its efforts to engage candidate members of Division 39 as well as to potentially recruit new Division members from a wide range of Institutes. Most visible of these efforts was our invited panel at the Spring Meeting. We were pleased to have the opportunity to offer, “From Couch to Institute: Transgenerational Effects on Clinical Practice and Training” and were honored that the panel was supported by presentations from keynote speaker Haydee Faimberg, Kenneth Eisold, and conference cochair JoAnn Ponder. Additionally, the Candidate Outreach Committee joined with Sections I and V to cosponsor a small Social Hour for candidates during the Spring Meeting. In addition to providing a welcoming space for candidates to meet each other, this also provided opportunity to offer informal remarks from each sponsor to raise awareness of the benefits of belonging to the Division and to the Sections.

Committee goals for 2010 will focus on outreach efforts to training institutions of diverse theoretical orientation and geographical location. A significant obstacle to our outreach and recruitment efforts continues to be the difficulties of accessing contact information for a national population of candidates that change annually and is not contained within any single database. We also do not have any formal means of tracking any potential results of our outreach efforts in relation to membership or involvement. As an attempt to address this issue in part, we are in the process of developing a Candidate Listserv through APA that will allow us an economical and efficient forum to further our objectives and track our progress through list enrollment and activity. We anticipate that this listserv will be active prior to the Spring Meeting and plan to develop this modality throughout the year for candidate dialogue and training-related postings.

Additionally, we are currently working with Larry Zelnick to add the Candidate Outreach Committee information to the Division web site and are seeking to obtain listings on the sites of other affiliate sections/groups as a means of continuing to develop our internet presence. The current Outreach Committee membership is noted below; however we have received permission from the president to supplement our core committee with additional candidate members in order to offer a platform to introduce candidates to active participation in Division activities. We anticipate that the current recruitment process will be complete by March 1, 2010 to allow the new candidate members ample opportunity to participate in some of the planning and promotion of Spring Meeting events.

Planning for Spring Meeting 2010 is in progress. The invited panel, “Close Encounter of a Psychoanalytic Kind: Struggling with Boundaries in an Intimate Dyad,” will feature Richard Geist. Additionally, we will continue the tradition of joining with Sections I and V to cohost a Social Hour for candidates during the Spring Meeting.

Current Committee Members are Heather Pyle (Chair), Marilyn Charles, Andrea Corn, William Fried (Section I liaison), Heather-Ayn Indelicato (Graduate Student), Robert Prince (Section V liaison).

Education and Training

The primary goals of the Education and Training Committee include:

- To work with other elements of the Division 39 Board, associated Division Committees, and Division Sections to collaboratively assist the Division in efforts to enhance the representation of psychoanalytic perspectives in undergraduate and graduate-level psychology curricula; doctoral- and masters’-level practica/externship and doctoral-level internship programming, including involvement in the assessment and treatment of under-served or marginalized patients/populations.
- To promote psychoanalytically-oriented research and scholarly activity; to encourage, by extension, psychologists to pursue post-doctoral training in psychoanalysis.
- To develop a series of on-going Panels/Symposia for the Division 39 Annual Spring Meeting to promote the Education and Training Committee’s activities, and support its Mission as delegated by the Board of Directors.

Efforts have slowed with respect to building a resource center of psychoanalytically oriented syllabi. We have not added additional courses since the last report to augment the extant graduate-level syllabi and, importantly, undergraduate syllabi already available on the Committee’s section of the Division 39 web site. There have been some submissions from post-doctoral psychoanalytical institutes as well. The Committee Chairpersons strongly encourage members who teach in graduate or undergraduate academic programs; or practica, internship, postdoctoral, or residency training programs as well as psychoanalytic institutes to submit their syllabi to David Downing, PsyD, ABPP.
Downing (ddowning@uindy.edu) for review and posting. A PowerPoint presentation developed for one session of an undergraduate-level course, Psy100: Orientation to Psychology, has been revised along with accompanying text/notes to assist anyone interested in adopting it for their use will find it posted on the Division web site.

Beginning in October, a formal survey was developed and sent out to all doctoral programs in clinical psychology in the US and Canada. Graduate Assistants continue to follow up with programs which have not responded to secure as high a rate of return as possible. A gratifying number of programs have responded, to-date, with some surprises with reference to PhD programs that are inclusive of psychoanalytic thought. Also of note is the finding that some of programs would prefer not to be listed on the web site for Psychoanalytically Friendly Universities accessed through this address: psafriendlyuniv.tripod.com The Division 39 web site now maintains a link, under the Education and Training Committee.

At the Spring Meeting in San Antonio David Downing and Martha Hadley were cochairs of a panel “Against All Odds: Teaching Psychoanalytic Concepts and Process to Graduate Students.” The panel reviewed different approaches to the education and training of graduate psychology students with a special focus on addressing expected student resistances to understanding critical psychoanalytic concepts relevant to the core knowledge of psychoanalytic theory and practice. Participants in the panel provided specific examples of teaching and training methods to bring home to students the immediate personal and professional relevance of psychoanalytic theoretical concepts.

Specific methods of gradual exposure to and instruction in psychoanalytical concepts and process approaches to countertransference awareness were explicated. Instructor awareness of the expected skepticism is a key factor in presenting techniques that are respectful of the types of skepticism seen in neophyte students, be they undergraduate or graduate students. Presenters reviewed evidence of validation of such approaches in outcomes of student classroom learning and use of countertransference awareness to alliance repairs.

At the Spring Meeting in Chicago the panel will be, “From the Classroom to Academia to Psychotherapist Office and Back Again,” with Martha Hadley, Marc Lubin and Jed Yalof as presenters.

Education and Training Committee members are David Downing and Martha Hadley (Cochairs), Barry Dauphin, Harold B Davis, Andrew Harlem, Valentina Harrell, Nancy Julius, Marc Lubin, Thomas Ross, Jed Yalof, and Michael Jones.

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES
William A. MacGillivray

This is a brief recounting of my year on APA Council. As you may know, my term was foreshortened by my election last year to be president of the Division. I confess it was difficult to get involved in my role as a representative, at least partly as a result of my election. At the same time, I have come to the conclusion that it takes a certain kind of person to get involved in APA governance, at least at the Council level. As a result, this summary will clearly reflect my very personal experience over the last year.

The year started off well. The referendum (that was initiated after the August 2008 Council Meeting once again shunted aside Neil Altman’s resolution) calling for an end to psychologist involvement in interrogations passed late in the year and was implemented by then-APA president Kazdin who wrote to President Bush and Defense Secretary Gates to inform them of the change in APA policy that psychologists were no longer to work in detention facilities such as Guantánamo and other “black hole” sites unless they were working directly for the benefit of detainees. The news got even better when it became evident that the incoming APA president James Bray was not going to delay accepting the results of the referendum (as some advocated) until the August Council meeting. It was an emotionally charged and gratifying scene when the entire Council not only voted to accept the results of the referendum, but to give a standing ovation to Laurie Wagner for her tireless efforts to move APA to take a stand similar to every other major health and mental health organization. But it was downhill from there.

The news that dominated Council in January was the realization of how far APA’s finances had sunk with the stock market “correction” late in 2008 and the implications of that for programs and initiatives. APA is a huge operation with income largely derived from rents and investments, and earning from its publications empire. Although the membership in APA actually increased last year, APA took a huge hit in the stock market and a minor hit in decreased sales of journals and books. APA has essentially two budgets: 1) the day to day operations of APA Central Office, its Directorates and Committees staffed by its employees and so on, largely under the direction of our CEO, Norman Anderson; and 2) the expenses that support officers, committee members, etc., and their activities and initiatives. For example, the Education Directorate is led by Cynthia Belar and she is responsible for a wide range of activities, including overseeing development of training grants, development, publication and dissemination of treatment guidelines, development of continuing education products, and so on. The association members, however,
guide Cynthia’s activities and priorities, through the elected Education Committee, as well as the other elected officers including Council Representatives. All these members are essentially volunteers, but their travel and lodging expenses, etc. must be paid for under the budget.

Why is this important? The major implication is that you cannot “cut” one area of the APA budget without affecting the entire organization. One major consequence of the operational budget cuts, for example, was the recommendation, approved by Council, to suspend the Fall 2009 meetings of the Boards and Committees. The major reason for doing this was to save money. When Council members suggested, for example, that the committees and boards might meet electronically, thereby saving on travel and lodging, the reply from the “other side” of APA, that is, from operations, was that the boards and committees must have APA staff to carry out their decisions, to follow up on their initiatives, and so on. With much grumbling, Council accepted significant cuts in it own activities and expenditures in order to balance the budget.

The news of our financial state has fluctuated over the year and the really bad news was that some APA staff were terminated, a decision that was particularly painful for an organization that is as close knit as the APA “family” is. Toward the close of the year, the latest word is that finances have improved and there had been an unexpected increase in income due to the publication of the revised APA Publication Manual. This may mean some increased discretionary funding (Carol Goodheart has had to give up her discretionary fund as president-elect and now as president!), but it appears that the budget will remain tight for the coming year.

The other difficult news during the February Council meeting was the ongoing conflict and potential litigation between APA and the APA Insurance Trust (APAIT). This has been a particularly painful issue for many members, given the close ties between the two groups. After all, APA established the Trust and its former presidents sit on the Trust Board. The conflict has to do with APA’s insistence that it must have access to information about A PAIT products in order to carry out its fiduciary responsibility. The concern is that if A PAIT were to be sued for some malfeasance, APA might potentially be drawn in as well. A PAIT contends that this would not happen and APA has no right to essentially proprietary information. APA has taken the position that its only recourse is to litigate the issue and allow the courts to decide the issue. After a year, the two organizations remain deadlocked in their negotiations.

The bad news continued after February. The first source of concern was the apparent failure of APA to implement the new APA policy on psychologist involvement in interrogations. More alarming was an editorial in the journal Nature that described APA policy as supporting psychologist participation in interrogations, in direct contradiction of APA policy.

The next crisis was the increasing demand that APA pull out of the Hyatt Manchester hotel contract for the San Diego APA Convention with the discovery that the owner of that hotel was an influential donor to the campaign in November 2008 to deprive LGBT citizens of the right to marry in the state of California. This issue was only simmering during the August meetings and many members have expressed concern that APA officers have not actively pursued ways to get out of the hotel contract and instead have given confusing and contradictory information concerning APA’s decision to remain under contract to a hotel where union organizers as well as gay rights advocates may be picketing and demonstrating during our meetings.

Finally, there was the revelation that the Ethics Committee, having deliberated for four years on its charge to clarify language in the Ethics Code, had boldly decided to do nothing. The charge to that committee had been to resolve the discrepancy between the aspirational language of the code and the actual provisions in the “enforceable” sections of the code. See Frank Summers article in the Summer 2009 issue (pp. 25-26) for the full explication of the issue. Instead the committee “punted” with a narrow reading of its charge and refused to amend the code. Of course, many of our members already have learned of the denouement of this farce. Through the efforts, once again, of Laurie Wagner, as well as other Council members, the inaction of the committee was set aside and the committee was “strongly encouraged,” shall we say, by Council as the Board of Directors, to reconsider their action and report back in February.

So there is some good news to report at the end of this annus horribilis for APA, or at least relative good news for many of our members. The Ethics Code has been revised and adherence to basic human rights has been restored to the language of the code. APA Council in February 2010 also voted to move the Council meetings out of the Hyatt Manchester and to accommodate all Divisions (including our own) who have requested not to have meetings, receptions, or suites located in that hotel. President Obama and Secretary Gates have been informed of APA policy to forbid psychologist involvement in interrogations in Guantanamo. And maybe APA is seeing the light financially as well.

So my year on Council was mainly spent admiring the efforts of our Division representatives patiently working behind the scenes through caucuses and sidebar negotiations to keep our governing body functioning and moving in (mostly) one direction. It is yeoman’s work and I am looking forward to my retirement from this important effort.
SECTION REPORTS: WOMEN, GENDER, AND PSYCHOANALYSIS

Judith Logue, PhD

Section III is enthusiastically going into the future with some new and innovative ideas. While we are energetically working to increase our membership, we continue to address contemporary issues of gender identities and sexualities and relevant social concerns, such as reproductive rights. Dr. Royce Jalazo, psychoanalytic psychotherapist in Boca Raton, Florida, who is also a Web designer, is revamping the web site of Section III. It will be ready by the end of February and will highlight publications and books by our members. The new web site is for increased communication, in addition to our group listserv, and it will be more user-friendly.

Our president, Marilyn Metzl, generated interest in Division 39 and Section III on her trip to Mongolia, and we hosted two women psychiatrists from Mongolia at our San Antonio meeting. We have their photographs and information on our Web site, so please see our updated information on www.section-three.org.

A submission for APA San Diego in August 2010 is in the works. The subject is trauma as it relates to sex, the body, object choice, and gender. If accepted, Dennis Debiak, Ellen Toronto, Lynne Harkless, and Royce Jalazo will give presentations. Judy Logue is the chair. We are most hopeful this panel is accepted.

Our April 2009 presentation in San Antonio included Dr. Marilyn Moore’s research on flirting and nonverbal communication in the social scene and in our offices. Marilyn Metzl coordinated, chaired, and was the discussant for this well-attended and lively program.

Marilyn Metzl chaired our program in Toronto where Ellen Toronto, editor of our section’s 2005 book, Into the Void: Psychoanalytic Reflections on a Gender Free Case, revealed the gender of the case of “T.” We spent five years guessing and obsessing about the gender with a number of different rationales. So we were quite relieved that the suspense was finally over.

Section III is developing a project for interdivisional and intersectional collaboration. Among the projects considered with Section IX are the reproductive rights of women, which are threatened. We are also planning to approach Division 51, Men and the Masculinities, which has a group of women led by Holly Sweet, and Division 35, Psychology of Women.

Section III currently has 111 members. We have a committee project with plans for a telephone membership drive. In part, because of our ongoing membership crisis since my presidency in 2003, we are meeting with the Committee on Sexualities and Gender Identities to brainstorm and consider various options to update our mission, and to attract and retain members. We are preoccupied with the loss of our vote on the Division 39 Board, loss of financial support for travel and lodging at the mid-winter Board meeting, and our non-juried program at the two annual conferences. We make suggestions for board consideration, which include investigating the feasibility of changes in the membership requirement for vote eligibility, as well as one fee for all section memberships. We are using the difficult economic climate as an opportunity to develop new, creative, and progressive ideas and goals and are most fortunate to have a dynamic board to generate ideas and act on new actions for continued success and future growth.

Local Chapters

William A. MacGillivray, PhD, ABPP

Section IV is the organizational “home” for the 29 local chapters of the Division. Our Senate and Open Meetings during the Spring Meeting are important venues for chapter officers from around the country to get together and share what is working (or not) in their groups and to take away some good ideas to try in their area. While local chapter representatives to Section IV are specifically invited, any local chapter member is welcome to contribute to the discussion.

We had officer elections in the fall and now have a new secretary for the Section, Jay Moses from Philadelphia Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology (PSPF). Jay has been an active member of his local chapter, chairing program committees and working on the budget committee. A graduate of University of Tennessee (which means that three of the four Section officers are graduates of the Tennessee program!), he has worked in inpatient settings and with the homeless, as well as maintaining a private practice. He is currently a candidate at the Institute for Relational Psychoanalysis. Welcome, Jay.

The Graduate Student Initiative (GSI) continues this year and four local chapter members were nominated to receive stipends from Section IV to help defray cost of attending the Spring Meeting in Chicago: Paulina Kisselev (Pacific Northwest), Kari Fletcher (Minnesota), Joanne Gold (Baltimore) and Michael Jones (Chicago Open).

Any Division 39 member is eligible to form a local group and apply for local chapter membership. A Local Chapter Handbook is available on the Division web site, http://www.division39.org/sec_compdfs/SectionIVHandbook.pdf, or contact any officer of the Section: Jack Barlow, Barry Dauphin, Jay Moses, or me.
From the first of January, the day I took over the Section IX presidency from Frank Summers, there have been a range of passionately expressed ideas, suggestions and debate regarding existing and new issues and projects for our attention. With 215 dues paying members in 2009, and new members in 2010, we have a wealth of resources; talent, energy and skills to bring to the areas in which we focus.

The issue of psychologist participation in torture and the need to modify the APA ethics policies to insure psychologists do not participate in, enable or turn a blind eye to abusive interrogations in detention centers, has been a primary and well publicized effort on the part of Section IX as well as other Division 39 members. We will continue to monitor the pragmatic application of the referendum passed by the APA membership, as well as the changes to Ethics Code 1.02 (eliminating the so-called “Nuremberg Defense”) which is anticipated. Additionally, some Section IX members are working to develop an international coalition of Health Professionals Against Torture (HPAT).

Although the issue of torture has been a focus for several years, section members have put forth a number of other areas for the application of our psychoanalytic understanding, social justice conviction and activist inclination: Women’s reproductive rights and self-determination; the military, the experience and needs of veterans and their families; the ideology of American Exceptionalism and current economic realities; psychologists in domestic prison settings; access to optimal treatment and self-determination for mental health clients; continuing engagement with the Gaza Community Health Program; and coalition building. The Section IX Board is committed to enhancing the participation of section members in the areas of their interests.

Please join us for our Section IX invited panel at the Division 39 Spring Meeting “American Exceptionalism: Psychoanalytic Perspectives on its Costs and Decline,” chaired by Nancy Caro Hollander, with papers by Dr. Hollander, “Neoliberal Subjectivities: Psyche in a Political Economy in Crisis;” Frank Summers, “American Exceptionalism in American Foreign Policy: A Psychoanalytic Approach;” and Paul H. Elovitz, “Psychoanalytic Reflections on the Myth of American Exceptionalism in a Time of Recovery While Jobs are Lost.” Our section members will be presenting papers as well as keynote addresses, throughout the Spring Meeting.

We hope to see you at the reception we will be cosponsoring with the Committees for Multicultural Concerns and Sexualities and Gender Identities. Enjoy the music of Jimmy La Fave, appetizers and a chance to get better acquainted with the people behind our e-mail posts.

Section IX members have offered dynamic, thoughtful, and significant psychoanalytic voice to important issues of our time. Are we activists? Join us as we continue to think and reflect, debate and develop.
SECTION REPORTS: OKLAHOMA

Laurel Van Horn, PhD

The Oklahoma Society For Psychoanalytic Studies launched the 2009-2010 program year in September with its annual Ethics Seminar. Arlene Schaefer, Oklahoma City psychologist in private practice presented on the topic: “Ethics, Regulatory and Forensic Issues in Mental Health Practice: A Review and Update.” Dr. Schaefer is a dynamic speaker and respected as an expert in this challenging area of our field.

In conjunction with the University of Oklahoma Film and Video Studies Program and the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, we hosted a film presentation in October. Frank James, author and director, presented the film, A Gift of Time, a documentary following the last months of his mother’s life and the family’s response. Carole Eliason, psychoanalyst and OSPS member was discussant with Mr. James conducting a very poignant question and answer session with the audience. In November, OSPS was fortunate to have Robert Carrere, psychoanalyst from the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California (PINC), speak to us on the very challenging topic, “Working Psychoanalytically with Substance-Abusing Clients.” To begin the New Year, 2010, Mary Ann Coates presented the film, Searching for Angela Shelton and offered insightful discussion over the course of the two-day program.

Seminars for February through May are scheduled and include Tim Zeddies, psychoanalyst from Austin, Texas, speaking on “The Boomerang Effect: Relationality on the Couch and in the Arm-Chair” and conducting a seminar the following day on “Reflections on Relational Dilemmas: A Case Presentation.” Donna O’Keefe, Oklahoma candidate at PINC, will present clinical material.

March will offer a panel discussion: “Through Three Lenses: Varied Perspectives on an Analytic Hour,” featuring OSPS members Kay Ludwig, Marian Stephenson, Laura Lochner, and Erika Miller. In April, Dale Boesky, psychoanalyst from Birmingham, Michigan will present on the topic of “Analytic Disagreements in Context” with John Andrus presenting clinical material. We will close the year with Maureen Murphy, from PINC, talking to us about “Resiliency.”

We are indebted to both Sharon Varnum and Jeff Fine-Thomas, chair and co-chair of the program committee, for the diverse and excellent educational offerings we’ve had these past two years. In addition to these, Michael Kampschaeferand Stephen Miller, co-chairs of the Education and Training Committee, have led the organization of another year-long course in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy which is well underway with maximum enrollment. The response was so large that we have a waiting list of persons wishing to enroll for next year. Many OSPS members are volunteering their time as teachers and/or case conference leaders. Finally, OSPS is offering stipends to help two of our member/students attend the Division 39 Spring meeting.

APPALACHIAN

William A. MacGillivray, PhD, ABPP

We are more than halfway through the Appalachian Psychoanalytic Society (APS) program season and have had some notable “firsts” as well as continuing successes with our major projects and initiatives. To review our “regular” schedule, so far this year we have had a Fall Conference on adult attachment with Carol George, “Attachment and Trauma: Perspectives From the Adult Attachment Picture System,” and three Saturday Morning Seminars: “Great Papers in Psychoanalysis: Masud Khan’s The Evil Hand,” with Jim Gorney; “Developmental Considerations in the Treatment of Gay Men,” with Gary Grossman; and “Merlin and the Mercurial Nature of Jungian Analysis,” with Doug Tyler. Dr. George’s presentation was somewhat different for us as it was the first time in a number of years with a presenter who was primarily a researcher rather than a clinician. It was a fascinating exercise in the limits of both perspectives and the need to recognize that each has its own “territory.” Jim Gorney and Doug Tyler are APS members especially skilled at presenting their particular perspective on psychoanalytic theory and treatment. Doug also brought Jung’s Red Book for our perusal as part of his presentation.

We had two “firsts” this year. For our membership meeting, Macario and Mabelle Giraldo led the group in a discussion of our attachment to, and investment in, APS and the conflicts and strains that result from attempting to maintain a psychoanalytic perspective (and practice!) in a culture that increasingly dismisses reflection and thought. As noted above, Gary Grossman, a psychoanalyst from San Francisco presented at an APS Seminar. He also presented at a public talk later in the day, addressing parenting of gay and lesbian teenagers at a meeting we cosponsored with Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). The success of this public presentation has energized our board to consider other presentations in the community next year, including a talk on home and homelessness in conjunction with local government and grassroots groups.

Once again this year, APS will help a number of our graduate student members attend the Spring Meeting in Chicago and plan to have a contingent of six students at the meeting, including one, Scott Swan, who will be presenting a paper on therapeutic assessment using the Adult Attachment Interview.
As the first decade of the new millennium comes to completion, we at the Philadelphia Society of Psychoanalytic Psychology wish to share “our state of affairs” with you. We find our membership continues from year to year to include approximately 225 members and is meeting the projected income and expenses outlined in our 2009 proposed budget. In 2010, the board will consider new ways to build the financial infrastructure of our organization, including establishing a modest endowment to be used to fund need and merit scholarships and more ambitious programming than has been possible in the past due to a “dues-based-mostly” income structure.

In November 2008, the board met for a vision retreat. Wanting to garner the wisdom and leadership of the larger PSPP community, the board invited the past PSPP presidents to join. The first part of the retreat included a dialogue with the past-presidents about such topics as PSPP’s history and mission, its relationship with the Philadelphia Center for Psychoanalytic Education (PCPE), the need for outreach initiatives (e.g., graduate students and developing a speaker’s bureau) and ways to organize and implement the board committees.

As a direct result of the vision meeting, PSPP has actively collaborated with PCOP to bring a series of presentations to Philadelphia. In November 2008, PSPP co-sponsored a program with the Philadelphia Center of Psychoanalysis, which featured a presentation by Jody Messler Davies and in Fall 2009, a cosponsored program featuring Ed Tronick. PCPE spearheaded a related reading group and cosponsored program the following month with Karlen Lyons-Ruth, and Jacqueline Gottlieb. The programs were well received and more such collaborative programs are being planned.

Our newest initiative has been commissioning a local web site designer to help our newly formed media committee to update our web site. Our revised web site includes two new and important features: 1) an on-line directory (with the opportunity for the members to renew their memberships on-line) and 2) the option to register for programs on-line. In addition to our web site, we continued to communicate and reach out to our membership through our quarterly newsletter, Currents.

In terms of our traditional PSPP programs, our annual fall meeting in October 2008 included PSPP awarding Elisabeth Young-Bruehl for her scholarly contributions to the analytic community, after which Dr. Bruehl gave a riveting presentation on her compassionate concerns regarding “Childism.” In December 2009, we honored Linda Hopkins for the PSPP Achievement Award at our Annual meeting, after which Charles Ashbach presented his thoughts on the “Paradox of Narcissism.” The PSPP annual Winter Program was held in January 2009. We had an outstanding attendance for Nancy McWilliams who presented a paper on treating patients with paranoid personalities and commented on a case by Burton Seitler.

These larger programs complemented our on-going and well-established brunch series. Hosted by current PSPP members (in their homes), these brunches offer members an opportunity to hear local analytic thinkers present on interesting topics. Some examples of the brunch topics include how to write analytically oriented case material, treating borderline patients, and using mindfulness with patients.

The mentoring program, designed to pair PSPP members with graduate students, continues to thrive under the stewardship of Barbara Goldsmith. Currently, we have 27 pairs of mentors-mentees and they celebrate their program with a beautiful brunch held each spring.

Finally, we are working to finish revising our outdated bylaws by the end of Spring 2010, and continue to work towards developing a “flowchart/timeline” to guide our board responsibilities and goals each year so that as board members come and go, an outline exists to streamline board activities and bring about more efficiency and success. We intend to enter the second decade of the millennium as a “lean, mean psychoanalytic-influencing machine.” Watch out Division 39! And . . . we’ll see you soon in Chicago!
I. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions: Dr. Cresci called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

II. Attendance: Dr. Debiak
   A. Absent: Dr. Gottdiener (Section VI Representative; no substitute), Dr. Brok
   B. Substitution: Dr. Altman for Dr. Karon (Member at Large)
   C. Substitution: Dr. Kelly and Dr. Logue for Dr. Toronto (Section III Representative)

III. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, January 17, 2009: Dr. Debiak

   Motion 1: To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of January 17, 2009 as submitted. Action: Approved with one abstention.

IV. Announcements: Dr. Cresci

   Motion 2: To elect Neil Altman, PhD, to finish the term of Bertram Karon, PhD, as Board Member at Large. Action: Elected unanimously.

   • Dr. Brok was unable to attend the meeting due to medical reasons. The Division sent him flowers.
   • The Council Rep seat vacated by Dr. Ramirez has been filled by Dr. Dolores O. Morris.
   • The division made a donation to the APA Foundation in memory of the mother of APA President, James Bray, PhD
   • Dr. King, Membership Chair, gave birth to a baby boy.
   • Dr. Cresci attended the Division Leadership Conference, sponsored by CODAPAR, in January. She felt that it was very valuable to attend this meeting.
   • Dr. Zelnick has been nominated for a position on CODAPAR and is the first choice on the clinical slate. Dr. Darwin will be finishing her term on this committee.
   • August APA meeting: The Division gave one hour of programming time to the Convention Within a Convention and Dr. Wilma Bucci will be presenting during this hour.
   • Division 9 (Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues) organized a preconvention meeting (Psychology Community Engagement Initiative) to focus on how psychology initiatives and community initiatives might find common ground. Dr. Richard Ruth will be representing Division 39 in this effort.
   • Division 39 is one of the sponsors of a Same-Sex Wedding Ceremony at the APA convention on Thursday from 8 pm to 12 midnight. In order to allow Executive Committee members to attend this ceremony, the EC meeting will be held from 4 to 7:30 on Thursday.
   • Drs. Cresci and Wagner will represent Division 39 at the Future of Psychology Practice Summit, May 14-17 in San Antonio.
   • Over 700 members responded to the Business of Practice Survey, which represents 23% of membership. Support from APA for the data analysis has been delayed. Dr. Cresci will contact APA and encourage them to finalize the results.
   • The Division has signed contracts for the Spring Meetings for 2011, 2014, and 2017 at the Sheraton on 54th Street and 6th Avenue in New York City. This is a change from the Waldorf property.
   • HIT Legislation – APAPO asks that the Division support this legislation.
   • APA chose not to send a representative to the U.N. Conference on Racism.
   • APA President, James Bray, has clarified that the two psychologists discussed in recent news stories about torture at Guantanamo were not APA members. Dr. Altman clarified that the news story and Dr. Bray’s statement left out the fact that two APA members were involved in establishing the SERE Program.
V. Ethics Committee Report: Dr. Celenza elaborated on her written report. This committee also responded to the proposed revision of APA’s Ethics Code 1.02 and 1.03, with Dr. Frank Summers being the lead author and Drs. Wagner and Cresci being contributing authors.

VI. Treasurer’s Report: Dr. McCary discussed her written reports that appeared in the Board packet. Dr. Alpert recognized Dr. McCary’s able stewardship of our finances.

Motion 3: To increase the Division 39 publication fee from $40 to $75 for APA dues exempt members. Action: Passed with two no votes

The suggestion was made that a letter be sent to our dues exempt members asking them for donations, if they are able to make them.

VII. Reports
A. Multicultural Concerns Committee and CEMA:
Dr. Tummala-Narra gave a follow-up on the January National Multicultural Summit. Div. 39 members attending the Summit expressed opinions that the Division’s contributions were neither recognized nor appreciated. Summit organizers asserted their commitment to improve this with regard to the next Summit. Dr. Tummala-Narra asked the organizers for the following:
1. Psychoanalytic keynote speaker
2. Division 39 proposal reviewers
3. Division 39 Difficult Dialogue facilitators
4. Division 39 Invited Panel

Dr. Tummala-Narra also attended the CEMA meetings. She announced that CEMRAT grants are frozen; the APA search for a chief diversity officer has been put on hold. Two open positions currently exist on CEMA, one for an Asian American male and an Asian American female psychologist.

B. Publications Committee: Dr. Seiden discussed his written report. 703 Division members are subscribed to PEP-WEB.
1. Proposal to Restructure the Division’s Newsletter and Web site: Drs. Seiden, MacGillivray and Zelnick discussed their written proposal. Dr. Kieffer commended Dr. MacGillivray on his editorship of the Newsletter. Dr. Slavin cautioned us that electronic versions of Newsletters are often not more timely than print versions.

Motion 4: To constitute a joint ad hoc committee of the Internet and Publications committees to pursue the restructuring of our Website and Newsletter, obtain design consultation, and bring a specific proposal, including a specific request for funding, back to the Board of Directors for final approval as soon as possible. Action: Passed unanimously.

2. Psychoanalytic Psychology: Dr. Jurist reviewed his written report, which was distributed at the meeting.

C. 2010 Spring Meeting: Dr. Andy Suth addressed the Board and discussed the theme and plans for the 2010 Division 39 Spring meeting, of which he is co-chair. He discussed the electronic proposal submission process, and plans to make certain papers are available to the membership prior to the conference for more substantive discussion.

D. Continuing Education Committee: Dr. Porter thanked the board and the steering committee for their support and work behind the scenes to make CE happen at the 2009 Spring Meeting. Dr. Porter referred to her written report and commented that local chapter activity is increasing, but online program is struggling. She believes it is not a viable program at this time and recommends disbanding the online program until a later time. Board members were reluctant to give up the Online CE program and instead talked about how it might be expanded and better publicized as part of the renovation of the Division’s Web site. Also, the Division would like to learn more about the Future of Psychoanalytic Education conference planning process, before agreeing to sponsor CE credits for psychologists at this conference.

E. Nominations and Elections Committee: Dr. McWilliams reported the 46 nominations were made. The slate of candidates is:
1. President-Elect: Bill MacGillivray
2. Secretary: Alice Bernstein and Dennis Debiak

E. Graduate Student Committee: Dr. Slavin reported on how this committee promoted attendance by graduate students and created programming for graduate students at this meeting. He also discussed other initiatives including a mentoring program and other resources for graduate students that will appear on the Web site.

F. Program Committee: Dr. Darwin reviewed locations for upcoming meetings and discussed how there is less non-juried time available and that sections and
committees MUST get their materials in on time in order to be given non-juried time. Dr. Kieffer reviewed plans for the program at APA in Toronto, including an effort to feature papers by Early Career Psychologists. Dr. Darwin’s term as Program chair will end at the end of 2009 and the Division is searching for someone to fill that position. Awards Committee: Dr. Murphy discussed her written report. Dr. Slavin suggested that we set aside time with no competing programming at each Spring meeting (e.g. Thursday afternoon, before President’s address and opening reception) specifically for giving out awards. Also, it was decided that the award recipient will continue to give a paper at the meeting. Dr. Bellinson suggests that we rename the Scholarship/Research Award.

F. FEDERAL ADVOCACY COORDINATOR AND INTERDIVISIONAL TASK FORCE ON MANAGED CARE: Dr. MacGillivray discussed the report submitted by Dr. Frank Goldberg.

G. SPRING MEETING REPORT: Drs. Ponder and Rubin and their steering committee were recognized by the Board for their hard work at putting together this impressive meeting.

H. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Dr. Marilyn Charles elaborated on the written report submitted by Dr. King, Membership Chair. Dr. Cresci noted that the membership trend is a positive one.

I. EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE: Dr. Charles discussed how proposals submitted by ECP’s will be tagged and considered for designated slots in the 2010 Spring Meeting program.

1. Financial Considerations for ECP’s: Dr. Cresci suggested that we need a reduction of ECP dues for this very important constituency. She suggested we should offer a rebate of $45 for ECP’s and we keep track of their date of terminal degree graduation.

2. Ruth Helein reported that graduate students who graduate must rejoin the Division through our Central Office and therefore it might be possible for us to offer reduced dues for ECP’s for the first year.

3. Dr. MacGillivray suggested that we give ECP’s a $95 credit toward attending the Spring Meeting. Discussion focused on how to create a greater sense of community in the Division.

4. Dr. Cresci asked the ECP committee to further investigate the numbers of ECP in the Division, find out more about their needs and what might have helped them better make the transition from graduate student to ECP member.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. TASK FORCE ON APA COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY—PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES TO THE DIVISION: Dr. Jacobs distributed and elaborated on her written report.

1. Dr. Slavin suggested that we spend the money requested below on promoting our Spring Meetings abroad, given that $500 might not be a large enough amount to help international affiliates get to our meetings.

2. It was also suggested that we form more international local chapters through Section IV that might publicize our meetings and activities.

3. The Task Force emphasized that it is important for the Division to create a spirit of exchange.

4. In addition, it was suggested that the Division try to find ways to help international attendees find affordable housing.

Motion 5: Division 39 will encourage all sections and committees to consider issues relevant to international psychological/psychoanalysis in their future initiatives (e.g., international themes in programs and support of international affiliates who are interested in their areas of concern). Action: Passed with 2 abstentions.

Motion 6: Division 39 will place an announcement in the APA Division 52 International Psychology Bulletin about membership in Division 39. Action: Passed unanimously.

Motion 7: Division 39 will allocate a small grant ($500.00) for travel by international affiliates to spring meetings. The allocation of the funds will be considered by the Task Force on CIRP and presented to the Division 39 Board for approval each January. Action: Passed: 18 yes votes, 2 no votes, 4 abstentions

B. PUBLIC RELATIONS TASK FORCE REPORT: Dr. Thomas referred to her written report.

IX. SECTION ISSUES

A. SECTION II BYLAWS REVISION: Dr. Bellinson gave background on Section II’s bylaw revision process

Motion 8: To approve the revision to the Section II bylaws as submitted. Action: Passed unanimously

B. SECTION BYLAWS ISSUE: Dr. MacGillivray reported that Sections I, II and III are in compliance with regard to membership categories in their bylaws. Section VIII is working on this.

C. SECTION MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS: Discussion ensued regarding Section membership. Dr. Bellinson said that
we should give the Sections a chance to build up their membership numbers. Sections have until the end of this year to get their numbers up to at least 150 to be eligible for voting representation at board meetings, non-juried presentation time at Spring Meeting, as well as reimbursement for travel to the January Division board meeting for Section Representatives.

D. SECTION FINANCES: Dr. McCary reported that there are two sections that have not had any activity in their bank account in two years, and do not have a designated treasurer.

Motion 9: To freeze the bank accounts of sections VI and VII until Division Treasurer attests that the section has a fully functioning treasurer. Action: Passed with one abstention.

E. UPDATES ON SECTIONS III, VI AND VII: Dr. Kelly and Kieffer described the status of Sections III and VIII, respectively, in recruiting members. Also, Dr. Debiak reported that prior to this meeting he communicated with Dr. Gottdiener, who said that Section VI is having some difficulty recruiting members. They have not collected dues for three years and have not had an election this year. Dr. Gottdiener also reports that he is working to revitalize Section VI.

F. SECTION IV REQUEST: Dr. Dauphin

Motion 10: To approve the creation of a new local chapter: The Sacramento Valley Association for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. Action: Passed unanimously.

X. CONSORTIUM REPORT: Dr. Wagner discussed her report.

XI. COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: Drs. Alpert, Barbanel, Darwin, MacGillivray, Morris, Thomas and Wagner:

A. Dr. Alpert described the grave financial situation at APA, which has led to $11 million in cuts in APA’s $100 million budget. Budget cuts were described. Also, there is a confidential dispute between APA and APAIT, but this will have no impact on those who are insured by APAIT. Revised guidelines for child custody evaluations were approved.

B. Dr. Barbanel reported that the Model Licensure Act has been revised and the school psychology exemption is controversial. Most School Psychologists are M.A. level, but can still call themselves psychologists. The draft document removes this exemption, but still allows M.A. school psychologists to function as psychologists in schools. Also, while two years of supervised experience are required, one year would no longer need to be postdoctoral. I/O psychologists will be eligible for licensure. Dr. Barbanel is asking Division 39 to support the Model Licensure Act.

Motion 11: To support the changes proposed by the Model Licensure Task Force. Action: Passed with 12 yes votes, 3 no votes, and 8 abstentions.

C. Dr. Morris reported that Dr. Bray has formed a committee to explore and understand the reasons that APA membership has failed to provide the necessary 2/3rds votes to change the APA bylaws so the four major ethnic minority psychological associations will have voting seats on the Council of Representatives.

D. Dr. Wagner reported that Dr. Kasdin appointed an advisory group to provide recommendations for the implementation of the referendum regarding the prohibition against psychologists’ presence in settings which lack the protection of US and international law. The referendum was passed by the membership in September 2009. The advisory group’s report is complete and may be addressed at the February council meeting.

Motion 12: To endorse Melba Vasquez, Ph.D., for President-Elect of APA Action: Passed unanimously.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. CALIFORNIA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ISSUE: Dr. Jacobs asked for Division 39 members in California to become active in CPA to combat the governor’s proposal to collapse mental health professional boards into one entity, which might have a negative effect on the practice of psychoanalysis. Our California members’ names will be provided to CPA.

B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT: Dr. Downing reported how the Model Licensure Act may affect pre-doctoral practica and internships.

C. FUTURE SPRING MEETING ISSUES: Dr. Fried asked if the themes of future spring meetings could be announced earlier than one year ahead of time. Dr. Cresci explained the reasons for announcing the next year’s meeting theme at the current year’s Spring meeting.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the board at this time the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

SECRETARY: Dennis Debiak, Psy.D.
RECORDERS: Janet L. Owen and Ruth E. Helein
I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Cresci called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. She welcomed the members and guests.

II. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, APRIL 23, 2009:

Motion 1: To Approve the Draft Minutes of the BOD Meeting of April 23, 2009 as submitted. Action: Passed.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Cresci
A. Various members of the Board are attending APA functions during the Convention.
B. The Division has been involved in the Pre-Convention activities.
C. The Division supported the Wedding for Us All sponsored by Division 17
D. Dr. Cresci will represent the Division at the Freud Centennial Event.
E. Dr. Bellinson will assume the chair position of the Program Committee at the end of 2010.
F. Dr. Zelnick has been appointed to CODAPAR.
G. Dr. MacGillivray will represent the Division at the APA Education Directorate Advocacy Meeting.
H. The Division was a co-sponsor for Psychology Community Engagement Partnering for Social Change with Dr. Ruth representing the Division.

IV. CONVERSATION WITH CAROL GOODHEART, PH.D., PRESIDENT-ELECT OF APA: A conversation with Dr. Goodheart was held. She updated the members on her initiatives and the 2010 Convention.

V. TREASURER’S REPORT: DR. MCCARY
A. REVIEW OF BUDGET PROCESS: Dr. McCary summarized her written report that was submitted to the board for their review. She highlighted specific line items of interest. She also reported that the San Antonio Spring meeting showed a loss of $25,000 instead of a profit of $17,000. Publication royalties are considerably higher than anticipated. She anticipates a “break-even” budget year.

B. REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES: Dr. McCary directed the board’s attention to the reimbursement guidelines included in her report.

VI. COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: DRS. ALPERT, BARBANEL, DARWIN, MACGILLIVRAY, MORRIS, THOMAS AND WAGNER: Council Representatives reported on issues that have come before Council.
A. Dr. Barbanel reported on the financial situation of APA. There is a serious operating budget deficit, and APA is taking very aggressive steps to correct the situation. Layoffs of staff and other cuts have already been placed in motion. She also commented on the LGBT issue, Council did affirm the report from the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation that concluded that reparative therapies are not effective and, in some cases, harmful.
B. Dr. Alpert reported on the strategic plan of APA. The Council was able to approve the Goals and Objectives of the strategic plan. There were concerns regarding the Core Values, and Drs. Alpert and Barbanel will serve on a committee to work on those issues.
C. Dr. MacGillivray distributed a set of notes on Council activity.
D. Dr. Wagner reported on the APA Vision Statement. She also discussed the recommendations from the APA Ethics Committee and referred to her report that was distributed to the members. She reported that the Ethics Committee issued a report which offered no changes to Ethical Standards 1.02 and 1.03. Dr. Wagner and other council members opposed this report and presented a substitute motion directing the Ethics Committee to make the changes. The Ethics Committee changed its position and supported the motion, as did the Board of Directors. The motion calls for the recommended
language changes to be submitted to Council at the February 2010 meeting. Members thanked Dr. Wagner for her excellent work on this issue, along with the entire group that is working with the Ethics Committee to resolve this issue.

E. Dr. Morris reported that the bylaws change for seating representatives of the four major ethnic minority psychological associations on APA Council failed once again. She stated that this will continue to be worked on and hopefully this bylaws revision will eventually be approved and these delegates be seated officially.

F. A discussion was held on the report from the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation. The report was well prepared and scientifically valid. Board members expressed some concern regarding the media reporting about this. However, it was noted that Dr. Glassgold, chair of the Task Force, was quoted correctly.

VIII. Practice Summit Report: Drs. Cresci and Wagner gave a brief report on this Summit. Dr. Cresci reported that it was a very well attended, well-organized and exciting event. She referenced a specific presentation on a business curve model. Applying this model to the profession may be more difficult than expressed at the presentation. Dr. Wagner agreed that the meeting was exciting and well organized. She referred to the economics presentation and how economic factors impact practice. There was concern that psychotherapy was being shown on the downtrend, and that APA would accept that opinion and not advocate for psychotherapy. They also discussed the presentation of Integrated Health Care. They indicated concern over the method in which psychotherapy is being disseminated through health care systems, as well as the background and educational level of the individuals providing the service.

IX. Conversation with Randy Phelps, Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director, APA Practice Directorate: Dr. Phelps joined the board and gave an update on the activities of the Practice Directorate and answered questions and concerns of the board members.

X. Reports
A. Publications Committee
1. Drs. MacGillivray and McWilliams referred to the report in the agenda packet. Dr. MacGillivray updated the Board on the plans for the newsletter and the search for a new editor. To date they have received five applications for the position. All of those applying are very well qualified. In addition, there has been discussion regarding how to make changes to the presentation of the newsletter. They are considering have a monthly electronic version that gives up-to-date news. The quarterly publication would still be printed and mailed, but would be more article-oriented than the current newsletter. The printing and mailing costs would be reduced, but there would likely be a need for an individual to edit and/or work on the electronic version.

2. Dr. McWilliams discussed the PEP benefit. Dr. McWilliams was able to negotiate a reduced fee to the Division due to the number of members who have signed up for PEP subscriptions through the Division’s discount program.

3. Zelnick reported that the Internet subcommittee is looking at the viability of electronic paper submissions for the Spring Meetings. They are discussing using APA software, at a cost to the Division.

4. Dr. MacGillivray requested reports from Sections and Committees for the Newsletter.

5. Psychoanalytic Book Prize: Dr. Tabin reported on the winner of the Book Prize which will be announced at the Division Reception this evening. She reported there were 15 proposals submitted this year. Anthony Bram from Topeka, KS, is this year’s book prize winner.

6. She also reported on PsyScan: Psychoanalysis and how invaluable these abstracts are to many of the Division’s members.

B. Continuing Education Committee: Dr. MacGillivray referred to the report contained in the agenda packet. Discussion was held regarding the process for 2009 and how much it was improved. There are still some areas that can be improved, but the process is getting better.

C. Nominations and Elections Committee: Dr. McWilliams reported that her committee worked to create a diverse slate of candidates. She announced the members who were elected to the positions available. Suggestions were made to bring early career professionals onto the board through the election process.

D. Program Committee: Dr. Darwin announced that Dr. Bellinson will take over chair of this committee at the end of 2010. She discussed the programming at the 2009 Spring Meeting as well as the 2010 spring meeting in Chicago, including the efforts to get early registration. She also thanked the chairs of the summer meeting. The San Diego Spring Meeting will be chaired by Sanford Shapiro. In 2011 the meeting will be in New York at the Sheraton, which negotiated very favorable terms with the Division and has been
contracted for the next three meetings in New York.

E. Summer Meeting Report: Drs. Berardi-Coletta and Kieffer were thanked for their hard work on the summer meeting. Dr. Kieffer gave a brief report on the activities of the meeting. She was pleased to announce that a number of early career professionals had submitted papers.

F. Consortium: Dr. Wagner announced that Division 39 will host the next meeting, which will be held on November 13 in Washington, DC at the APA office building. ACPE is continuing to accredit institutes and is moving forward in a very positive manner. They are also working through the process of being recognized by the Department of Education.

G. Federal Advocacy Coordinator and Interdivisional Task Force on Managed Care: Dr. Goldberg elaborated on his written reports distributed during the meeting.

H. Awards Committee: Dr. MacGillivray referred to the written report in the agenda packet. He informed the Board members that he would be requesting nominations for award recipients at the January meeting. The award winners for 2009 are: Psychoanalytic Scholarship: Kimberlyn Leary; Leadership: Jonathan Slavin; and Founders Award: Johanna Tabin.

I. Public Relations Task Force: Dr. Thomas reported on the activities and progress of her Task Force. The work of the Task Force intertwines with other efforts within the Division, including the survey results, website redesign, etc. They have several project ideas they are working on to increase the visibility and recognition of the work of psychoanalysts.

J. Membership: Dr. King referred to her written report and commented on the numbers of members. Membership numbers have dropped and it has been significant within the student membership category.

K. Early Career Professionals: Dr. Charles updated the board on the activities of the Early Career Professionals Committee. She referred to her report that was distributed during the board meeting.

L. Task Force on APA CIRP: Dr. Metzl referred to her written report included in the agenda packet and updated the Board on the activities of CIRP. She stated that they were appreciative of the sponsorship by the Division.

M. Education and Training: Dr. Downing referred to his report that was distributed during the Board meeting. He updated the Board on his committee and the plans they have for the future. Their panel at the Spring Meeting was well-attended.

XI. Old Business

A. Division 39 Practice Survey: Dr. Axelrod referred to the written report included in the agenda packet and summarized some of the results and gave an overview of the data. Discussion was held regarding the preliminary results presented.

XII. Section Issues

A. Section IV Bylaws Revision: Dr. Dauphin presented the proposed revisions to the bylaws for Section IV, which were included in the agenda packet. These revisions were reviewed and approved by Dr. Wagner, Division Parliamentarian.

Motion 2: To approve the revision to the Section IV bylaws as corrected. Action: Passed.

B. Section Membership Numbers: Dr. McCary’s referenced the report on Section membership numbers that was included in the Treasurer’s report. This was given as a status report only. Discussion was held regarding this status report.

C. Updates on Sections III, VI and VII: Dr. Kieffer commented on Sections VII’s efforts to increase its membership. Dr. Toronto commented that Section III has sent a mailing to the full membership of the Division encouraging them to join Section III. Additional discussion was held.

XIII. New Business

A. Member Benefit for Early Career Professionals: Dr. MacGillivray suggested that he attend the Conversation Hour with the Early Career members and bring a proposal to the Board in January.

B. Apportionment Ballot Telephone Campaign: Dr. Cresci asked board members to once again make phone calls to Division members encouraging them to give their 10 apportionment votes to the Division. She also stated that the Division would utilize graduate students to assist Board members with their calls, but did encourage the members to make as many calls as they can to add the personal touch of a Board member calling them.

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board at this time the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Secretary: Dennis Debiak, Psy.D.
Recorder: Ruth Helein
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: PSYSR CONFERENCE

Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR) is hosting a conference, “Toward a More Socially Responsible Psychology,” July 15-17, 2010, in Boston, MA at the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis. PsySR invites proposals for conference programs. Proposed programs should be 90 minutes in length. Most should examine and illuminate the links between psychology and social change efforts by exploring general principles, case examples, or new applications. Sample topics might include: psychology and nonviolent action; building an effective anti-war movement; organizing in the 21st century; overcoming racial, ethnic, and class divides; combating disillusionment in politics; working with vulnerable communities; psychological challenges and pitfalls in coalition-building; activism on college campuses; and so on.

Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to proposals2010@psysr.org. Complete information may be found at www.psysr.org/conference2010.

DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2010

BOOK PROPOSAL PRIZE FOR A FIRST BOOK ON A PSYCHOANALYTIC SUBJECT

Division 39 and APA Press are delighted to announce the third annual prize for a first book by a psychoanalytic author. The winner receives a $1000 cash prize, certificate of recognition, and guarantee of publication by the APA Press. The aim of this prize is to encourage psychoanalytic writing by Division members who have yet to publish a psychoanalytic book. We look for good writing, originality, as well as clinical and scholarly relevance.

While some previously published material may be included, the proposed book should consist primarily of new work and promise to be an original and coherent monograph. Edited collections of previously published papers are not acceptable, nor are edited volumes of contributions by more than one author. Simultaneous submissions to other publishers will disqualify the entry.

The proposal should consist of:
1) a cover letter with the only mention of the author’s identifying and contact information
2) a full CV
3) a statement of the mission, scope, and potential contribution of the project to psychoanalysis
4) a table of contents; and
5) one, and only one, sample chapter. Submissions are accepted in hard copy only and must be in quintuplicate.

Blind review evaluations are conducted by the Book Proposal Committee, the editor of APA Books, and an Honorary Judge. All submissions for the 2010 award must be submitted by March 15, 2010 to: Book Prize Division of Psychoanalysis 2615 Amesbury Road Winston Salem NC 27103.

Questions should be addressed to either: Frank Summers, Franksumphd@hotmail.com or: Johanna Tabin, jktabin@juno.com, Co-Chairs Book Proposal Prize Committee.

DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2010

STEPHEN MITCHELL AWARD

Papers are invited for the Stephen A. Mitchell Award. Established by Psychoanalytic Psychology and the Board of the Division of Psychoanalysis, the award honors our esteemed colleague as well as a graduate student whose paper is deemed exemplary by a panel of judges. The award includes a $500 cash prize, airfare and registration for the Division Spring Meeting, at which the paper will be read, and publication in Psychoanalytic Psychology.

Deadline for submission is July 1, 2010, and presentation of the paper will be at the 2011 Spring Meeting in New York. Five printouts of the paper should be submitted to the editor, Elliot Jurist, according to the procedure for submission to Psychoanalytic Psychology and should include a cover letter indicating that the paper is being submitted for the Stephen A. Mitchell Award.

Division members, especially those with academic affiliations, are strongly encouraged to invite graduate students to submit papers. There are no restrictions as to topic or theoretical orientation, although the papers must be of a psychoanalytic nature.

Manuscripts and questions should be addressed to the editor, Elliot Jurist, at psychoanalyticpsychology@gmail.com.

DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2010
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