

aapcsw

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

2023, issue 1

newsletter

From the President

Brian Ngo-Smith, MSW, LCSW, BCD-P, FABP

Greetings, colleagues

I write to you as the dust settles on the 2022 midterm elections and we are left with a picture of a country that is as predictably divided as ever. I recall, in the aftermath of the lynching of George Floyd, the reckoning over police funding and the call for more social workers to be injected into communities. In addition to more social workers, this nation also needs more analysis, if you ask me: loosening—the Greek *analuein*, to loosen up. Like a patient whose symptoms reveal delight in a fixed and rigid familiarity but whose life is otherwise in free fall, our public square is begging to be listened to.

One of the core values of AAPCSW comes to my mind when I think about what we can bring to this moment of divisiveness: to convey a psychoanalytic sensibility in our work with all populations and in all settings.

Easier said than done, I know. I think about how our professional listservs can blow up, as has happened in the aftermath of the Association of Social Work Boards finally releasing the abysmal exam outcome data, revealing what has long been known about racial (among other forms of) disproportionality in our clinical

exams. Now we are set up, yet again, for the age-old battle of the generations: to preserve or to disrupt, to honor or to cancel. Sounds pretty Oedipal, if you ask me, and it seems to be happening everywhere.

We say we want to expand social work education by any means necessary so more students from diverse backgrounds have opportunities. But if entire field placements are happening in simulated virtual settings, are we sacrificing human connection for the broadened access to education that technology enables? What about dismantling the training analyst system in our psychoanalytic institutes: A move to more dignity and open doors, or parricide and the dilution of the rigors necessary to become an analyst?

And then there is the battle over trans youth, onto whose bodies we have projected our discordant fantasies of transcending the self-defeating splits that undergird our lives: two-sexed bodies, two-party systems, red versus blue, with us or against us. It seems we, the modern-day Montagues and Capulets, are entangled in yet another feud between fear and wish as we long for the manifestation of our Romeo and Juliet. We dread and are also excited by the thrilling, nasty, forbidden miscegenation of tribal

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I am hoping that this *Newsletter* finds you all welcoming Summer in a state of renewal and action!

We are excited to share an issue that includes content on a multitude of happenings and events occurring throughout our membership, including our president's address, a book review, announcements, reports, and member news. We also highlight the In Memoriam column that recognizes the heaviness felt from the loss of Jeffrey Longhofer, our past co-president and colleague (page 7).

It is always important to acknowledge the contributions and show gratitude to all who have contributed to this *Newsletter* issue. Thank you to all members who submitted content for this edition, including Josh Abrahams, Carl Bagnini, Kevin Barrett, Eve Blake, Joel Kanter, Steven Kuchuck, Jonathan Lebolt, Alan Levy, Corbin Quinn, and Mark Ruffalo. Special thanks to Barbara Matos, Kelly Martin, Olivier Massot, Brian Ngo-Smith, Penny Rosen, and Wendy Winograd.

Please continue to send all your wonderful accomplishments, experiences, news, thoughts, or ideas to us so that we may fully represent the content that is most relevant and inclusive of subject matter that our members are truly passionate about. We always seek any contemporary commentary, perspective, and/or clinical practice that recognize the ongoing mission and values of our organization.

Be safe and be well!

aapcsw aims & purposes

- To represent and protect the standing and advancement of psychoanalytic social work practitioners and educators.
- To provide an organizational identity for social work professionals engaged in psychoanalytically informed practice.
- To promote and disseminate the understanding of psychoanalytic theory and knowledge within the social work profession and the public.
- To affect liaisons with other organizations and professions who share common objectives for social work and the advancement of psychoanalytic theory and practice.
- To advocate for the highest standards of practice and for quality mental health care for the public.
- To bridge social work and psychoanalytic discourses by integrating concerns for social justice with clinical practice, and to conceptualize psychoanalytic theory and practice within its broader social-political context.

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AAPCSW Newsletter

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Clinical Dialogue and Town Hall

Corbin Quinn, MSW, PhD, LCSW

On November 6, 2022, the Diversity and Social Action Committee hosted the first of what we hope will be several “Clinical Dialogue and Town Hall” events centered on topics relevant to the practice of psychoanalytic social work. For our first gathering, we chose to focus on how clinicians have coped in the past several years as various pandemics—COVID 19, police violence, gun violence, social unrest, climate change—have exerted pressure on us and the populations we serve. We had considered opening up this conversation on a listserv but concluded that as a medium for discussing difficult and sensitive topics, email listservs leave something to be desired. A free, virtual gathering open to association members seemed a better option and one that would foster a more meaningful exchange of ideas.

Two members of the committee presented case material that showed how political, social, and environmental forces exert pressure on clinicians and clients alike. Janice Edwards, Professor of Social Work at Howard University and President-Elect of AAPCSW, presented a case in which her client experienced geographic dislocation because of Hurricane Katrina and complex forms of racial trauma that this dislocation exacerbated. The committee also invited me, an early career psycho-

therapist in private practice, to present a case involving a client that experienced strong feelings of rage in the wake of the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision limiting reproductive freedom. After each presentation, two members of the committee—Kathryn Basham and Carolyn Gruber—served as discussants and offered rich commentary on the material presented. The more than twenty attendees were then invited by moderator Penny Rosen to offer their own thoughts and reflections on these cases before we opened up the discussion and asked the participants to speak about their own experiences in clinical practice from the past couple of years. Many did, and the conversation touched on questions of race, sexuality, electoral politics, the transitions we all made to teletherapy (and the calculations involved in deciding when, how, and if to return to in-person practice), clinician illness and stress, and how many of us have struggled to connect meaningfully with colleagues during these stressful times. The consensus seemed to be that the event was useful and that there is a hunger for more opportunities to meet and grapple with difficult topics in an informal setting. The committee members have made note of this and we invite the membership to reach out to us with any thoughts on future topics.

AAPCSW Diversity & Social Action Committee

Golnar Simpson, Kathryn Basham, Janice Berry-Edwards, Ellyn Freedman, Scott Graybow,
Carolyn Gruber, Corbin Quinn, and Audrey Thayer Walker

Contact Golnar Simpson, golsimpson@verizon.net, 703.356.3033

See www.aapcsw.org/about_us/committees.html#diversity.

child&adolescent

Working with children, adolescents, and their parents? The *Newsletter* welcomes your articles pertaining to child and adolescent practice. Contact the Child & Adolescent column editors: Karen E. Baker, MSW, kembaker1@comcast.net • Wendy Winograd, LCSW, BCD-P, DSW, wendywinograd@gmail.com

On and Off the Couch: Memoir of a Psychoanalyst

By Beverly Kolsky; IPBooks, 2022; 208 pages

Reviewed by Eve Blake, LCSW

Part memoir, part depiction of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis, part explication of individual cases, Beverly Kolsky's *On and Off the Couch: Memoir of a Psychoanalyst* is organized in two parts: her pre-analytic life in part one, the intersection of her own experiences with her analytic ones in the second. It is in the second half of the book where it gathers steam, where she shares her work with several clients.

Kolsky's part 1 details her early history: the loss of her father when she was four, her difficult relationship with her mother, the bullying treatment received from her stepsisters after her mother's second husband died suddenly, her close and cherished relationship with her brother. Some of the most vivid sections in this part of the book explore her self-described life-altering experiences in her two analyses: her first, a nine-year analysis in England, where she worked as a psychotherapist, with a clinician who had an object relations theoretical background, and the second in the US, with a practitioner identified as a self-psychologist.

Such was the influence of her second analysis that Kolsky herself subsequently received her training in psychoanalysis at the New York Institute for Psychoanalytic Self Psychology. All told, she amassed more than forty years' experience as a social worker and psychoanalyst. She has numerous stories to tell about her personal journey and how it led to her development as a psychoanalyst.

She writes movingly of her first analysis: "Whether it was anger or despair or the shock of discovery or simply ranting because at last I had someone to listen to me, I wanted to go on feeling my emotions into infinity. When I cried, I never thought that I'd stop." And she says of her analyst: "Her knowing silence, combined with her unwavering presence, was kindness at its most profound." Kolsky shares a lovely description of the slowness of change in therapy: "Just as one cannot feel one's feet

growing until the old pair of shoes no longer fits and causes pain, so does the process of analysis develop so slowly that one does not realize its growth until the old behavior does not work anymore. . . . But when we do arrive at a new place, we tire of what we have known and like an old toy it is dropped in a corner of the room."

While her first analysis was characterized as "cradling," her second was a "more ascetic one." What she learned is that despite her resistance, particularly in forging an open relationship with a new analyst, she gained a good deal more self-understanding than she thought possible. She was, as she states, "liberated" from patterns that had seemed entrenched.

She shares how much she gained from her work in analysis, writing, "I have moved from being a silent observer of life while living on the fringe, to becoming a person both engaged with its beauty and its ugliness." And, as she observes, "In times like these where one's very existence is threatened by viruses that can kill and lies that are told as truths, it is essential that people know their own truth."

While living in London, Kolsky found work with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. She had been sent to make a preliminary home assessment of a seventy-year-old French count who, it was feared, was not turning off the gas on his stove. After forging a trusting working relationship with him, her duty became a challenge to her empathic connection with him: to protect him and other tenants in the building, she needed to facilitate his forced removal from his home to a hospital for assessment and potential placement in an elder-care facility. It was a wrenching experience for Kolsky, who recounts the unfolding events with considerable empathy. "I could feel myself break into small fragments that I knew I must piece together if I was to do my job," she writes. His final words to her—"I should never have let you into my home"—

penetrated deeply. He did not fare well in the forced move. For those of us whose work has entailed making such a difficult decision, this case accurately depicts the often cross-purposes of social service agency needs with psychoanalytic values and goals.

In part 2, she offers insight into her work with several patients. I was left wanting more from her depiction of a nineteen-year treatment of a chronically depressed patient. Although the patient begins to come to life in Kolsky's telling, the treatment is explained in a scant two and a half pages. We are left to imagine what transpired over those years, the nature of their analytic relationship, the texture of the patient's working through early trauma.

A more deeply felt picture emerges in her telling of her work with 'Claire,' another long-term patient she had written about in detail in "Empathy and Secrecy: Discovering Suicide as a Form of Addiction." In this 2015 journal article, she focuses on the concept of suicide addiction, a secret obsession with the thought of ending one's life.

Kolsky is candid about her dread prior to each session with Claire, a sense of uselessness against her patient's walled-in inner life. She attributes her self-psychological approach of empathic attunement to Claire's increased access into her hidden thoughts of suicide and the adrenalin rush she received from having those thoughts. Kolsky is forthright about her decision to make herself available to her patient outside the treatment space while her family and friends grew impatient with her. "Many times her frequent phone calls and my anxiety that she would kill herself took a toll on my family life," Kolsky writes. "I could not walk away once I knew what was there. Was this a rational decision? No. But for me there could be no other one. Claire's attempts at suicide and her addiction to suicidal thoughts went on for years." While Kolsky states that in her book she could not go more deeply into the ways they worked together toward a positive outcome, this omission triggers a wish for increased clinical detail. Inclusion of more clinical

Book Reviews

Psychoanalytic social workers are writing more and more books! Following is our new system for handling reviews:

- When you have written a book you wish to have reviewed or have read a recently published book that you feel would be of interest to our members, please send the book title and a sentence about the subject of the book to the Book & Film Review Editor, Wendy Winograd (wendywinograd@gmail.com).
- Copy Barbara Matos, our administrator, on the email (barbara.matos@aapcsw.org) and send the book to her. She will keep records of all books received. Once she receives the book, we will choose a reviewer, and Barbara will send the book to the reviewer.
- If you have a colleague in mind as a reviewer of your book, please let us know. We are always interested in adding reviewers to our list.
- Reviews should be four to six double-spaced pages. The book title and publisher should appear at the top of the page followed by the reviewer's name. At the end of the review, the reviewer should include a sentence or two about themselves.
- The review should then be sent to Wendy so she can read it. She will then send the review to *Newsletter* Editor Christie Hunnicutt (AAPCSWNewsletter@gmail.com) for publication in the *Newsletter*. We review only books; we do not review book chapters or articles.
- On some occasions, a film relevant to our field may be reviewed, and if you see such a film and would like to review it, please write directly to Wendy.



We thank all the authors and reviewers who have made such excellent contributions to the *Newsletter* over these many years.

Wendy Winograd, DSW, BCD-P, LCSW • Book & Film Review Editor •
wendywinograd@gmail.com

aspects of their work together can be found in the journal article.

The sensitivity of Kolsky's work can be discerned in her discussion of Sara, a fifteen-year-old girl who stayed in treatment for six years, although it is unclear if she remained in treatment past that time. With Sara, Kolsky would verbalize what she observed about her at-first silent patient. She would offer "You are anxious today" and accept her patient's slight nod. Over time, Kolsky tuned in to her own physical feelings, such as noticing her throat constrict or the feeling of a heavy weight on her chest. Kolsky named her sensations and feelings, which her patient then connected to specifics of early trauma. In her immersive way, Kolsky helped her patient access her inner world. Sara, Kolsky informs us, eventually went off to college, deciding to become a psychotherapist.

I have skipped over the specifics of Kolsky's part 1 memoir. Her journey is a dramatic one, and there is too much detail to cover here. In this part, however, Kolsky is forthright in her depiction of

the family dynamics that contributed to her self-destructive patterns and shares the betrayals and missteps she made before establishing a healthy, loving relationship.

It is clear that Kolsky has had a rich clinical career and that she has much to say about her self-psychological approach to treatment. It sounds as if her experiences could easily comprise a new book. If such a book is on the horizon, we can all look forward to it.

Eve Blake, LCSW, is a psychoanalyst in private practice in Los Angeles, working with patients both in California and New York. She is a graduate of the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Study Center, where she teaches and supervises, and is co-chair of the AAPCSW Curriculum Committee and on the Executive Committee.

Reference

Kolsky, B. (2015). Empathy and secrecy: Discovering suicide as a form of addiction. *MindConsiliums*, 15(10), 1-10.



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For Information Contact:
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inmemoriam

Jeffrey Lee Longhofer, PhD, LCSW (1955–2023)

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Jeff Longhofer, Past Co-President of AAPCSW. Jeff contributed to our organization and the field in so many ways with his original, sharp, and brilliant ideas. He blended clinical social work and psychoanalysis with his earlier work as an anthropologist. We will miss him. May his memory be a blessing.

Our sincere condolences to Jeff's partner, Jerry Floersch, Past Co-President (with Jeff) of AAPCSW. The duration of Jeff's illness allowed Jerry to prepare his thoughts in advance for their [OnCaring.org](https://www.oncaring.org) website.

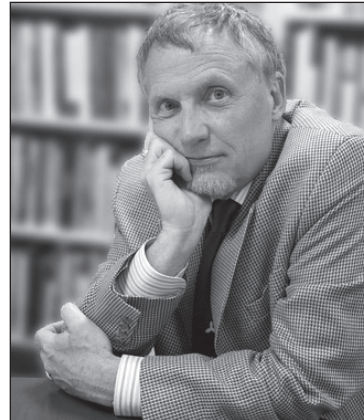
Please visit [OnCaring.org/blog/x2hfy0zwqmlh5pfsavim669jlnhsh9](https://www.oncaring.org/blog/x2hfy0zwqmlh5pfsavim669jlnhsh9) for details of mourning Jeff and celebrating his life.

Jerry writes that it is his hope that "as Jeff's physical self transformed into a spirit self, Jeff's spirit will inspire us to imagine what we are not now."

In sympathy,

Penny Rosen and Brian Ngo-Smith, on behalf of the AAPCSW Board

Tributes in memory of Jeff are being collected for posting on www.aapcsw.org. Send yours to Penny Rosen at rosenpmsw@aol.com.



AAPCSW President Brian Ngo-Smith Named as 2024 Recipient of the APsA Ticho Award

The Ticho Committee of the American Psychoanalytic Association has announced Brian Ngo-Smith, LCSW, BCD-P, FABP, as the 2024 recipient of the Ernst and Gertrude Ticho Memorial Award.

The award, established in 2006, "recognizes and fosters the work of a promising early- to mid-career psychoanalyst who has made contributions to the field through teaching, writing, research, and applied and/or clinical work" ([apsa.org/fellowships-awards/ernst-and-gertrude-ticho-memorial-award](https://www.apsa.org/fellowships-awards/ernst-and-gertrude-ticho-memorial-award)).

Brian is a 2022 graduate of the Denver Institute for Psychoanalysis and received his MSW from the University of Iowa. Notably, Brian is the first licensed clinical social worker to receive this award. He maintains a private practice in Denver, CO.

In their announcement of the award, Julie Jaffee Nagel, PhD, chair of the Ticho Committee, and Stefan A. Pasternack, MD, director of the Ticho Foundation, write, "The committee found [Brian's] personal statement riveting because of his dedication to practicing psychoanalysis clinically and

promoting and using psychoanalytic knowledge beyond the consulting room, specifically in his effective work with homeless populations."

Brian will present a lecture titled "Porosity and Preoccupation: Queer Thoughts on Psychoanalytic Care" at the 2024 APsA national meeting.

Congratulation, Brian!

AAPCSW Child & Adolescent Town Hall

Monthly on Zoom • 4:00–5:30pm EDT

This group meets monthly on the third Saturday to discuss clinical work with children, adolescents, and their parents. Open to all mental health clinicians. For more information and to receive the ZOOM link, please contact Karen Baker (kembaker1@comcast.net) or Wendy Winograd (wendywinograd@gmail.com).

See aapcsw.org/events for dates • No CE hours

committeereports

Membership

Dear fellow AAPCSW members,

We would like to remind you of and highlight few member benefits.

There are three interactive listservs—General; Child and Adolescent; and New Professionals. If you are not on a listserv and would like to be, let us know which one(s), include your preferred email address, and we will add you.

Members receive the print edition of *Psychoanalytic Social Work* and can access it online. And members have access to the online *Journal of Social Work Practice—Psychotherapeutic Approaches in Health, Welfare, and Community* online. Make certain we have your current mailing and email addresses.

Finally, members receive discounts on books and journals through Guilford Press and can subscribe to PEP (Psychoanalytic Electronic Publishing; pep-web.org) at a reduced rate.

We encourage you to take advantage of these benefits and to keep abreast of regional and virtual AAPCSW programs and conferences, which you can find at www.aapcsw.org.

Be sure to be in touch (jabrahams.lcsw@gmail.com or kevinbarrettlcsw@gmail.com) to share ideas and suggestions for the organization and let us know how we might better serve you.

Sincerely,

The Membership Committee

Co-chairs Josh Abrahams and Kevin Barrett

www.aapcsw.org

Communications/Outreach Committee

Diversity & Social Action Committee

Education Committee

Membership Committee

See page 14

Communications

Greetings to all AAPCSW members!

We would like to offer a glimpse into the Communications Committee (CC) and share what it is composed of and how it operates within the Board.

The CC serves as the umbrella committee that works in collaboration with the various subcommittees contained within it and reports to the board. The subcommittees continue to operate autonomously and provide updates to the CC at each designated group meeting. The subcommittees located within this committee include Consortium, Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), Listserv, PR, Social Media, and the *Newsletter*.

The CC is currently comprised of the following members: Christie Hunnicutt, Penny Rosen, Joel Kanter, and Mark Ruffalo. This committee held its inaugural meeting in Fall 2021 and continues to meet two to three times per year.

Examples of some of the themes covered include the following content areas:

1. Streamlining internal and external communications represented by the organization
2. Cross-content sharing and promotion across social media, the website, and the *Newsletter*
3. Developed a Twitter account and review ongoing content and use with the moderator
4. Collaboration with the Diversity and Social Action (D&SA) Committee to ensure content and communication remain in alignment with AAPCSW's core values and initiatives as well as with the mission of the D&SA Committee (see www.aapcsw.org/about_us/committees.html#diversity).

The CC remains focused on these topics and more and would welcome any content suggestions that will support us in continuing to navigate this subject matter. We also always welcome new members! Please reach out to AAPCSWNewsletter@gmail.com if you are interested in joining!

Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Christie Hunnicutt (Chair), Penny Rosen,

Joel Kanter, and Mark Ruffalo

From the President, continued from page 1

opposites, of genders, of political parties. What could be more psychoanalytic than this ambivalence—the coin of the kingdom?

Returning to the etymology of analysis, I am looking to the *lytic* aspect of our work: the breaking down of a cell at its wall or membrane, like enzymes aiding metabolism. Might we bring the *lysis* of psychoanalysis into this sclerotic cultural moment that impacts us all as clinicians, colleagues, and citizens, that looms large over how we speak to one another and how we help our patients in their own conflicted lives?

The AAPCSW Conference Planning subcommittee, co-chaired by Penny Rosen, Dan Buccino, and me, has been marinating in these ideas, and we are gearing up for our next biennial conference at the Palmer House in Chicago, November 8–12—“Reaching Across the Divide: Bringing a Psychoanalytic Sensibility to Culture and Practice.” I hope that you will join us as we come together as a community to think, learn, and maybe even take action.

—Brian

Member Profiles

Please remember to keep your member profile up to date. If you have a new email address or phone number, have relocated, have new credentials or degrees, please update your Member Profile online by logging in at www.aapcsw.org or contact me at barbara.matos@aapcsw.org so we can make certain the information in your profile is current

This is especially important for members to receive the AAPCSW *Psychoanalytic Social Work Journal* through Taylor and Francis and for anyone who has a subscription to PEP through AAPCSW. Our database is email based, as is our listserv—correct information is vital. Thanks!

Barbara Matos, MS
AAPCSW Administrator

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work **AAPCSW**
November 9–12, 2023 | Chicago, Illinois



R e a c h i n g **Across the Divide**

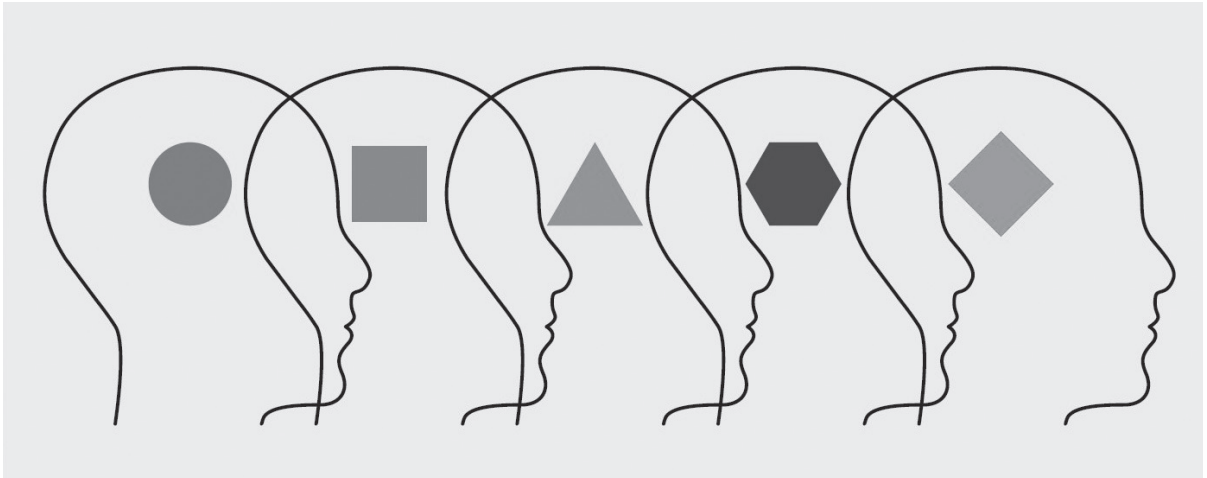
Bringing a Psychoanalytic Sensibility to Culture and Practice

At this conference, we will explore what we are experiencing inside and outside our consulting rooms. “Divisiveness” seems more prominent today than at other times in history. Is it no greater but rather less hidden today? How are we to hear the other and bridge the gaps that we encounter? From its focus on internal conflict to the ways in which we understand and face difference, psychoanalytic thinking has much to say about the topic of divisiveness. Join us as we discuss the theory and therapeutic stance of responding to divisions, as they relate to the issues that are presented to us in our practices, in our communities, and in the world.

Watch for updates at www.aapcsw.org

This event took place on May 21, 2023, and included the following:

What's Happening Now: New Challenges in Clinical Practice



Each presentation followed by dialogue among the panelists and audience.

Moderator: Boris Thomas, JD, PhD, LCSW-R

Barbara Berger, PhD, LCSW

On Being a White Woman Therapist with Women of Other Cultures

Embedded in the current sociological environment, this paper applies psychodynamic concepts to the experience of a white female therapist working with women from diverse cultures. The complexity of interracial and cross-cultural therapeutic relationships is illustrated, including ruptures and repairs.

After attending this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Discuss a language and set of sociological concepts through which we can discuss and understand conscious and unconscious racial and cultural bias.
- Explain psychodynamic theoretical ideas in working through ruptures due to racial or cultural rifts.
- Identify the complexity of interracial and cross-cultural therapeutic relationships, as seen clinically in the intersections of socio-cultural and psychological issues.

Louis Pansulla, MSW, LCSW

The Clinical Vicissitudes in Work with 'Gender', in a Post-Modern, Gender-fluid and 'Shape-shifting' Gendered World

Current theoretical and clinical implications in working with Trans and Non-Binary patients today bring with it many challenging and shifting considerations. Woven into our complex, contemporary and ever-oscillating theoretical conceptualizations around "gender," this presentation will illuminate some current clinical thinking and challenges

facing clinicians in working with Trans, Non-Binary children, adults, and their families. Some counter-transferential and socio-political elements will be examined.

After attending this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Explain contemporary theoretical ideas and considerations related to 'gender', in working with trans, non-binary and cisgender patients.
- Identify some current complexities facing psychodynamic clinicians in their work with trans, and non-binary patients.
- Describe some socio-political and counter-transferential factors affecting our clinical work with these populations.

Karen Baker, MSW

A Therapist's Reflection on Child and Adolescent Work During the Pandemic and Afterwards

In March 2020, the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a shift in the ways in which we lived our lives. As clinicians, we had to abruptly stop seeing our patients in-person and move to telehealth, a format of treatment that many of us were not accustomed to. The pandemic was a trauma for all of us. This paper will describe two telehealth therapies during the lockdown and afterwards. One, a 5-year-old boy whose therapy began on ZOOM and the other, an adolescent who shifted from in-person therapy to telehealth. In the course of transitioning to remote work, many questions emerged in the presenter's mind. What would be different? What would remain the same? Would development be thwarted due to anxieties and isolation? How did it evoke echoes of early trauma for each of these boys? These questions will be discussed in the presentation.

After attending this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Identify concepts and techniques applied to treatment during the transition to telehealth.
- Describe the underpinnings of early trauma as it emerged in telehealth therapy.
- Discuss what changed and what remained the same in the intersubjective field during the shift to telehealth and afterwards.

Karen E. Baker, MSW — Past President, AAPCSW. MI Council for Psa. and Psychotherapy. Faculty, Institute for Clinical Social Work. Past Child Development Director, Allen Creek Preschool. Author, articles on schizoid and sadomasochistic defenses, dissociation, and child analysis. Co-editor, Special Issue, Child/Adolescent Psychoanalysis/Psychotherapy, PSW. Private practice, Ann Arbor, MI.

Barbara Berger, PhD, LCSW, BCD — Past-President, AAPCSW. Faculty Emerita/Board Trustee, Inst for Clinical SW, Chicago. Distinguished Practitioner, National Academies of Practice. Recipient, Distinguished Service Award, Inst for Clinical SW; and AAPCSW Lifetime Achievement Award (2013). Editor, Clinical SW Journal, and Psychoanalytic SW. Author, papers on developmental issues. Private practice, Chicago, IL.

Louis Pansulla, MSW, LCSW — Past Board Member, AAPCSW. Core Faculty, Institute for Clinical Social Work (ICSW), Chicago. Core Faculty, Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy (ICP), NY. Author, papers on Relational theory and Gender, and Sexualities. Private practice, Brooklyn and Manhattan, NY.

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Monthly Psychosis Consultation Group Continues

Joel Kanter, MSW; Brian Ngo-Smith, LCSW, BCD-P, FABP; and Mark L. Ruffalo, LCSW

In January 2022, we launched a free monthly online consultation group for clinicians interested in working with persons with psychotic disorders from a psychodynamic perspective. Unfortunately, clinicians working with such challenging clients find little guidance in graduate schools, psychoanalytic institutes, or community agencies.

The group is open to all disciplines, and we have had more than sixty participants at various times, with twenty to thirty participating monthly. Members come from all disciplines and regions of the US, as well as from China, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, and New Zealand.

Each month, we circulate one or two readings for

discussion. Some come from historically renowned clinicians such as Sullivan and Fromm-Reichmann, others from more recent authors. We also encourage discussion of appropriately disguised case material. On some occasions, we have had guest contributors, including Nancy McWilliams, Michael Garrett, and George Hagman.

The group also has its own listserve so all participants can communicate with each other and share information and resources.

Membership in the group continues to be open to all clinicians. Anyone interested in joining can contact Joel at joel.kanter@gmail.com.

area representatives' corner

Illinois

Josh Abrahams, MS, LCSW

The Illinois Area Chapter held a lovely backyard gathering in mid-October 2022. The event was conceived without a formal program in mind but rather as an opportunity to get together with colleagues and talk in the truly here and now about our work these days. All agreed being together in person felt rejuvenating and must happen more frequently. In other area news, member Kevin Barrett's stirring essay "Ghosts in the Bathhouse" was published in *Room: A Sketchbook for Analytic Action* (issue 10.22; analytic-room.com/essays/ghosts-in-the-bathhouse-by-kevin-barrett). The final bit of news is that yours truly has, for the first time, taken an adjunct teaching role in



Pictured above, left to right: Libby Bachhuber, Josh Abrahams, Lesley Seeger, Kevin Barrett Aaron Katcher, Santiago Delboy, Emily Kline.

the MSW program at the Erikson Institute, Graduate School in Child Development. So far it has been a privilege and creative pleasure to engage with students around psychoanalytic thinking and practice.

Submitted by Josh Abrahams

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membernews

Carl Bagnini, LCSW, BCD, presented a virtual clinical workshop titled “Projective Process in Teletherapy with Couples” for the Washington School of Psychiatry on October 28, 2022. He also presented a workshop on the topic on October 14 for an event co-sponsored by the School of Social Work at Adelphi University and the Derner Post-Graduate Programs in Psychoanalysis.

Steven Kuchuck, DSW, is former editor-in-chief of *Psychoanalytic Perspectives*, for which he currently serves as senior consulting editor, and is co-editor of the Relational Perspectives Book Series from Routledge. He is immediate past president of IARPP and faculty of NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis and the NIP National Training Program, among other institutes.



He is the author most recently of *The Relational Revolution in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy* (Confer Books, 2021), which was nominated for a Grady Award for best psychoanalytic book of 2021. He previously won the Grady Award

for best book for *Clinical Implications of the Psychoanalyst's Life Experience: When the Personal Becomes Professional* (Routledge, 2014) and for *The Legacy of Sandor Ferenczi: From Ghost to Ancestor* (Routledge, 2015), co-edited with Adrienne Harris. *The Work-*

books of Masud Khan: Diary of a Fallen Psychoanalyst, co-edited with Linda Hopkins, was published by Karnac Books in 2022.

In association with the Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas, Steven conducted a live webinar titled “Theoretical and Clinical Perspectives on Analyst Boredom: Deadness, Aliveness, and the Spaces in Between” on April 22, 2023.



Jonathan Lebolt, PhD, LCSW, CGP has joined the faculty of the Center for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis of New Jersey.

Alan J. Levy, PhD, LCSW, received the 2023 Sabshin award from the American Psychoanalytic Association. The award recognizes outstanding educators of psychoanalysis. Dr. Levy is president and faculty of the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis.

What's your news? We would like to acknowledge your professional accomplishments; feel free to provide a photo. **New to AAPCSW?** We invite you to introduce yourself.

Contact Newsletter editor Christie Hunnicutt at AAPCSWNewsletter@gmail.com

aapcsw corevalues

- Recognize the dignity and worth of each human being.
- Acknowledge the intersection of each individual's inner and outer worlds.
- Convey a psychoanalytic sensibility in our work with all populations and in all settings.
- Integrate concerns for social justice with clinical practice.
- Promote inclusivity and affirm the diverse identities of our colleagues and of those with whom we work.
- Cultivate a community of professionals that advocates for open inquiry and respect for difference.

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AAPCSW promotes psychoanalytic education, advances clinical social work, facilitates the production and dissemination of knowledge, and advocates for high standards of practice. The AAPCSW website (www.aapcsw.org) offers an array of information about AAPCSW. Information on benefits, listservs, programs (both local and national), activities, our history, resources, newsletters, video series, and other items of interest can be found there.

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