

The Ontario Society for Contemporary Psychoanalysis

Brent Willock, PhD, C.Psych

Once again, co-sponsoring diverse activities with the Toronto Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis has been highly productive and rewarding. Three stimulating weekend events were held. On Oct. 5, 2013, Dr. Michael Eigen commenced the year's Visiting Scholar Series, presenting two papers on Variants of Mystical Participation and Beauty and Destruction. On January 25, 2014, for our 12th Annual Stephen Mitchell Memorial Lecture, Dr. Jessica Benjamin discussed Mutuality and Intersubjectivity from Birth to Termination: Mothers, Babies and Analysts in light of the Third. On May 25, 2014, Dr. Beatrice Beebe presented the First Annual Willock-Ipp Lecture sponsored by the Esther & Bernard Besner Infant Research Fund. Her talk was entitled Infant Research and Adult Treatment: Videotaping Mother-Infant Interaction and Videotaping the Analyst's Face. We are very grateful to the Besner family foundation's support of our educational and community outreach programs.

Monthly scientific meetings were coordinated by Dr. Gary Rodin, Beth Goldstein, and Hilary Offman. Discussions were consistently spirited and enlightening. During the past year, at Dr. Rodin's suggestion, we added a pre-symposium dinner at the Faculty Club which has made these evenings even more enjoyable. At the first scientific meeting on September 18, 2013, Dr. Chana Ullman (Tel Aviv) presented The Personal is political, the political is personal: On the subjectivity of an Israeli psychoanalyst. On Sept. 24, Professor Lawrence Friedman (Boston) discussed The Lives of Erich Fromm. On Oct. 16, Dr. Brent Willock talked on Incest. Nov. 20, Dr. Sarah Usher presented A Psychoanalytic Approach to Couples Therapy. Jan. 25, 2014 Dr. Heather MacIntosh talked on Dyadic Traumatic Reenactment: An integration of psychoanalytic concepts to the study of couple therapy with childhood trauma survivors. Feb. 19, Prof. Mari Ruti discussed her book, The call of character: Living a life worth living. March 19, Dr. Graeme Taylor talked on Varieties of Castration Experience: The influence of early trauma. April 19, Dr. Hilary Offman presented The Princess and the Penis: a post postmodern queer-y tale. May 28, Dr. Judith Levene discussed Complex Empathy: Multiplicity and Empathic Understanding.

As an Extension Course, we presented a well-attended series of film nights entitled Childhood Screenings: Early reverberations of trauma in the familial-cultural continuum. On Oct. 25, Prof. Deborah Levine discussed Pan's Labyrinth. Nov. 22, Dr. Art Caspary commented on The White Ribbon. Jan. 24, Dr. Dan Merkur presented on The Fallen Idol. Feb. 28, Dr. Phil Classen discussed Butterfly. March 28, Au Revoir les Enfants was analyzed by Dr. Keith Haartman.

Study groups continue to provide yet another rich mode for continuing education. Our robust Writer's Study Group continues under the leadership of Dr. Judith Levene. Dr. Hazel Ipp's longstanding group on Relational Psychoanalysis continues its active discussions. Dr. Scott Bishop leads the study group on Psychosis. Dr. Dan Merkur coordinates the group focusing on Religion and Spirituality. Two other groups (on Freud, and on Contemporary Psychoanalytic Writers) are not able to accept new members at this time.

Over the summer, Beth Goldstein has been creating an exciting new mentoring program to encourage writing by new graduates. She has already confirmed participation by several of our experienced writers.

As part of our ongoing encouragement of scholarly research, study, and presentations, we continue to engage in a number of exciting international ventures. We co-host Joint International Conferences with the psychoanalytic societies of New York University's Postdoctoral Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, the William Alanson White Institute, and Adelphi University's Postdoctoral Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. In July 2014, our 7th conference was held in Florence on the topic of Passion.

These international symposia inspired our award-winning book series for which Dr. Brent Willock serves as lead editor. Dr. Lori C. Bohm (White Institute) and Prof. Rebecca Coleman Curtis (Adelphi University) are co-editors. Based on our Fifth Conference held at the University of Edinburgh in 2010 (co-hosted with the Scottish Institute for Human Relations), our book on *Understanding and Coping with Failure: Psychoanalytic Perspectives* rolled off Routledge's press in May 2014. This volume contains contributions by the following members of the TICP community: Drs. Ann Baranowski, Michelle Flax, Marsha Hewitt, Judith Levene, Karl Loszak, Christopher McIntosh, John Sloane, Gail White, and Brent Willock. Inspired by our 6th Conference held two years ago in New Zealand, we are putting the finishing touches on a volume entitled *Alike/Different: Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Navigating the Divide*. This volume will have contributions by TICP members: Mark Egit and Brent Willock. Work on our next publication, *Passion*, has already begun.

In addition to these books, members of our community have been busy organizing conferences, making presentations, writing articles and book chapters and, in four cases, books (Prof. Marsha Hewitt's *Critical Theory of Religion: A Feminist Analysis*, Dr. Oren Gozlan's *Transsexuality and the Art of Transitioning: A Lacanian Approach*, Prof. Clive Thomson's *Georges Hérelle: archéologue de l'inversion sexuelle "fin de siècle"*; and Dr. Dan Merkur's *Relating to God: Clinical Psychoanalysis, Spirituality, and Theism*).

Responding to the interest of some of our accomplished academic members to pursue clinical training, Drs. Frances Newman, Scott Bishop, and Rex Kay have been working to create a course on Core Clinical Competencies while also looking for ways to provide appropriate clinical experiences.

For their creative, hard work over the past year, great thanks are due to the Chairs of all our standing committees: Drs. Hazel Ipp, Judi Kobrick, Kadri-Ann Laar, Sam Izenberg, Gary Rodin, Sarah Turnbull, Nira Kolers, Neomi Stein, and Ann Baranowski. Our finances continue to be in good shape thanks to the conscientious labour of Treasurer Dr. Karl Loszak. Drs. Keith Haartman and Robert Besner have done an excellent job producing our newsletter. Neomi Offman has kept our weekend conferences humming along smoothly. Administrative coordinator, Suzanne Pearen, labours mightily to keep all the above matters on track.

In sum, the past year was full of continuing, meaningful developments for our Institute and Society. So many have given generously of their time, energy, and thoughtfulness to make all this happen. These contributions are all deeply appreciated. These spirited efforts have sustained the high quality of our endeavour. Everyone can feel proud of all that has been collectively accomplished.