

Connecticut Society for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy
Rachel Torello, PsyD

I. Structure

A. Officers

President: Dean Leone, PhD
Past-president: Elaine Hunter, LCSW
President-elect: Rachel Torello, PsyD
Section IV Representative: Nakia Hamlett, PhD
Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair: Jill C. Delaney, LCSW
Corresponding Secretary: Douglas Rau, PhD
Recording Secretary: Nakia Hamlett, PhD
Continuing Education: Carrie Christensen, LCSW
Registrar: Carrie Christensen, LCSW
Clinical Conference Committee Chair: Ellen Nasper, PhD
Membership Chair: Rachel Torello, PsyD
Newsletter Editor: Mickey Silverman, PhD
Early Career Initiative Chair: Michael Kahn, PhD
Long Range Planning Committee Chair: Nancy Sachner, LCSW
Co-Historian: Dale H. Ortmeyer, PhD
Co-Historian: Wendy Stewart, PhD
Liaison (WNEPS): Barbara Marcus, PhD
Regional Representatives
New Haven County: Allison Brownlow, PhD
Hartford County: Jeffrey Asmar, LCSW
Fairfield County: Lois M. Fox, LCSW
Eastern Connecticut: Ann Singer, PhD

B. Membership

Total: 197
Division 39 Members: 70
Psychology: 94
Social Work: 76
Psychiatry: 11
New Members since May 2014: 45

C. Diversity

Graduate Students: Approx. 9
Early Career Professionals: Approx. 20

II. Governance functions

Our chapter has a strong executive board that is responsible for the majority of important decisions. The Board has 5-6 meetings per year, including 1-2 half-day retreats. In order to function effectively, our Board also relies heavily on a committee structure. We have a number of both standing and ad hoc committees. Board members serve as committee chairs and are equipped to then report to the Board and bring issues up for vote. The Board also makes recommendations to each committee.

III. Publications and communications

We have both an online (updated in real time) and printed (updated yearly) membership directory, which is accessible to all members. We have four primary ways to communicate with our membership:

1. Web site – www.cspponline.org
2. Newsletter – 2 issues per year
3. Listserv for members only
4. Conference Announcements – electronic and paper

IV. Chapter-Division relationships

We encourage Div. 39 membership, stating on our application form that we are a local chapter and strongly recommend it. We inform our members of Div. 39 programming. We regularly nominate an early career member for the Div. 39, Section IV stipend/early career scholarship.

V. Programming

A. Clinical Conferences

1. September 6, 2014: Susie Orbach, PhD, *Body to Body. Toward a new theory of body development: Countertransference and therapist's body.*
2. November 8, 2014: Usha Tummala-Narra, PhD, *Complexity Matters: Cultural Identity from a Psychoanalytic Perspective*
3. February 7, 2015: Linda Mayes, MD, *Making room in one's mind for a child: How brain and mind change with parenthood*
4. April 11, 2015: Lisa Marcus, PhD, Kenneth Marcus, MD, and Sara Yaxte, *Genderqueer: One family's experience with gender variance*
5. May 16, 2015: Ed Ryan, PhD, *Mindfulness in Psychoanalysis and Meditation*
7. November 22, 2014: Michael J. Diamond, PhD and Donald Moss, MD, *Reconsidering Men and Masculinities: Developmental Conundrums and Clinical Quandaries*

B. Diversity Workgroup Workshop Series: Through An/Other Lens: Multicultural Perspectives Workshops were led by members and are open to all members.

1. September 20, 2014: Rachel Torello, PsyD, *On Othering and Otherness*
2. October 25, 2014: Maria Elena Oliva, LCSW, *In Search of the Language of the Heart: A bilingual client in therapy*
3. December 13, 2014: Nakia Hamlett, PhD, *Exploring the Unconscious: African American Males, Social Justice, and Violence in America*

C. Psychoanalysis and the Cinema (Regional Mini-Meetings)

1. September 28, 2014: *Venus in Fur* (2013)
2. January 25, 2015: *The Skeleton Twins* (2014)
3. February 22, 2015: *Birdman* (2014)
4. March 15, 2015: *Boyhood* (2014)

D. Reading/Study Groups: On September 27, 2014, the Hartford regional group hosted a mini-workshop with Israeli psychologist and gerontologist Dr. Jacob Lomranz, Professor Emeritus from the University of Tel Aviv. Each of our regions (Hartford, New Haven, Fairfield County, Eastern CT) has at least one active study group, which is coordinated and led by our regional representatives.

VI. Key initiatives or innovations

- Our Diversity Workgroup began a workshop series: *Through An/Other Lens: Multicultural Perspectives.*

- We have established a Speakers Bureau. The goal of this outreach group is to educate interested community mental health trainees and professionals on psychoanalytic ideas and their usefulness in clinical practice.
- This year we have had a significant increase in new members. We attribute this to a number of factors, including our relevant, clinically-focused conferences, attention to issues of diversity, and a greater move toward electronic and web communication.

VII. Current challenges

- Offering enough opportunities to satisfy the diverse theoretical backgrounds of our expanding membership (e.g., ego psychologists, Kleinian, Relational, Jungian, Child & Adolescent, etc)
- Promoting psychoanalytic theory and practice within an academic culture that, for the most part, negates and demeans it.
- Diversifying our membership

VIII. What I want to learn from other chapters

Recently, a few of our clinical conferences have had very large turnouts, yielding some unexpected revenue. Therefore, we have some extra money to re-invest in the organization, and are wondering what other local chapters have done in this regard.

IX. Recommended seminars

All of our clinical conferences have been very well attended and well received. We would recommend any of them to other chapters.