the SCRIPT

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On Writing and Editing





We are pleased to present here excerpts of a conversation Script *Editor Laurie Hawkes had with Bill Cornell as he transitions from being one of the working coeditors for the* Transactional Analysis Journal *to a new role as consulting editor focused primarily on relations with Routledge/Taylor & Francis. In that role he will be the editor of a new series of TA books published by Routledge.*

LH: How did you start writing, Bill?

BC: I never thought of becoming a writer, but I attended an unusual college, Reed College, where students were taught to think. There were no textbooks. We read only original sources, working in seminar groups, 12 to 15 students and the professor. We would spend classes talking, discussing, arguing over whatever we were reading at the time. And in our senior year, we spent the whole time doing our thesis.

LH: So writing!

BC: Yes, writing and reading and especially learning how to think critically. Then, when I started training as a psychotherapist, there was no critical thinking. We were taught a theory, a methodology, and it was supposed to be the best thing since sliced bread. When I became a trainer myself—with my trainees in Pittsburgh, in workshops, and at TA conferences—I focused more on thinking about theory than teaching it. Then Rebecca Trautmann, who was the *TAJ* editor back in the 1980s, asked me to write an article for the *Transactional Analysis Journal*. It was many years before I found any real ease in writing.

LH: And yet by now you have written a lot: articles in the *TAJ* and other professional journals, book chapters, whole books of your own.

BC: Yes, and being edited for those was the key to developing more freedom and fluidity in my writing.

LH: So, after doing some writing of your own, you became an editor, for *The Script*.

BC: Yes, that was somewhat unexpected. George Kohlrieser, who was ITAA President at the time, asked me if I would do it, and after some thought I said yes. I wanted *The Script* to have more substance, to become a forum where people could write from different points of view, with cross currents of ideas and disagreements.

LH: I remember a number of back and forth discussions and even some lively controversies. And then you moved on to become a *TAJ* editor.

BC: Yeah, and that's a whole different process. Being editor of *The Script* is a little like being a publicist, trying to get people to come forward and share their ideas and news. I also became an editor of the *TAJ* kind of by accident. I had been a reviewer for quite a while, and with my Reed College training in critical thinking, I think my reviews were often quite different from those of many other reviewers. I had been on the ITAA Board of Trustees in various positions for quite a while, and I was just terrible at it! It wasn't my spot. But I wanted to contribute to TA, and I thought, this is where I actually have a skill to offer, in writing and editing, in the development of the TA literature.

> *"Being edited made me a much better and more effective writer, so my experience of being edited informed my becoming an editor."*

LH: Yes, you have been able to help TA through supporting others' writing as well as your own. That is your forte.

BC: So I was asked to become *TAJ* editor, but I didn't want to do it alone, so from the beginning we had to have a team—partly because it's just too much work! But also by then I'd profited so much from being edited. Robin has been the managing editor of the *TAJ* for a long time now, and she is, truly, a master. I'd been edited by lots of different people at this point but rarely anybody with the skill and thoughtfulness of Robin. So it was more through editing that I learned how to structure an article.

LH: Through being an editor yourself?

BC: Well, first by being edited. It made me a much better and more effective writer, so my experience of being edited informed my becoming an editor. For example, in the context of the books I've written, the one I wrote for Payot in France would never have come about if I hadn't been approached by the editor, Gaëlle Fontaine. She talked me into it, and that's probably the writing that is in my most personal voice. That represented a real transition. I had a similar experience with the book I wrote on somatic experience. Lew Aron was my editor for that one, and he was very involved in the editing, the design, the sequence of the chapters—pushing me, in a way. Part of my struggle as a writer is to let go of the academic voice that I learned and to write in a more clinical and personal voice.

LH: Yes, I was thinking about that balance, between academic style, which you don't want to lose completely because it is valuable, but also being more personal and clinical.

BC: Yeah, Lew really pushed my writing in that direction. So I have learned a lot from being edited.

LH: And now as an editor you have been helping other authors, perhaps in ways similar to how Gaëlle and Lew helped you.

BC: That's my hope!

LH: Not all of us can move on like that, from being given something to being able to give it to others. It's not an obvious transition. So, you've been editor of the *TAJ* for how long now?

BC: 15 years.

LH: Wow, that's a long time. And now you're moving on. I guess you'll be missing some things.

BC: I'll miss the camaraderie of the coeditors. We're a great team. I'm also at the point where it really felt right for me to step out so that other people, new voices, younger voices, can step in.

LH: So now you are becoming the editor of a TA book series with Routledge? What's that series going to be like?

BC: We were in the process of changing publishers for the *TAJ* to Routledge, and during those negotiations, the senior editor there said, "It might be interesting if we did a

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book series. Write up a proposal. It would be an ITAA kind of imprint." So I wrote up a proposal titled "Innovations in Transactional Analysis," and they accepted it.

LH: "Innovations" in TA. So these are innovating people?

BC: Well, I have at least half a dozen proposals in the works, all first-time authors. Two books have already been accepted for publication.

LH: Are these American authors? European authors?

BC: European authors. One is an Italian psychiatrist, Zefiro Mellacqua, who's written an amazing book on the treatment of schizophrenics and psychosis. And a second book has just been approved on the political and social context of psychotherapy by James Sedgwick, who is a TA therapist and a university professor in England.

LH: Those sound very promising and exciting! So will this be the first time you've edited books?

> *"[Books are] a very different experience, a different kind of engagement with authors, to really help them go from a bright idea to a coherent one, to be able to articulate and flesh out a set of ideas."*

BC: Yes. It's a very different experience, a different kind of engagement with authors, to really help them go from a bright idea to a coherent one, to be able to articulate and flesh out a set of ideas. It's really a pleasure. So that kind of takes care of my free time after stepping away from the *TAJ* editorial work—out of the frying pan into the fire!

LH: So clearly you're not exactly retiring! Is there anything else you'd like to say about writing, editing,

> *"I'll miss the camaraderie of the coeditors. We're a great team. I'm also at the point where it really felt right for me to step out so that other people, new voices, younger voices, can step in."*

being edited, perhaps the difference between writing and editing?

BC: Well, now when I write I kind of have an editor in my head. I edit a lot of my own writing. I can look at an article, my article, objectively, and wonder, "Does the structure work?" I have had countless if not thousands of run-on sentences edited into short sentences; now I can usually spot them on my own. The other thing, as you mentioned earlier, is that TA is my home base, but I also write in the body psychotherapy field and in psychoanalysis. I think one of the things that's changed over the time that I've been writing is that these different disciplines are becoming more open to other ideas, with more capacity to be self-critical.

LH: That's the kind of interchange that I really like. It brings to mind your latest book, *At the Interface of Transactional Analysis, Psychoanalysis, and Body Psychotherapy: Clinical and Theoretical Perspectives*. How do you bring those three fields together in it?

BC: The book includes a series of articles, mostly written in the last 10 years, when I've used psychoanalysis to critique transactional analysis, somatic perspectives to critique psychoanalysis, and TA to critique and expand psychoanalysis.

LH: The good old critical thinking again!

BC: Exactly. The book also represents some of my investment in the political and social aspects of psychotherapy.

LH: And your other book, which also came out this past summer, *Self-Examination in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy*, is the English version of the book you did for Payot?

BC: Yes, *Une Vie pour être soi*. The title in English is very different, and the text itself is significantly revised from the French version. Routledge wanted to orient it more toward a professional audience and were quite supportive, which frankly surprised me because it's so unusual. They thought it was valuable because it illustrates the therapist's process of self-examination. They said there's lots of stuff about self-disclosure out there already, but the discipline of self-examination is different.

LH: And students have been finding it useful, even the French version, which is less academic. It's useful for people who are thinking of being therapists and who want to know what it's like. And since you take the point of view of the therapist as well as the patient, it really opens up many fields for people.

BC: Yes, because I write about obviously my experience of myself as a psychotherapist, as a supervisee, and as a patient.

LH: And as a supervisor.

BC: Which is probably similar, supervisor versus therapist, editor versus writer . . .

LH: Well, on that note we come full circle. Thank you for sharing some of your analysis and reflections on editing and writing.

BC: My pleasure.

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50th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

"Promoting Equality and OKness: Healing the Divisions in Our World"

Cosponsored by the Southeast Institute, USATAA, and the ITAA

31 July–3 August | Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

www.usataa.org/conference/

Tyson to Open Raleigh Conference

by Emily Keller

The "Promoting Equality and OKness: Healing the Divisions in Our World" conference committee is pleased to announce that special guest Timothy B. Tyson will speak at the opening reception on Wednesday evening. He will address how the past can inform the present in our current work toward healing the prejudices that divide us.

Tyson was a child when the 1970 lynching of Henry Marrow occurred in Tyson's hometown of Oxford, North Carolina. He remembers the moment he heard about the murder of the 23-year-old black man. He was bouncing a basketball. Tyson's book, *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story* (2004), is a historical account of the race violence, tension, and riots that surrounded those events.

Tyson's father, a minister, supported the civil rights movement, which incited anger in their small town. His family eventually fled Oxford. These events had a great impact on the child who would grow up to become a scholar of the history, and current realities, of racial prejudice in the United States. Tyson also wrote *The Blood of Emmett Till* (2017), which shed new light on the 1955 kidnapping and harrowing murder of the 14-year-old black boy.

Tyson is a senior research scholar at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina. *The Blood of Emmett Till* received many accolades, including the 2018 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, the *Los Angeles Times* and National Public Radio Best Book of 2017, and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Best Southern Book of 2017. *Blood Done Sign My Name* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the winner of the Southern Book Award for Nonfiction, and the Grawemeyer Award in Religion. Tyson was executive producer of Mike Wiley's 2008 play adaptation of *Blood Done Sign My Name* and writer-consultant for Jeb Stuart's 2010 feature film adaptation of the same book.



Tyson serves on the executive boards of the North Carolina National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Repairers of the Breach, and the University of North Carolina's Center for Civil Rights. He has also been active in the North Carolina NAACP "Moral Monday" protest meetings led by the Rev. William Barber at the NC legislature building in Raleigh, NC.

We hope you will join us for the Raleigh conference and what promises to be a stimulating, thought-provoking conference opening talk by Tim Tyson.

Emily Keller can be reached at ekeller@seinstitute.com .

January *TAJ* Available Online: Make Sure You Receive an Alert!

The first issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* for 2019 is now available online. If you are already signed up to receive new content alerts from Routledge/Taylor & Francis, you should have received an email in mid January letting you know the issue was published.

If you are not signed up to receive alerts and want to be, please go to the *TAJ* website at Routledge/Taylor & Francis (https://tandfonline.com/toc/rtaj20/current) and click on "New content alerts." There you can indicate your preferences, including how often you want to receive alerts. There has been a tightening up in the United Kingdom of the use of data, so Routledge/Taylor & Francis is only allowed to send marketing emails to those people who have signed up and agreed to being contacted. If you have not done so, you will not be informed of the publication of new articles or issues when they become available online.

2018 *TAJ* Hard-Copy Bound Volume Has Been Mailed

The bound volume of the 2018 *TAJ*s was mailed in late December to members who are due copies (everyone except student, retired, and emeritus members). Watch for your copy to arrive in the mail, and if it does not within a reasonable amount of time (by early March), please confirm that your membership was up to date at the time of mailing (check online and/or with Ken Fogleman at ken@itaa-net.org). If it was and your membership category includes the hard copy, please contact Jacqui Tearle at Routledge (societydata@tandf.co.uk) to arrange for a replacement copy. They will fill orders as long as there are copies in stock, so make sure to contact them as soon as you suspect yours did not arrive.

Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment Available to ITAA Members

Remember, as part of your ITAA membership, you have online access to a second journal from Routledge/Taylor & Francis at no cost. The November-December 2018 issue of the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment* (*JHBSE*) is now available online. As with the *TAJ*, if you sign up for content alerts, you will receive emails when new articles are posted online for *JHBSE* as well as when complete issues are published.

The latest issue of *JHBSE* contains a number of articles that may be of interest to ITAA members, including:

"Black Women Talk About Stereotypical Transference Enactments in Cross-Cultural Supervision" by J. Camille Hall

"Decreasing Health Disparities for Children with Asthma and Their Families: Conceptualizing Cultural Weaving & Identifying the Cultural Characteristics of a Head Start Organization in the United States" by Jo A. Dowell and Rachelle Gula

"Transdiagnostic Mechanism of Social Phobia and Depression: The Role of Anger Dysregulation" by Yoo Jung Kim

"The Impact of Labor Shortage on the Employee Commitment" by Zoltán Krajcsák and Anita Kozák

"A Synergy of Contemporary Activism to Address Police Maltreatment of Black Males: An Intersectional Analysis" by Christson Adedoyin, Michael Robinson, Dewey M. Clayton, Sharon Moore, Sharon Jones-Eversley, Shantel Crosby and Daniel A. Boamah

"An Interprofessional Internship Model for Training Master's Level Social Work and Counseling Students in Higher Education Settings" by Loni Crumb, Rufus Larkin, Marquita Johnson, Jennifer Smith, Ann Howard and Ca Trice Glenn

TAJ Theme Issues

"Normativity, Marginality, and Deviance"
Coeditors: Diana Deaconu and Helen Rowland
Deadline: 1 November 2019

"Concepts of Cure"
Editor: Helen Rowland
Deadline: 1 May 2020

"What Went Wrong and Why? Cathexis Theory and Reparenting Reexamined"
Coeditors: William F. Cornell and Diana Deaconu
Deadline: 1 November 2020

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

The TAlent Program: Its Founding, Revision, and Development

by Izumi Kadomoto

I I am writing this article for two reasons. One is to correct some earlier comments I made about the ITAA TAlent program, and the other is to share what I learned in the process of updating my knowledge about it. I think you will find it as interesting as I did.

In the September 2018 issue of *The Script*, I wrote that the TAlent program began in January 2006, but it

> *"Through that effort, especially in relation to membership fees, a new idea flashed into Jenni's mind: 'Let's have our own currency.' That was the moment when the TAlent was born."*

actually was approved by members in the fall of 1990 and took effect in 1991 (as described in the December 1990 *Script*). There was then a major revision of the program in 2006, which is what I based my initial comment on. In fact, the TAlent program has a long history and reflects the ongoing efforts of the ITAA to embody its international nature.I

I joined ITAA in 1994. At the time, I was simply happy to be a member of the association, interested only in transactional analysis and learning TA. When I attended conferences, I viewed myself as new to the large TA community and recognized other participants as one already existing group. Only later did I realize that other members lived in a variety of countries and learned TA in politically, economically, and culturally diverse contexts. And, I frankly confess, it was still some years before I learned about the TAlent program.



Jenni Hine, one of the main founders of the TAlent program

More than 20 years later, I was involved in the task force to update the TAlent classifications. And I began to seriously think of what is truly international. For me, with a history of being involved with the ITAA, the word *international* goes far beyond the dictionary definition of "connected with or involving two or more countries." I and others on the updating team thought it was, instead, an embodiment of fairness and equity. My article in the September *Script* was one of the results of our deliberations.

It was Julie Hay who pointed out my error in describing when the TAlent program began. I realized that I needed to look further at the history of the program, which I did with the help of Julie and several other guides, including Bill Cornell, Robin Fryer, and Ken Fogleman. Thanks to them, I learned that I needed to reach out to Jenni Hine, one of the main founders of the TAlent program

and godparent of the charming name. Jenni is a retired member of the ITAA who lived for many years in Switzerland and now resides in England. I have not had the pleasure of meeting Jenni in person, but communicating with her by email brought warmness and deep feeling to me. Her words were full of suggestions for what direction our future should take, and I felt as if I were with a former mentor. Through the exchanges with her, I felt proud of being a member of the ITAA and found even deeper meaning in it.

Based on what I have learned from Jenni and others, I would like to share here the story of the TAlent program. The original idea goes back to the 1980s. At that time, Jenni and her husband, Mervyn, were living in Switzerland, and she served as the coordinator for the 1983 TA conference there. She was also elected to the ITAA Board of Trustees. A new long-range planning task force, chaired by Jenni and Bill Cornell, was launched with the goal of finding new directions for the ITAA, including the structure of the organization, the fee system, and membership benefits. As part of this process, a major inquiry was made of all members. I heard that Jenni had to go to the post office daily for 10 days to send all the envelopes. Through that effort, especially in relation to membership fees, a new idea flashed into Jenni's mind: "Let's have our own currency." That was the moment when the TAlent was born. The idea was approved in 1990, when Julie was president and Mervyn was treasurer, and it took effect in 1991. Since then, this splendid idea/challenge has offered opportunities to many members. It is evidence that ITAA made and continues to make concerted efforts and progress toward becoming a truly international organization.

Now the ITAA has members from more than 50 countries. People in all of them are learning and getting training in various ways, all different, and all with their own needs and wants. I believe that the passion, enthusiasm, and desire of members to develop are equal regardless of where they are from, and I know the ITAA is eager to involve them in creating a path for their professional growth.

Thanks to my encounter with Jenni, I was able to trace the "footprints in the sand" of ITAA's development of the TAlent program. I am thankful to the leaders and precursors who came before and who contributed by creating the program, and at the same time, I feel my own responsibility as a member of the ITAA. In my country, the word "onko chishin" literally translated means "warm the old, know the new," or "visiting the old leads you to learn the future." This is originally a citation from *The Analects of Confucious*, a teaching of Kong Zi on the competencies of teachers and trainers. You may recognize this phrase because Elana Leigh mentioned it in her keynote speech in Osaka in 2013. I think my journey of learning about the TAlent program over these last few months has been like that. And now I imagine how I can improve the ITAA, our home base.



Izumi Kadomoto was, until January, the ITAA Vice President of Development. She can be reached at izumikadomoto@nifty.com .

EXAM CALENDAR

Exam Date	Exam	Cert. Body	Location	Application Deadline
8-9 May 2019	CTA	COC	Birmingham, UK	*
2-3 Jul 2019	CTA	COC	Cherkassy, Ukraine	*
30-31 Jul 2019	CTA	IBOC	Raleigh, NC, USA	30 Apr 2019
7 Nov 2019	CTA	IBOC	Sydney, Australia	7 Aug 2019
7-8 Nov 2019	CTA	COC	Köln-Rosrath, Germany	*
9-10 Nov 2019	CTA	COC	Belgium	*
8-9 May 2019	TSTA	COC	Birmingham, UK	*
2-3 Jul 2019	TSTA	COC	Cherkassy, Ukraine	*
30-31 Jul 2019	TSTA	IBOC	Raleigh, NC, USA	30 Jan 2019
7-8 Nov 2019	TSTA	COC	Köln-Rosrath, Germany	*
23-25 Mar 2019	TEW	COC	France	*
Jul 2019	TEW	COC	Cherkassy, Ukraine	*
4-6 Aug 2019	TEW	IBOC	Raleigh, NC, USA	4 Nov 2018
10-11 Nov 2019	TEW	IBOC	Sydney, Australia	10 Feb 2019
1-3 Dec 2019	TEW	COC	Italy	*

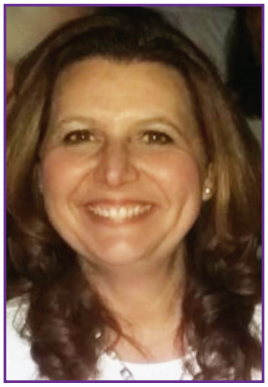
*For CTA and TEW deadlines see the EATA Handbook or contact the EATA Supervising Examiner.

For more information about IBOC exams, see www.itaaworld.org .

For further information on COC exams, see www.eatanews.org/examinations/ .

Two Nominees for European Board Representative

Now that nominations are closed for the 2019 open position on the ITAA Board of Trustees (BOT), we are pleased to announce that there are two candidates: Alessandra Pierini of Italy and Cor van Geffen of the Netherlands. Below are the statements of the candidates. Details of the upcoming election, in which only European members will be voting, will be announced as soon as they are available.



Alessandra Pierini

I am proud to be the current European regional representative to the ITAA BOT. I was elected to the position in 2016 and have served since then with commitment and passion. I have been involved in several initiatives, most importantly on the membership committee. It would be a pleasure and an honor to continue to work with the BOT for another term in an increasingly effective way. I am a psychologist and psychotherapist (TSTA-P), director of an Italian TA Institute, and the founder and director of the Physis Psychotherapy Center in Rome. My interest is in spreading TA around the world because I am convinced of its power to help people to live better lives. I have been collaborating with similar motivations with my national TA association since 2003, first as an executive committee member, later, from 2012 until now, as president. I have served EATA as a supervising examiner (2010-2015) with the aim of improving the quality of the evaluation process and to keep high the standard of TA certification. My vision of an active international TA community is close to members' needs, democratic, and embodying the values of TA. My goals as regional representative will be (1) to serve as a bridge between ITAA and European members to improve the sense of belonging; (2) to facilitate communication by receiving European members' requests and suggestions, conveying them to the ITAA, and then returning feedback like a "door-to-door" service; and (3) to promote the growth of the ITAA community in effectiveness, cohesion, and recognition.



Cor van Geffen

I have over 16 years of experience as a self-employed consultant, trainer, and coach, mainly within organizations that are partly government funded. I work with teams and groups as they grapple with the complexity of organizational change. I draw extensively on concepts such as connection, safety, challenge, autonomy, and script, seeing the difference these make to the development of organizations. I am passionate about extending awareness and understanding of TA within the organizational field. In 2015 I became a CTA-O. I believe that the underpinning theoretical basis of TA deserves more attention and in 2018 was awarded the MSc: TA Within Organizations by Middlesex University in London. For some years I have also been a teacher with the TA Academy. I am currently participating in an intensive process of professional development in order to achieve my PTSTA-O. In addition to my TA specialization, I also work as an international NLP trainer and use family constellation theory, work that helps to ensure that TA theory and practice remain linked to other theories. As a regional trustee, I would want to contribute actively to the TA community, furthering its values and the ethical basis of its work. I would be keen to facilitate the formation of closer connections between local TA communities in Europe as well as between the ITAA and EATA because finding ways to collaborate and work together is something I am passionate about.

2018 EATA/IARTA Theory Development and Research Conference

The Theory Development and Research Conference, which took place in London on 5–6 July 2018, challenged us to see research as an adventure, a way of getting closer to the beating heart of a mysterious creature. Unfortunately, there is evidence that many trainee TA psychotherapists see research as "a large, complex, boring and time-consuming task, which involves statistics and is expensive" (Widdowson, 2012, p. 5).



Carole Shadbolt (right) interviewing Susie Orbach during the 2018 EATA/IARTA Theory and Development Research Conference in London

In fact, in the field of social research, there is something for everyone: idealists, pragmatists, activists, theoreticians, and poets alike. There is a way of doing research that speaks to the mind and the heart, research that can only be done with funding and organizational backup, research that can be done on a shoestring, research that can transform the world, and research that can transform ourselves. Whatever definition of research we may reach for, this fundamental cultural activity springs first and foremost from curiosity and childlike wonder. Of course, there is far more at stake, including professional status, attainment of knowledge, influence, systemic change, support of or attack on cherished theories, and personal transformation. But we start with curiosity and a 3-year-old's compulsion to ask "why."

Psychotherapy is a monster, "freakish, weird, bizarre and unnatural," "neither art nor science, not quite a method of research nor a medical treatment" (Aron & Starr, 2013, p. 380). This means that the monster will not be easily captured by quantitative or qualitative approaches alone. Although the demands of the scientific method require that we do everything we can to avoid contaminating our data with our cherished beliefs, the nature of the "monster" is that reality is relational, and, as we observe the world around us, we also create it in our own image. The lens we look through colors what we see, and the act of looking influences what we witness. Doing research is an act of temporary estrangement—defamiliarization, as Bager-Charleson (2014) put it, a way of avoiding becoming too habituated to our perceptions, too comfortable or too rigidly set in our ways. It is a way of reminding ourselves that what we do is a little strange and risky, a bit like dancing with a tiger.

The 2018 Theory Development and Research Conference was a collaboration between the International Association of Relational TA (IARTA) and the European Association of TA. It was a considerable logistical jigsaw involving two venues and no less than 42 papers and workshops across 2 days, excluding the keynote addresses that opened each day. The conference organization was definitely a team effort and involved Mica Douglas (as conference chair) and Biljana van Rijn, who, as chair of the scientific committee, pulled together the program. Carole Shadbolt and Heather Fowlie as IARTA steering group members played an active part. Heather organized all the rooms for the conference presentations and was instrumental in engaging Metanoia Institute as one of the venues. The smooth running of the conference rested on Metanoia staff and student volunteers. Carole Shadbolt facilitated the interview with Susie



Mick Cooper presenting at the Theory Development and Research Conference

Orbach, and Carole Faulkner and Heidi Amey ensured the smooth running of events at the second venue. The conference organizing committee also included Charlotte Sills, Douglas Bertram, Shea Holland, and Eleonore Lind (representing EATA).

It was my first time attending and presenting a paper at an international TA conference, so it was an exciting event for me. The conference felt at once intimate and familiar, as the Ealing setting evoked my training days, and exotic as I sat through talks given in Italian, for instance. The symbolism of a European gathering in London, in the midst of Brexit negotiations, was not missed on anyone, and the collective sense of rumination on the uncertainty of the future was evoked during the dialogue between Susie Orbach and Carole Shadbolt.

Steve Chapman and Charlotte Sills led the proceedings on day 1 of the conference with an experimental and mischievous take on the traditional keynote speech under the heading "Creative Adventures in TA." They invited us to consider that, in order to truly embrace research and new theory, we need to be willing to let go of what we think we know and be willing to embrace uncertainty. Steve introduced a simple model of a triangle labeled "Let go," "Pay attention," and "Use everything." He encouraged us to let go of our preexisting ideas of what research should be, then to pay attention to what occurs, and lastly, to use everything that would be offered. Through an experiential exercise that got us moving, synchronizing, dancing, playing, and miming, we explored the delicate edge between influencing the world and being influenced by it.

Day 2 of the conference brought on stage Mick Cooper, a therapist and researcher whose work I respect deeply. He obviously values all psychotherapy schools and is committed to becoming reasonably fluent in anything from CAT to CBT to psychoanalysis. He spoke about Buber's concept of directionality and persuaded us that all therapies have a significant contribution to make at each stage of the process of moving into the world.

Although I only got to sample a small number of workshops and papers on offer, I was particularly struck by the willingness to take up the challenge of reflecting on what it means to work at the relational edge. Carole Shadbolt presented a paper titled "The Sorrows of Ghosts" (later published in the October 2018 *TAJ*) that showed a contemporary take on the Parent interview to address intergenerational trauma. A gifted storyteller, Carole kept us guessing as she shared a story of "possession," with the client's Parent ego state emerging in the room as a separate identity. I appreciated Carole's tenderness and her love for the client, and those of us who participated in the workshop were moved to think how we ourselves might be possessed by stories untold and unspoken, stories that need a considerate and compassionate witnessing.

For her part, Heather Fowlie has spent the past 3 years thinking about the multiplicity of models, and she invited us to reflect on what it means to work with all of those theoretical differences. Theories need internal consistency as well as internal validation, and, for the purposes of teaching and also thinking about clinical work, it makes sense to examine our models. We explored the boundaries between metaphor and accurate representation: Which models work best and why? What do we have to gain or lose by keeping our metaphors fluid? What claims can we make as an interpretative community? And how do we engage with our inheritance, that is, how do we honor that which gives us identity and effectively constitutes a brand while also keeping our models flexible enough to incorporate new findings?

There were other intriguing workshops and papers that I missed out on but that looked interesting:

- Tiziana Aceti, Antonella Liverano, and Rosanna Giacometto discussed love addiction, which they described as "a pathological way of living the relationship, where a person comes to negate their own needs and to renounce their own vital space so as not to lose their partner, considering that person the one single source of gratification and fundamental source of 'love' and care."
- Lisa Burrage and Sara Lister investigated whether a resilience group model, underpinned by

TA theory, would reduce both burnout and secondary traumatic stress for a group of teachers within a school setting.

- Marina Sartor Hoffer looked at constructive and destructive behaviors in education.
- Gerry Pyve reviewed some of the latest neuroscience regarding the impact of touch on the limbic brain.
- Günther Mohr presented a questionnaire to assess the quality and resilience of an organization.
- Raffaele Mastromariano, Rosanna Giacometto, and Francesca Focà investigated the extent to which a training group promotes changes in personal and relational well-being.
- Piotr Jusik discussed the boundary in informal counseling in education.

This is just a small selection of what was a rich and diverse program. The conference felt like an opportunity to critically reevaluate and appreciate the theoretical richness of TA and also to look toward the future regarding how to bring a scientific ethos to the delicate challenge of working at the relational edge.

Contributed by Silvia Baba Neal

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TA Conference in Kazakhstan

Anne Kohlhaas-Reith and her husband, Richard Reith, spent about 2 weeks in September 2018 in Kazakhstan, mainly in Almaty, where they had been invited by one of the two TA association there (ORTA) to present a workshop at ORTA's first international TA conference followed by some supervision days. Anne writes, "Our work was welcome and highly appreciated by the participants, and we enjoyed working with the audience. We were surprised by the large number of active TA people there, mainly psychotherapists, and their good relationship with some of the universities, where TA colleagues are teaching TA. In addition to doing TA, we saw a part of this beautiful country, which is the ninth largest in the world. We were impressed by the kindness and hospitality of the Kazakh people. In Kazakhstan, more than 100 nationalities live together in peace, and the relationship between different religions (mainly Muslims and Orthodox Christians) is relaxed. We have been invited to work there again, so we will return to Almaty with great pleasure in October 2019."

Contributed by Anne Kohlhaas-Reith



The TA group at the end of a 2-day workshop by Anne Kohlhaas-Reith and Richard Reith in Kazakhstan on Richard Erskine's theory of the eight relational needs



At the end of a long day with the board of ORTA sharing a wonderful dinner (from left): Rakhima Kuandybekovs, Elina Belyayeva (current ORTA President), Anne, Richard, Svetlana Tihomirova, and Zauresh Zapabekova



Brazilian TA Forum participants

Brazilian TA Forum

Sunny days in Rio de Janeiro welcomed the participants of the 10th edition of the Brazilian Transactional Analysis Forum, held from 20–22 September 2018. Twenty transactional analysts from many different states presented their work in psychotherapy, organizations, education, and a new field of health science. The forum was organized by UNAT-Brasil, the Brazilian TA association, which was established 33 years ago (prior to that there were many regional associations). UNAT has held a conference every 2 years and a forum every other year.

The theme of the forum was "To Be or to Have: What Is Yours? Reflections on Ethics, Choices, and Consequences." Bill Holloway, the keynote speaker, commented, "I believe that the obligation of the professional is to meet the interests of the client. If there is a big difference between the values of having versus the values of being—between a professional and a client—then there is an ethical issue to be solved by the professional."

Prior to the forum there were three events: "Neuroscience, Transactional Analysis, and the Body" with Adriana Montheiro; "Transactional Analysis in Organizations" with Cláudio Reis, and "Transactional Teaching Method" with Jorge Close.

Over 100 participants attended the forum and the pre-forum events, including a large "cariocas" (Rio de Janeiro) contingent. Among the presenters were Fabiana Rosito Bercht, Luciana Gouvêa, Ercilia Silva, Jorge Close, Leilane Nascimento, Marco Aurélio Cardoso, Meriete Cardoso, Silvana Gomes, Maria Lucia Falk, Michelle Thomé, Marília Pereira, Antônio Pedreira, Cláudio dos Reis, Ede Lanir Ferreira, Jane Costa, Laucemir Silveira, Juliana Lima, Juliana Reis, and Adriana Montheiro.

"It was exciting to receive TA colleagues in my city. I was honored by the presence of a group so willing to exchange knowledge and applications of transactional analysis. And, of course, it was wonderful to experience the affection that joined us," said UNAT-Brasil President Vitor Merhy.

The next Brazilian congress will be held in Uberlândia (Minas Gerais) in September 2019.

Contributed by Michelle Thomé



Bill Holloway presenting his keynote speech at the Brazil TA Forum