
IARPP eNEWS

A Digital Periodical of the
International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy
Volume 6, Number 1 — April 2007

IARPP in Athens

by Spyros D. Orfanos

Many of us know that when Freud visited the Acropolis in 1904, he was surprised to discover that it really did exist. His explanation of the experience is vintage Freud and probably would have benefited from some of our current Relational ideas. But there is nothing surprising about IARPP's next international conference – ***Metamorphosis: Therapeutic Change in a Changing World*** – being held in Athens, July 5-8, 2007, at the Athens Hilton Hotel (<http://www.citycongress.com/iarpp/>).

IARPP wanted a venue that would symbolize democracy and dialogue, and what better place than the city that created these words and put them into practice? With co-chairs Alexis Mordoh and Spyros D. Orfanos and

a committee composed of Zeynep Catay from Turkey, Susanna Federici-Nebbiosi from Italy, Per Linder from Sweden, Irene Melnick from Israel, Nicholas Papouchis from Sparta, Dafni Stamatogiannis from Athens, and Larry Zelnick from the U.S.A., we have organized a conference that aspires to the finest qualities of democratic dialogue first developed during the Golden Age of Athens.

For example, this is the first IARPP conference to implement a call of papers. We are pleased to announce that we received close to 100 submissions from around the globe. Originally we planned on accepting 25% of the submitted proposals, but the extraordinary quality of the

submissions made us change our minds so we could bring you twice as many! If we had only negotiated for more meeting rooms earlier in the planning process, we would have felt comfortable accepting an even higher

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percentage. It's exciting to realize that the international Relational community is alive and well and generating remarkable ideas!

Our speakers, many of whom are new voices in the field, will offer a dazzling array of presentations covering the latest clinical advances in Relational studies. Conference registrants will be able to select from more than 60 symposia, workshops, papers, and discussion groups on a wide variety of issues, such as attachment, the analyst's personal life, creativity,

enactments, Eros, evil, globalization, immigration and racism, mythology, religion, transference and countertransference, politics, the West's romance with Greece, and much more.

And if that is not enough, as part of the conference, we are including a musical concert featuring the songs of Greece's greatest composer, Mikis Theodorakis. The 82-year-old Theodorakis is an artist and activist who has composed songs of sublime melodic lyricism about love, Eros, and social engagement that have become the soul of modern Greece.

Additionally, conference registrants will attend a theatrical performance in English of Plato's *The Apology of Socrates*, featuring the award-winning actor Yannis Simonides. This play will challenge our comfortable views of ourselves (if we still harbor any). Following the performance, we'll have an opportunity to engage Yannis Simonides in a twenty-first century dialogue. Be sure to bring your dancing shoes to celebrate IARPP in Athens at the gala dinner dance by the sea where we will learn the intricate circle dances of the Greeks.

Also stay tuned to IARPP's website ([http://](http://www.iarpp.org/html/index.cfm)

www.iarpp.org/html/index.cfm) for all the latest breaking news and conference developments.

Join us in Athens to see how an ancient ideal changed into a modern experience of relationality. Together we'll have a chance to learn about desire from the broken statues, dine with Persephone, and listen to a Relational polyphony that promises to be unforgettable. We are working to make our conference one that is full of discovery and adventure. The march of the Relational spirit makes its next stop in Athens. Please join us to make a little of our own history. ❖

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President's Column

by Hazel Ipp

IARPP continues to thrive in all sorts of ways. Our growing international membership and the increasing involvement in our online colloquia and web seminars continue to generate an increasing feeling of vitality and robustness. Our Writer's Development Program is up and running. Our outreach efforts are being extended, and new local chapters are springing up. I feel very appreciative of all your efforts and involvement as our Relational community expands and forges ahead, taking an important lead in contemporary psychoanalysis around the globe.

I am delighted to announce the appointment of our new eNews editor and Chair of our Publications Committee, Suzi Naiburg (Belmont, MA). We are very fortunate to have Suzi in this position. Her skill, enthusi-

asm, and unflagging energy will be a tremendous asset to us. In addition to orchestrating this issue, she also covers the inaugural conference of The Steven A. Mitchell Center for Relational Studies that was a very successful and stimulating event that IARPP proudly cosponsored.

Much of our organizational energy right now is focused on our not-to-be-missed conference in Athens, July 5-8. Spyros Orfanos details much of this in his report in this issue. Be sure to join us there in this magnificent city as we enjoy the plethora of voices, familiar and new, richly contributing to our ongoing conversation on Relational issues along with the outstanding cultural events Spyros and his Co-Chair, Alexis Mordah, have planned for us.

Best wishes to all. ❖

Want Help with Your Next Paper or Presentation?

Contact the Writer's Development Program at

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It's as simple as that!

(a benefit of membership)

Online Colloquium

to discuss
Anthony Bass's
**"When the Frame
Doesn't Fit the
Picture"**

This paper explores contemporary perspectives on the notion of the analytic frame, with special focus on clinical situations in which more conventional notions of the frame are challenged.

Panelists include

Margaret Black
Glen Gabbard
Robert Grossman
Stuart Pizer
Paul Williams

May 14 – May 27
2007

IARPP Candidates Committee

by Angela Greenfield & Deborah Pines

The Candidates Committee was formed five years ago to provide a home base for analytic candidates within IARPP, facilitating their contact with colleagues throughout the world and supporting their professional development. The committee considers a candidate to be someone who is either currently in analytic training or within five years of graduation, certification, or registration. One of the main tasks of the committee is to encourage and recruit an international roster of candidates to join IARPP.

Our own committee membership reflects our global ambitions. Current members of the committee, co-chaired by Angela Greenfield from London and Deborah Pines from New York, include Timur Oguz, a Turk who now lives in Toronto, Antonia Piazza from Rome, Orna Kislasy from Jerusalem, Alexander Lundberg from Gefle, Sweden, and Zsuzsa Barta from Sydney, Australia. In fact, we had to postpone our October meeting, because Timur had to go home to Turkey to do a month of military service. The committee, which was founded as a result of the enterprising efforts of Margaret Black, is very excited to have such international representation and hopes its efforts will help increase diversity at the Athens conference and in IARPP's membership in general. The annual membership fee for candidates is a reasonable \$57, and it includes reduced rates for conferences, books, and journals and the opportunity to participate in frequent colloquia, on-line seminars, and the Writer's Development Program.

The committee's recent efforts have focused mainly on planning its workshop for the Athens conference. The winning paper was recently chosen from about fifteen article submissions from candidates in five countries. Written by Sarah Hill, LCSW, a 2003 graduate of NIP TI in New York City, the winning paper is titled "Language and Subjectivity: Multiplicity in a Bilingual Treatment." Sarah is a supervisor and faculty member at NIP TI and the Stephen Mitchell Center for Relational Psychoanalysis and is in private practice in New York City. A version of her paper received the NIP TI Educator's Award (2004) and was presented as part of NIP TI's Focus Series that same year. Sarah will be the first candidate-author to receive the Stephen A. Mitchell Author's Award, which will be presented at the workshop by Margaret Black. The committee is also thrilled to announce that Adrienne Harris will be the discussant. Well known for her powerful voice for both Relational psychoanalysis and feminist theory, Adrienne is on the faculty of the NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy and the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California. She is an associate editor of *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* and is on the editorial board of *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*. Her book *Gender as Soft Assembly* was published by the Analytic Press in 2005.

The process of selecting the winning paper was not an easy one, given the high quality of many of the submissions. The committee is hoping that the excellent program we are presenting this summer will not only make our workshop an essential stop on the conference circuit but will also encourage many more candidates from around the world to submit papers in the future. The Candidates Committee is also organizing a reception in Athens, which will take place just before the conference opens on Thursday evening, so candidates will have an opportunity to meet many of the distinguished psychoanalysts and psychotherapists who will be attending. We are initiating a broad international effort to encourage candidates to come to Athens as part of our continuing efforts to expand the reach of IARPP to young analysts around the world. We hope to see you there! ❖

IARPP Co-Sponsors “Reframing the Frame: Creativity and Discipline in Relational Psychoanalysis”

by Suzi Naiburg

The inaugural conference of The Steven A. Mitchell Center for Relational Studies was all that the organizers had hoped for and more! Over 300 participants gathered in NYC on January 13 at the New School for Social Research to explore **“Reframing the Frame: Creativity and Discipline in Relational Psychoanalysis.”**

IARPP and the Clinical Psychology Program at the New School were co-sponsors.

Since “everyone claims to be relational now,” as Spyros Orfanos noted exuberantly in his welcoming remarks, the conference could move beyond discussing widely accepted beliefs about the therapeutic aims of the Relational approach—“the integration of dissociated mental states, self- and mutual regulation, mutuality and recognition, and the creation of personal meaning”—to articulate specific types of analytic discipline essential to Relational treatment.

Before introducing Anthony Bass, Mitchell Center Director, and his presentation, “When the Frame Doesn’t fit the Picture,” Jody Davies noted how Relational psychoanalysis has emphasized the elasticity of the analytic frame as something that sets apart potential space and is uniquely cocreated by each analytic dyad.

“Consideration of the ‘analytic frame,’” Tony’s paper begins, “typically refers to the ‘rules of the game,’ most particularly those that initiate, define the boundaries of, and provide a structure for the analytic process.” His patient, a recovering addict (the first of two he presented), needed to establish the ground rules first, not only because she was “flat broke” but also because “to owe me money would be akin to using cocaine.” If Helena had money, she’d pay in cash, but if she didn’t, she and Tony wouldn’t meet until she had enough. Thus any session could be the last.

Tony chronicles their negotiations, the dilemmas they present, and how these shed light on Helena’s history and “the shifting transference/countertransference field.” Tony’s treatment illustrates how the frame both establishes “clear and safe boundaries in which the process of therapy unfolds” and is, “paradoxically, an integral part of the process itself.” The frame needs to be flexible enough to change over time and is “built to accommodate surprises.” To read and discuss Tony’s thoughtful paper, tune in to IARPP’s next online colloquium, May 14-27.

Before responding to Tony’s presentation, Glen Gabbard said that he had been influenced by Mitchell’s work and felt that Relational analysts have influenced the direction of current clinical writing by writing about what *really* happens in analysis. In appreciation of Tony’s clinical work, Glen said that our “patients are

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the best supervisors” and that they have to do analysis in their own way “or else they’ll either quit or go through a false-self analysis.”

“Tony’s negotiations,” Philip Bromberg observed, “were within [himself] as well as with the other.” Negotiations within the analyst include those “between self-interest and attachment.” A successful analysis, according to Philip, requires “a successful outcome *and* a successful process.” “Negotiating change in the frame” is itself “a growth process.” “Psychoanalysis,” Philip observed, “is a continual nonlinear process of collision and negotiation of self-states.”

Jessica Benjamin contrasted Philip’s dialectic between self-interest and attachment with a dialectic she has articulated between self-assertion and recognition. “The analyst,” she noted, “becomes more adaptive as the patient becomes more recognizing.” “What is nonnegotiable,” she suggested, “perhaps has to do with shame in the analyst.”

The afternoon session

focused on Sue Grand’s riveting paper “Broken Frames: The Elasticity of Desire” about a twice-a-week treatment of a Vietnam Vet who didn’t understand why his wife had turned cold and his sons won’t talk to him. Sue and her patient, Carl, couldn’t have been more different. He had been a “youthful warrior” and “a *guiltless* ‘good’ officer.” Sue is “a committed pacifist.” He had committed atrocities.

Sue writes, “I held myself apart from, and above him. I knew nothing about his war. But I was certain that I could never do what he had done. Between us, there was no shared humanity.” The therapy stalls until “the frame goes into breakdown” through what might be called an enactment in which Sue saw Carl as he sees himself and is “riveted by his assurance in danger.”

Sue comments on

the complex, shifting reversals and feelings that followed. The patient, who had never questioned his heroism, lies down on the couch and is able to grieve. “At home, he behaves better with his wife and sons. Like his leg, the analysis seems intact, even though the frame was blown up.” Sue discusses the elasticity of their desires, Carl’s dreams, and the image of a veiled woman “who sees in me what she sees in Carl: righteousness inflated to evacuate terror. Intoxicated aggression. Us versus them.”

The paper ends with a rich commentary on the meaning of the analytic frame, breaches, boundaries, enactments, and the unknowable mystery that may intrude “as it searches for what Bollas calls, the ‘transformational object.’” Sue’s paper will be published in her forthcoming book, *Re-*

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conceiving the Heroic: On Terror and Resistance (Analytic Press, 2008), as a chapter called “Vistas of War: Violence Meets Maternal Surveillance.”

In commenting on Sue’s “complexly textured clinical tale,” Hazel Ipp, IARPP President, noted how analyst and analysand had become stuck, each behind a “thick wall of otherness.” The frame, she said, “desperately needed to be broken to render affect available.” Margaret Black noted how Sue’s case illustrated how “it is with ourselves that we participate in change,” leading “with the analyst’s subjectivity.”

Comments gleaned from the afternoon breakout groups found their way back to the auditorium. “Consider that Sue actually sustained the frame by her internal processing of her own self-states and theirs, that it was a resilient frame, not a broken one,” voiced one participant.

Neil Altman brought the wonderful day to a close. It’s time, he said, that we “step up to the plate while psychoanalysis is under siege in the

community at large to guard and safe keep what’s valuable about psychoanalysis in an increasingly dehumanized world.” In such a world, we are especially in need of a community “that supports us in our uncertainty in our efforts to bring into being something new, something that can live through and tolerate long periods that feel like unbearable repetitions.”

Congratulations go to the Mitchell Center’s Board of Directors—Neil Altman, Anthony Bass, Jessica Benjamin, Margaret Black, Jody Davies, and Syros Orfanos, who are all current or former IARPP board members. If its inaugural conference is any indication of what’s to come, The Mitchell Center is sure to be a source of inspiration, community, and commitment to Relational studies and values. ❖

Correction

In the last issue of the eNews, Lynne Layton’s name was inadvertently left off the Boston Planning Committee for IARPP’s 2006 Conference. Our apologies.

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and get
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Space is limited

Thanks for your
continuing
membership.

We hope to
see you
in Athens!

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