the SCRIPT

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CONFERENCE AFTERWARD

Lima Conference Honors Berne's Legacy

by Claude Steiner

After three planes and 14 hours in the air, starting in San Francisco, California, I arrived in Lima, Peru, on Wednesday 31 September to attend the 32nd Latin American Transactional Analysis Congress. As we entered the conference space, I was immediately struck by a life-size cardboard cut out of Eric Berne standing in an elegant suit and tie ready to be photographed with anyone who wished to stand next to him. This, to me, was a charming and creative response to Berne's dictum about the importance to a group's survival of displaying a picture of its euhemerus (dead primal leader) at its meetings. My next impression was of the swarm of young volunteers all wearing black t-shirts with a "YO (heart) AT" (I love TA) standing ready to welcome, help, inform, and orient new arrivals.

The overt theme of the congress was "Evolution Integradora: Analisis Transaccional, Hoy" (roughly "Integrative Evolution: Transactional Analysis, Today," a familiar preoccupation these days). Covertly, the message was one of homage and respect for transactional analysis and its founder. I was impressed by the unusual TA-and-Berne-centered spirit of the setting.

The conference was organized by Instituto Psicológico de Desarrollo y Autorrealización on behalf of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Análisis Transaccional (ALAT). It was ably organized and led by Congress President Karol Cavero and her efficient team, including Eliana Ayin, Mauricio Villacrez, Zuli Yana, and Jesús Cavero. It spoke loudly of the growth and maturation of transactional analysis in Hispanic countries. Representatives from Peru, Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Guatemala, Brazil, and Spain gathered to share their work and thinking on a wide gamut of themes.



Claude Steiner with TA Euhemerus Eric Berne

We had pre- and post-congress activities with Julie Hay, Gloria Noriega, Jesús Cuadra, Francisco Massó, Agustín Devós, and me. During the pre-Congress time, seven examinees passed their ALAT certification exams: Eliana Ayin, Werner Delgado, Manuel Cahuana, and Iván Salas of Peru in the clinical field and Jhonatan Barrios (Mexico) and Yusmerly Medina and Nancy Loreto from Venezuela in the organizational field.

On Wednesday evening, Gloria Noriega, representing the ITAA, presented on the origins and evolution of transactional analysis theory and methods. Then we had a charming ceremony centered in Amazonic spirituality and a Peruvian traditional dance.

The next morning was launched by a plenary lecture by Rafael Junchaya and Socorro Flórez from Peru about transactional analysis and education followed by an eclectic, day-long series of presentations about coaching, happiness, couples therapy, script, games, ego states, the meaning of life, nonverbal transactions, sexuality, codependency, emotional literacy, and more. In the evening we shared with several other groups a self-service banquet followed by a live dance band at an opulent Chinese establishment. Much jumping-up-and-down gaiety was seen.



Representatives from Brazil Michelle Thomé, Maku Almeida, Gervasio Araujo, Sonia Nogueira, Antonio Pedreira, Margarete De Boni, Angelica Mello with Octavio Rivas (Mexico) and Karol Cavero (Congress President)

On Friday morning, several plenary sessions were offered by Jesús Cuadra, Agustin Devós (publisher of Jeder Libros), and me, and Gloria Noriega shared the latest exciting news about the Eric Berne Archive at the University of California San Francisco. These were followed by a variety of presentations lasting all day and culminating in an ALAT membership meeting. During that meeting the new ALAT Board of Directors was elected with Sonia Nogueira (Brazil) as president and Karol Cavero (Peru) as vice president.

Over 165 participants attended the congress, including a large Peruvian contingent. I was impressed by the lively conversation punctuated by heartfelt hugs that I happily observed during the intermissions and the open



Mauricio Villacrez and Jesús Cavero

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Angela Melgar, Karol Cavero, Fabiola Riva, and Agustín Devós



Claude Steiner and Lilia Peirano

and free exchange of views that was evident. Jeder Libros, a publisher concentrating on books by Berne as well as several of mine sold more than 150 copies.

Saturday was another action-packed day launched with my plenary session about my half-century involvement with TA. I threw the entire presentation open to questions from the audience and was again impressed by the high level of discourse that we engaged in.

The closing ceremony consisted of a group dance in which Silvia Montes gradually and skillfully introduced us to Pachamama (Mother Earth), a biodance celebrating native agriculture, which ended up in heartfelt group participation by virtually everyone present.

All in all, this was an extraordinary event: warm, intellectual, practical, embracing, and one that would surely have pleased Eric Berne. I would have liked a little more attention paid to transactional analysis basics, beyond the 101 offered by Jesús Cuadra, along with the evolutionary products of those basic concepts. But that is just my opinion, though I found a sympathetic ear for my concerns.

Congratulations to the Peruvian organizers of this TA love fest!

Claude Steiner was a colleague of Eric Berne, a member of Berne's San Francisco Social Psychiatry Seminar, and one of the founding members of the ITAA. He twice won the Eric Berne Memorial Award and is the author of numerous seminal books and articles on transactional analysis. He lives in Berkeley, California, and can be reached at csteiner@igc.org .



Mercedes Panuera, Lilia Peirano, Maritza Cantoni, Maritza Calocero, Jorge Close, Karol Cavero, Jesús Cuadra, Margarete De Boni, Lizanka Carmona, and Silvana Cabrera

Perverse Narcissists, Their Prey, and the Relation d'Emprise

By Anne Clotilde Ziégler


Anne Clotilde Ziégler

Editor's Note from Laurie Hawkes: *This article from Anne Ziégler started us thinking about what makes one country or cultural group sometimes focus on certain pathologies or personality characteristics rather than others. The perverse narcissists Anne describes resemble what Erich Fromm called malignant narcissists as well as the sociopaths that have been the subject of quite a bit of attention in the recent literature. In France over the last decade or more there has been a movement about and against perverse narcissists, whereas in the United States this concept does not appear to be particularly important. More recently, professionals in France have been fascinated by highly gifted people ("high potential," we call them), with books about and treatment centers for such individuals flourishing. After you read Anne's article, we invite you to think about your own country and culture. If you recognize one or more psychological concepts or diagnostic "fads" that seem to exist in your culture but not necessarily elsewhere in the world, or that are more important, or slightly different, in your environment, please send us your thoughts. We would like to encourage this kind of cross-cultural awareness and discussion.*

> *"Perverse narcissism is a serious pathology that some French authors have called a "psychose blanche" or "blank psychosis," that is, a psychosis devoid of obvious symptoms. The defense mechanisms are projection, splitting, and denial of reality."*

I am told that the diagnostic category that we in France refer to as *pervers narcissique* or *perverse narcissism* does not exist in the English-speaking professional world, although it seems to be close to what is meant by *psychopath* or *sociopath* or perhaps *malignant narcissist* as described in the United States. I will, therefore, start here by briefly describing what we mean by perverse narcissism and then look at those individuals who fall prey to the dynamics in the controlling relationships perverse narcissists set up.

Perverse narcissism is a serious pathology that some French authors have called a *psychose blanche* or *blank psychosis*, that is, a psychosis devoid of obvious symptoms. The defense mechanisms are projection, splitting, and denial of reality. Such individuals have not outgrown the stage of infantile omnipotence, nor have they integrated a sense of right and wrong. In transactional analysis terms, they usually manifest an "I'm OK, You're Not OK" position that is at once both grandiose and fragile.

Because of that constitution, perverse narcissists are addicted to strokes, with all of their actions aimed at procuring them. However, their own behavioral contradictions jam things up: Because they constantly devalue others, they do not allow anyone enough power to give them strokes that will really nourish their fragile egos. And, of course, the premise that

the right strokes will heal them or help them get well is a fallacy.

These individuals have a particular way of relating that we call a *relation d'emprise* or *controlling relationship*. This has three stages: the seduction phase, which involves lies and manipulation; "hooking" the prey through a situation in which the other person cannot leave without serious trouble (e.g., signing a work contract, getting married, having children); and finally, the gradual destruction of the prey via moral harassment (i.e.,repeated, nonphysical acts of harassment that have a humiliating effect on the victim).

Once perverse narcissists detect another person who seems to possess qualities or achievements that the narcissists desire, they approach the unsuspecting prey in the hope that some form of merger will cause the sought-after qualities or achievements to seep into them by a kind of osmosis. During this seduction phase, anything goes to get the prey hooked. The manipulator turns on the charm, makes up or exaggerates whatever seems likely to attract the other, tells grandiose stories, or displays emotions that they themselves may actually become quite convinced of after a while. This *subdelusion* (my term) is what to me really indicates the psychotic undercurrent of this disorder.

Sooner or later, the prey is seduced and commits to the predator. This process reminds me of those in-air fueling operations, when one plane (the perverse narcissist) receives fuel while emptying out the other plane (the prey). However, predators are always in for a big disappointment because the merger transferal never works out. Thus, they are left with the heinous sight of the other person possessing all the qualities or achievements that they want for themselves. This threatens their fragile "I'm OK, You're Not OK" position and infuriates them. So, in the third stage, they act out their hostile envy by slowly destroying the prey via devaluation, lies, guilt, systematic projective counteraccusations, double binds, and so on. They are unrivaled in the art of detecting the drivers and injunctions of their prey, which tells them which "buttons" to push so it really hurts the other person. In so doing, they are reassured in their omnipotent position.

"Once perverse narcissists detect another person who seems to possess qualities or achievements that the narcissists desire, they approach the unsuspecting prey in the hope that some form of merger will cause the sought-after qualities or achievements to seep into them by a kind of osmosis. During this seduction phase, anything goes to get the prey hooked."

This kind of relationship takes place in couples but also in work contexts, whether the predator is a manager or an employee. In the professional context, at least, moral harassment has become officially identified in France and is punishable by law.

Once the prey is locked into the controlling relationship, he or she becomes confused and loses some of his or her ability to think, act, and feel. The predator takes possession of all of the other person's space, be it psychological or physical, and interferes with and modifies the personal rhythm and agenda of the prey as well as cutting him or her off from other relationships. The prey gradually becomes, in a sense, expropriated from himself or herself, disoriented and emptied.

Individuals who end up as prey are usually what we call beautiful people, rich in many ways, generous and open, although with only average self-esteem and even that easily called into question. One of their vulnerabilities is that, like most of us, they tend to imagine the rest of the world is like them, so they believe the lies of the perverse narcissist without detecting their malignancy. For a long time, they try to figure out the behavior of their partner with the same explanations they use for normal people, but that does not work because the inner dynamics of the perverse narcissist are totally different. All the while, as the prey attempts to understand what is happening and wonders whether everything is his or her own fault, the perverse narcissist is putting the person down, devaluing and confusing him or her. By the time these individuals face up to the fact that something is really amiss in the relationship, they are exhausted, tied up, isolated, and have little strength left with which to escape. This is especially true if they fear abandonment, have an anxious mode of attachment, or previously suffered a love loss or painful divorce—unless they are simply trying to keep their job!

It is at such times that the person who has become prey decides to enter therapy, something the perverse narcissist seldom does. In their worldview, there is nothing wrong with them because they blame anything that is off in their lives on someone else. They do not need to change, it is the world that ought to change. Everything would be just fine if everyone would just bend to the perverse narcissist's sovereign desires and omnipotence.

Accompanying individuals who have become prey to perverse narcissists requires a special way of working,

which I want to underscore here. For the longest time, they have been subjected to the predator's projections and have ended up convinced that they themselves are bad people with many terrible qualities. Furthermore, like most people who have been badly abused, they tend to be ashamed. Thus, if the therapist wants to make these clients aware of their own part in their plight—a fairly usual goal in therapy—there is the risk of reinforcing the predator's propaganda and perpetuating the destruction. It is best, therefore, to go the opposite route from what the therapist might usually do. First, the prey needs to understand how the control dynamics work, which requires explanation and a form of pedagogy on the part of the therapist. Only afterward, sometimes after quite a long time, can the prey's fragile areas be analyzed, that is, those flaws in which the predator could plant his or her claws to take hold over the prey. At that point, it may be possible to do the resilience work, including working through the damage done.

In concluding, I want to emphasize that perverse narcissists can be men as well as women, just as the prey can be of either sex. The relation d'emprise is an infinitely toxic one, for which people seek us out for help. And they certainly need all the help they can get.

Anne Clotilde Ziégler is a Certified Transactional Analyst (psychotherapy) and the author of Pervers narcissiques, bas les masques! *[Perverse Narcissists, Down With Your Masks!] (Solar, 2015). She lives and works near Paris, France, and can be reached at anneclotildeziegler@gmail.com .*



Eric Berne's grandson Nick Calcaterra (son of Ellen Berne Calcaterra) has had a second child, a boy named after his great-grandfather: Eric Berne Calcaterra. Our congratulations to Nick and his family.

Award Nominations Sought

ITAA Service Award

Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award

Muriel James Living Principles Award

Goulding Social Justice Award

Deadline: 1 January 2016

See the ITAA Web site or contact the ITAA at info@itaaworld.org for details on making nominations for these awards. Send nominations for these awards to ITAA Secretary Mandy Lacy at mandy@lacyconsulting.net .

Thinking Diversely for the TAJ Theme Issue on "Gender, Sexuality, and Identity"

by Brad McLean

Working with gender, sexuality, and identity issues is a fundamental component of our work as psychotherapists, and in an era of postmodern and constructivist interpretations, where meaning is generated by the interplay of individual ideas and experiences, these domains are becoming increasingly complex to navigate.

In August 2015 I presented on the topic of marginalized groups from the subjectivity of homosexuality at the ITAA/FTAA conference held in Sydney, Australia. It was a first for me in many ways, including my first presentation at a psychotherapy conference and an international one at that. Perhaps most importantly, it was the first time I have spoken about my own subjectivity of homosexuality in relation to theory, history, and psychodynamic ideas.

I talked about the power and shame of being in an "outside" group and the historical evolution of homosexuality and its dynamic movement from being outside to more inside. I also considered what is lost and gained for cultures of difference in the process of mainstreaming. What was "in" became "out," and with very slow cultural and political progress, at least in the developed world, homosexuality is, ironically, seemingly more in than out than ever.



Or is it? Of course, the international picture is not so clear-cut, with homosexuality still theoretically punishable by death in around 10 countries and global rates of drug misuse, depression, suicide, and other mental health issues disproportionately higher among gender and sexually diverse populations. Why? The experience of otherness in a heteronormative world remains for our clients, and with it comes an array of responses and reactions—positive, neutral, and negative—to this experience.

To illustrate, in the week that the Irish referendum on gay marriage took place in May 2015, a conservative client of mine, who is staunchly apolitical on gay rights and prides himself on never having "leveraged his sexuality" to build his highly successful architectural practice, wept in the street. What he described as his "almost uncontrollable" flood of tears resulted from overhearing two commuters discussing the yes vote by the Irish people. Although he was shocked, the result and reaction unlocked something profound about his acceptance of himself. He is 63. In a session in the same week, a 25-year-old man, anxious and deserted by the man he considered to be "the love of my life" cried deeply as he impressed on me that "this is the man I wanted to marry and have babies with." Less than a decade ago, this now realistic way of seeing would have been in the realm of fantasy.

In June, as Australia grappled with a conservative government deeply entrenched in an anti same-sex marriage position, the nation's media outlets were abuzz with news of the US Supreme Court ruling that US state-level bans on same-sex marriage were unconstitutional, thus paving the way for the legalization

of same-sex marriage nationally. On the same day that ruling was announced, at a dinner party, an established and successful professional received a blow that left him devastated. Through polite dinner conversation about both the court

> *"The experience of otherness in a heteronormative world remains for our clients, and with it comes an array of responses and reactions—positive, neutral, and negative—to this experience."*

decision and Australia's political recalcitrance on the issue of same-sex marriage, he realized that his close straight friends of 25 years did not support same-sex marriage. Deeply wounded by that realization and poised to marry his long-term partner as soon as it is possible, he recognized that there is a part of him that has never been fully accepted by those lifelong friends.

Two of these three individuals have lived lives on the margin as gay men through periods of our modern history colored by rejection of their identity, thereby requiring them to live in the shadows of anonymity and shame. They also survived the emancipation of their community and culture in the 1970s only to see large sections of that community culled by AIDs during the following decade. The disease both reshamed and remarginalized a community struggling in the early stages of being seen, heard, accepted, respected, and loved. The second and youngest man, the one struggling over the loss of his lover and his shattered dreams of parenthood and marriage, is from a different era, one in which transgender visibility, fluid notions of sexual and gender identity, and an emphasis on self-determined diversity and inclusion predominate. Younger people have refocused the debate out of the black and white and into negotiating the complexity of the grey: They believe, correctly, that they have a right to equal recognition whether in having children, marrying, or simply holding hands in the street.

Returning to the Sydney conference, the response to my presentation was generous and positive, but, perhaps most importantly, attendance at the presentation offered clarity about one key thing: Internationally there is a hunger for exploration of these issues through the lens of transactional analysis theory and practice.

The last issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* to focus on gay and lesbian issues was 11 years ago, and so much has changed in our conceptions of identity, gender conformity and flexibility, and the complexities of sexuality and desire that it seems timely to reengage our creative theoretical and clinical minds in this topic. Therefore, we are planning a theme issue of the *TAJ* on "Gender, Sexuality, and Identity" in October 2017, with Bill Cornell and me as coeditors.

Revisiting that April 2004 *TAJ* is an exercise in recognizing the depth, clarity, and quality of the TA community's writers. All of the contributions from that issue, despite so many changes since 2004, stand the test of time. They form a great scaffolding on which to build new lines of reflection regarding theory and practice.

Among the issues that have advanced since 2004 and that might be considered in the new, upcoming theme *TAJ* are:

- Trans-identified individuals are finally coming out of the shadows.
- A post-AIDs era is informing the behaviors, values, sexual practices, and relational experiences of a generation of gay men who never witnessed the health crisis that so influenced the culture of people who are now aging. Indeed, HIV-positive individuals, with good health and care, can anticipate a life span only a few years shorter than their HIV-negative peers.
- Significant developments in the science of gender, epigenetics, and other fields have recast our understanding of bodily and other manifestations of identity and the potential for changing them.
- Gay conversion therapies have received considerable scrutiny and have been rendered illegal in some jurisdictions.
- The perception of perversion has changed, and models of relationship and sexual practices both in and outside of relationships have continued to evolve.
- Access to pornography and its shaping role in sexuality have become significant public concerns.
- GSD (gender and sexual diversity) individuals have increasing access to in vitro fertilization technology, surrogacy, and adoption in some jurisdictions, and same-sex families are increasingly common, with research showing that children in these families are more likely positively rather than negatively affected by growing up in them.
- Marriage equality is manifesting in parts of the Western world.
- The fluidity of sexual identity is more accepted and embraced among many people, which has far-reaching implications for therapists working in the field.

This is undoubtably complex terrain, but it is important to traverse it. We welcome international contributions and are happy to discuss ideas and proposals in any of the areas (and others) just mentioned. Please feel free to contact me at bmctherapy@gmail.com and/or Bill Cornell at wfcornell@gmail.com . The deadline for manuscripts is 1 January 2017; please consult the guidelines for manuscript submission here .

Brad McLean is a relational psychotherapist and coach based in Sydney, Australia, and a member of the TAJ Editorial Board. Details about the individuals described in this article have been altered to protect confidentiality.

TAJ Theme Issues

"The Practitioner's Vulnerability: Professionalism and Protection"
Guest Editors: Steff Oates and Ann Heathcote
Deadline: 1 January 2016

"The Sense and Nonsense of Research in the Human Sciences"
Coeditors: Bill Cornell and Mark Widdowson
Deadline: 1 July 2016

"Gender, Sexuality, and Identity"
Coeditors: Brad McLean and Bill Cornell
Deadline: 1 January 2017

Please follow the submission requirements posted here. Email manuscripts to *TAJ* Managing Editor Robin Fryer, MSW, at robinfryer@aol.com .

An Honorable Endeavor for All Concerned: Writing for the TAJ

by Steff Oates



[Authors] should regard the reputable publication of an article as an honor. . . . [Their] obligations are the same as those of all writers. The first is integrity, whether it be scientific or artistic, and the second is craftsmanship. Craftsmanship here is almost synonymous with literacy. . . . By maintaining ruthlessly high literary standards . . . [authors] are forced to express themselves gracefully. (Berne, 1966, p. 194)

This paragraph appears at the beginning of the Submission and Review Requirements for the *Transactional Analysis Journal*, a good reminder to authors of both the recognition received and the responsibilities involved in publishing a scholarly article in the *TAJ*. Having been a reviewer and a guest editor for the *Journal* (as well as an author), I would add that it has also been an honor to participate in the reviewing and editing process from the other side.

> *"The TAJ is peer reviewed, which in academic and scholarly circles is a mark of high standards because submissions are scrutinized for quality and relevance by other professionals and experts in the field. This contributes to the TAJ's standing in the social science community."*

When I submitted my first article to the *TAJ* in 2007, I had no idea of the diligence, support, and working alongside that is involved in writing for the *Journal*. I have learned so much from the coeditors and other reviewers and especially from my dear friend and colleague Ann Heathcote, with whom I have coedited one theme issue with a second in the works. Since it has been so interesting and useful to me to learn from the inside how the process unfolds, I thought it might be for *Script* readers as well. I hope by sharing some of my experience, you will be encouraged to write for the *TAJ* yourself.

The *TAJ* is peer reviewed, which in academic and scholarly circles is a mark of high standards because submissions are scrutinized for quality and relevance by other professionals and experts in the field. This contributes to the *TAJ*'s standing in the social science community and allows it to listed with major library databases, including EBSCO, Proquest, and PsychInfo, so that students can access abstracts for their

research. Now that we are with SAGE, there are also efforts underway to obtain an Impact Factor for the *Journal*.

In terms of the specifics of submitting an article to the *TAJ*, manuscripts go first to Managing Editor Robin Fryer, who makes sure the submission requirements have been fulfilled; then to the coeditors, who make sure the content and writing are appropriate and up to standard for the *TAJ*; and then to reviewers, who evaluate the manuscript in depth on the basis of standard criteria. Once the reviews are in, the coeditor in charge of the manuscript collates the feedback and sends it to the author with suggestions for revisions. The revision process may involve a fair amount of back and forth with the coeditor until agreement is reached on the final manuscript.

Among the basic criteria for *TAJ* articles are that they should be no longer than 7,000 words (inclusive of text, abstract, references, keywords, and author biography), avoid footnotes, and use full APA text citation and referencing style. Figures and tables should also included in the word count based on how many words an equivalent amount of space represents. There are more details, including reference examples, in the submission requirements, so it is essential than authors read those carefully when preparing their articles. (They are posted on the ITAA website in the section about the *TAJ*.)

The *TAJ* coeditors and guest editors are grateful to the dedicated editorial board members who serve as expert reviewers. Along with the anonymized article, these reviewers are sent review guidelines and asked to comment on various aspects of the submission: Does the title reflect the paper's content? Does the abstract conform to APA (American Psychological Association) standards? Does the article's structure represent the author's ideas and facilitate the reader's understanding? Is the material well organized? Is the writing style engaging? Are the figures and/or tables clear? Is the conclusion satisfactory? Is the article appropriate for publication? In addition to the feedback from reviewers, the coeditors also take into consideration an article's length (we have a page limit per year with SAGE), the geographical and cultural spread among authors, the representation of all four fields of TA application, and the encouragement of non-English-speaking and first-time authors.

> *"Besides being character building, writing for the* TAJ *is an incredibly stimulating, exciting, dynamic learning process, one that has brought me incredible pride and satisfaction as well as the sheer joy of working with others on a deeply worthwhile project."*

There then follows what I consider to be quite the magical bit. Our managing editor, Robin Fryer, carefully and respectfully copyedits each manuscript to make sure it reads well, is clear, uses appropriate and professional English terminology, and conforms to *TAJ*/APA editorial style. Even with my multifaceted involvement with the *TAJ* and my commitment to only sending in a manuscript that has been through many drafts, I always find that I have missed things or been less clear or graceful in my writing than I could have been. Robin helps with all of that, and I am especially amazed at how she has a sixth sense for picking up slight mistakes in quotes. Even though I am absolutely certain I quoted something exactly as it appeared in the original, checking it multiple times, I find when she flags something for me to look at again, she is invariably right. I think we are fortunate to have her as part of the *TAJ* team. Her dedication to our authors means that your experience will be more enjoyable than you might have expected and your finished article will be better too.

I have found that writing for the *TAJ* is a "character-building" experience. That is a British term meaning "it will be good for you," and it is usually applied to boarding schools and cross-country runs. However, besides being character building, it is an incredibly stimulating, exciting, dynamic learning process, one that has brought me incredible pride and satisfaction as well as the sheer joy of working with others on a deeply worthwhile project.

And now that we are with SAGE, writing for the *TAJ* has another stunning advantage: The online archives go back to the beginning of the *Journal* in 1971, so just imagine your article joining that archive for future scholars, students, researchers, and readers!

Steff Oates is a member of the TAJ *editorial board, the coeditor with Anne Heathcote of an upcoming* TAJ *theme issue on "The Practitioner's Vulnerability," and the coeditor with Laurie Hawkes of* The Script. *She can be reached at lcfan@me.com .*

Reference

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Paris-Ile de France School of TA students with their certificates following completion of their Cycle 1 program



Paris-Ile de France School of TA faculty in June 2015 (left to right, front row): Laurence Cabanis (new school secretary), Isabelle Crespelle, Françoise Tachker-Brun, Laurie Hawkes; (back row): France Brécard, Jean Maquet, Georges Escribano, Catherine Gérard, Anne Noé, and Nathalie Deffontaines (not shown: Nicole Pagnod-Rossiaux)

Paris TA School Students Receive Certificates: On 20 June 2015, students at the Paris-Ile de France School of TA received certificates acknowledging their achievement in completing the 2-year Cycle 1 program. They were asked to work in peer groups of 3-5 people to analyze a character from a book, film, or comic strip. They submitted a 15-page paper, and on the big day, each group presented its work. Some of the presentations were remarkably creative, with people playing roles, wearing signs, and otherwise giving physical presence to TA concepts. Some students selected parts of a film to illustrate their TA analysis of the character they focused on. Afterward, there was celebration during which they received their certificates. The garden party, attended by 60 people this time, many of them students from many years past, also honored the school administrative director, Danielle Royole, who was retiring after her 16 years at the school.



Scholarship to Honor Josephine Bowens Lewis: The Southeast Institute for Group and Family Therapy has announced the establishment of a scholarship to honor long-time faculty member Jo Lewis. An anonymous donor seeded the fund with $5,000 to honor Jo's work as a therapist. He donated the money to the Southeast Institute because, as he said, "This was her home, where she grew into a therapist who would enhance thousands of lives." Jo first came to the Southeast Institute in 1973 to attend a training program and was invited to join the faculty shortly after. While there, she became a Certified Transactional Analyst and then a Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst. Later she cofounded/directed the Center for Cooperative Change in Atlanta and worked for VISIONS, Inc, while continuing to do training and couples workshops with Southeast Institute President and Director Vann Joines. Jo also served as an editor of *The Women's Journal*, on the USA TA Association Council, and as an ITAA board member. The Jo Lewis Memorial Scholarship will offer financial assistance to African-American therapists who want to train at the Southeast Institute. The Institute has matched the original $5,000 donation and hopes that others will contribute as well. To learn more, visit http://www.seinstitute.com/ .

Call for Proposals

Deadline: 31 January 2016

South Asian Transactional Analysis Conference

Hosted by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)

2-4 September 2016 Dhaka, Bangladesh

For a decade, the South Asian Association of Transactional Analysts (SAATA) conferences have been a major hub for the dissemination and development of transactional analysis in the South Asian region. They have provided a forum for legends, trainers, and practitioners of this region to come together and meet the global transactional analysis community. The theme of the 2016 conference is "Freedom Within." There exists within each of us a place of freedom to experience love, joy, and peace, so life is a matter of choosing either to suffer or to enjoy. According to Eric Berne, autonomy means having the capacities of awareness, spontaneity, and intimacy, which leads to growth and change. How do we nurture and attain this freedom within to establish freedom without? The conference will be comprised of high-quality institutes, keynotes, workshops, lectures, posters, and papers. We invite you to submit your forward-looking new work in the relevant areas by filling in the form here and submitting it with the relevant information no later than 31 January 2016. Presentations of new ideas will be given priority. Please note that a separate proposal submission is required for each presentation.

INFORMATION COVER SHEET

Title of Presentation: _____

Name, Academic Credentials, ITAA/SAATA Certification (If none, please include an email or written endorsement from a Certified Member): _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____

Country _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

Copresenter(s) Name and Credentials _____

What do you hope to accomplish during your presentation?

- Include a 100-word note on your presentation
- Include a 50-word profile for each presenter
- Include a picture of each presenter (jpeg format)

Format of Presentation:

Format: ☐ Lecture ☐ Workshop **Duration:** ☐ 1.5 Hour ☐ 3.00 hour

Level: ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced **Group Size Limit:** ☐ 30 ☐ 50 ☐ 60

Guidelines for Paper Submissions: All papers must be in English; contain author's name(s), affiliation(s), and email address(es); be formatted according to online template with 10-point Times Roman font, double spaced; be a PDF that can be viewed on any platform; and be a maxium of 10 pages, including abstract and appendices but excluding references

Guidelines for Posters: All posters must be in English; be 3' x 2'; be in 2 or 3 primary colors; handout.

Submissions that do not comply with these guidelines may be rejected without review. Research submissions must represent new and original work. Concurrent submission is not allowed. All submissions will go through a single-blind peer review, and accepted papers will appear in the online conference proceedings published on the SAATA and ASK website and by ASK publication. Authors of accepted papers will retain intellectual property rights to their work but will be required to sign a copyright release to SAATA and ASK. After publication by SAATA and ASK, extended versions of papers may be submitted to refereed journals in accordance to the policies of those journals. Accepted refereed papers, posters, and so on must be presented at the conference by an author who is registered to attend. We strongly encourage at least one author of every paper to register by the early-bird deadline so that session chairs can make plans for its presentation.

All presenters shall register for the conference and take care of their own travel and accommodations.

For questions and to submit proposals, email to psh@askbd.org with a cc to nasima.akter70@gmail.com or mail to Nasima Akter, Coordinator, Psychosocial Counseling Unit, Ain o Salish (ASK), 7/17, Block - B, Lalmatia, Dhaka - 127, Bangladesh