the SCRIPT

ITAA
INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION

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Raleigh Conference Rekindles Spirit of Social Action in the TA Community

by Robin Fryer and Laurie Hawkes



Sonny Kelly registers alarm while "driving" during "The Talk" with riot police showing in the background

"Promoting Equality and OKness: Healing the Divisions in Our World," the Southeast Institute/USATAA/ITAA Conference from 31 July-3 August, offered what cochair Lucy Freedman described as "deep learning about social justice, confronting racism, and helping people heal individually and in community." It was a remarkable week, one those who were there will remember and be inspired by for a long time to come.

It began with an exceptionally efficient ITAA board meeting that included a day of exploring the future of the ITAA and its meaning/purpose (with the excellent help of Krispijn Plettenberg as facilitator). On Tuesday, the week moved on to exams that resulted in success for six candidates from four countries (see page 8) as well as a groundbreaking social-justice-focused TA 101 taught by Vann Joines, Graham Barnes, Valerie Batts, and Felipe Garcia and a preconference workshop with Ellyn Bader and Peter Pearson on stimulating change with tough couples problems. On Wednesday evening, the conference officially opened with the first of several astonishing keynote and plenary speakers who brought conference participants to both tears and cheers.

Introduced by Angela Bryant, a former North Carolina legislator, cofounder of VISIONS, Inc., and a lifelong student of TA, author and researcher Tim Tyson



Sonny Kelly with his two sons (front right: Sterling, front middle: Langston) and two of his colleagues

spoke at the Wednesday opening about "How History Holds Our Past and Future in Its Claws and How We can Find Meaning in Our Past, Love in the Present, and Hope for the Future." The past he talked about included the voice of the black South in the United States, which he described as the most powerful expressive voice in the history of the world, one that has echoed around the globe. He described how African Americans brought here in slave ships came from many different cultures in their homelands, but in the bottom of the boats that transported them, they began to forge a culture that eventually became the language of civil rights. Tyson acknowledged that the job of achieving those rights for all remains difficult, especially in light of the lies still being told and spread about US history, and that the civil rights movement, although it is often portrayed as pristine in its ethos of nonviolence, was and always will be one of bending, pushing, taking, and using power to, as Martin Luther King, Jr., put it, bend the arc of history toward justice. Tyson confronted listeners with questions about white consciousness: about whether white people "get it" and understand that they have a responsibility to help fix things, even if they didn't personally break them, about how we can't change hearts without changing ways. He talked about the difference between optimism and hope; the need to use the tools of persuasion and even coercion; how power without love is bankrupt but love without power is empty, vacant, even sentimental; about how "moderates" can be devoted more to order than justice; and about the "appalling silence" of good people. Tyson spoke to the forces pushing back against change around the world, not just in the United States, placing his deep knowledge of US racial history in a global context. It was an intense, stirring, inspiring speech that set the stage with the themes that would become central to the rest of the conference.

The next morning, Graham Barnes—long-time transactional analyst and founder of FREE (Fellowship for Racial and Economic Equality), which became the Southeast Institute—picked up the gauntlet with "Achieving Freedom: People, Ideas, and Anecdotes That Brought Forth FREE and Later the Southeast Institute." He recounted how FREE was founded just after Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in 1968. He described his realization that it is not possible to have freedom and equality without eliminating poverty and how his journey to create an organization that would work for social justice led him to study with Bob and Mary Goulding and to embrace TA as a model for combating racism. It was a long, difficult struggle, but the 50th anniversary of the Southeast Institute testifies to the ultimate success of Graham's vision.

That night, conference participants once again gathered for an evening presentation, this time for "The Talk" with Sonny Kelly. A one-man spoken show of almost 2 hours, it recounted Kelly's experiences as a black son, a black man, and a black father growing up and living in a culture of racism in the American South. An extraordinary performer, he expressed every possible emotion in telling the story of his life, centered around "The Talk" that black parents feel compelled to give their black children to keep them safe when they go out into the world. We in the audience were in tears numerous times as we accompanied him on his journey, which included recognition of the evolution of generational trauma for black people in America, including black men and boys who have in recent years been killed in the United States because they happened to be

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Graham Barnes acknowledging Vann Joines's role as director of the Southeast Institute

the wrong color in the wrong place at the wrong time. After a standing ovation, Sonny brought his two young sons and two of his young adult collaborators up on stage for a Q&A. Again there were many tears as people shared their reactions to Sonny's performance and some of their own life experiences. At the end of the evening, we left stunned by the power of what we had experienced and imbued with a sense that TA can and must do more to foster work toward a multicultural world.

On Friday morning we continued these important conversations with Valerie Batts, a long-time member of the TA community in the United States and one of the founders of VISIONS, Inc. She spoke on "Is Reconciliation Possible? A Frame for Addressing Modern Oppression" and shared her story of becoming involved with TA through her training with the Southeast Institute. Valerie acknowledged the right-wing authoritarianism based on othering that is growing across the globe. She pointed to how the press is largely failing to support antiracism attempts such as the Moral Mondays efforts that have been taking place in North Carolina using civil disobedience to restore morality to the public arena and fight for such issues as voting rights, criminal justice reform, environmental issues, and much more. Valerie acknowledged the need to address root causes, including the bystander phenomenon, the way that privilege blinds, and the fact that we inherited both the legacy of slavery and the debt. At the end of her talk, she invited members of the audience to share what they are doing or not doing to work for social justice in their own communities, which many did, some in emotional and moving stories. Valerie suggested that the process of awakening is a long one and that it needs to occur in community.

The final keynote, on Saturday morning, was different in subject and tone. In "I'm OK, You're Really Sick: Blame, Righteousness, and Narcissistic Wounds (Strategies for Healing)," Rokelle Lerner offered a useful look at the nature of narcissism and how to work with it most effectively. Her often humorous presentation was insightful and useful in addressing not only issues related to narcissism but also addiction because they often coexist. One of the interesting things she pointed out was that narcissists aren't in love with themselves but with the reflection of themselves. She ended by acknowledging that social justice must be combined with personal accountability.

In between these outstanding speakers were many stimulating workshops on a broad range of topics, from treatment contracts to intimate relationships, from ethics to sex and gender at the margins, from yoga to logosynthesis, from homonomy to transgenerational scripts, from redecision therapy to sexual harassment, from age scripting to play therapy to promoting equality and OKness in organizations, from neurodiversity to transference in couple relationships, from affirmations to games, from group psychotherapy to integrative medicine, from work with the damaged core to TA in the classroom, from treating trauma to OKness in practice.

Then there were the healthy, delicious lunches every day during which participants could gather comfortably while sharing the meal. There were also men's meetings, a women's meeting, and an LGBTQ+ meeting. And there was a traditional closing banquet, during which many cheers accompanied a special award (including a special poem and a fabric sculpture) to Bill Cornell from those who have worked with him over his 15 years as *TAJ* coeditor. This was followed by the presentation of the 2019 Eric Berne Memorial Award to Ray Little for his outstanding work on ego state relational units in the



Tim Tyson talking about the history of forces at work in the world today



Valerie Batts asking if reconciliation is possible

transference-countertransference matrix.

Other cheers at various points during the week were given at the opening for long-time members, some of whom had not been at a conference in many years, and for the seven successful examinees; at the ITAA annual general membership meeting, when outgoing ITAA president Diane Salters was deeply appreciated, incoming president Elana Leigh was welcomed, and Sylvie Monin and Bill Cornell each received an ITAA Service Award for their work on behalf of the association; and at the closing, when the organizers and volunteers who worked so tirelessly and creatively to make the conference a success were thanked.

After the conference officially closed, some participants remained for two postconference workshops—one on "Creating Community in the Face of Economic and Racial Distress" with Bill Cornell and another "An Introduction to Educational Transactional Analysis" with Giles Barrow. In addition, several people took the next step in their training journey by attending a Training Endorsement Workshop led by Julie Hay and Lynda Tongue.

We hope we have given you a sense of what the Raleigh Conference was like. Please watch upcoming *Scripts* for more reports and reflections about what took place during that week, including the social action TA 101, the ITAA general membership and board meetings, the LGBTQ+ caucus, the men's meeting, the 2021 TA conference in Korea, and the new ITAA-USATAA partnership. We also hope to publish excerpts of some of the Raleigh conference keynotes in the *Transactional Analysis Journal*.



Rokelle Lerner speaks about treating narcissistic clients

Above all, this conference was a renewal and reminder of the importance of social action to TA people and the TA community. It is central to our mission and purpose, and we hope that what took place in Raleigh will be shared widely within TA communities around the world. As new ITAA President Elana Leigh wrote to Lucy Freedman after the conference, "On behalf of the ITAA, I congratulate you all for a heartfelt, stimulating, and challenging conference. The warmth, sense of community, and passion for social justice helped us to land back in our ITAA roots. I personally am grateful to have started my presidency at this conference and hope that we carry the spirit of collaboration, community, and togetherness into the future. Thank you all for your huge effort."

We hope each of you will endeavor to keep the spirit rekindled in Raleigh alive and that you will share with us the ways you are using TA to create a better world.

Special recognition and thanks go to the team that put together this amazing conference: conference cochairs Vann Joines and Lucy Freedman; registrar and finance person Dianne Maki-Sethi; website and publicity chair Emily Keller; program cochairs Janice Dowson and Janet Lee O'Connor; hotel and local arrangements coordinator Chellie Joines; ITAA booksellers Ken Fogleman and Tom Encinias; datamate bookkeeper Laura Spaeth; IBOC coordinator Janet Chin; graphic designer David Freedman; sponsors Grainger Weston, The Couples Institute, INTACT Academy, and Inna M. Learn; Marian Weisberg for the morning video of Fanita English; Marina Rajan Joseph for the morning yoga class; and the conference support team, including Natalie Boorman, Ildiko Galter, Steve Green, Marcia Guimaraes, Michael Harsh, Adam Joines, Michael Kovach, Rocky Locklear, Steve Morris, Margaret Rhee, Pam Richey, Nina Roslovic, Ravi Sethi, John White, Pam White, and Mich Davis.



Raleigh Conference cochairs Lucy Freedman and Vann Joines

What We Do and How We Do It Is What Makes a Difference

by Elana Leigh

After a year of apprenticing to Diane Salters in her role as president, I take the new and awesome step of becoming president myself, thus presiding over an organization of which I have been a member since 1985. From the tender age of 26, I have either observed or worked closely with many presidents—always imagining what I would do if I were in that position. And now I am. It is daunting, humbling, but also kind of exciting.



Elana Leigh (left) receives the ITAA President ribbon from outgoing president Diane Salters at the ITAA AGM in Raleigh

Each presidency carries its own story, which is set in a particular period in history, both within the organization and in the zeitgeist of the time. In 2019, as I take up the position, I reflect on what the challenges of our time are.

Recently, Diane said in relation to these times, "The world is facing an existential crisis about how and whether it will survive." This fear underpins and manifests itself around the globe in struggles over power and money, walls being built to keep people out, colonizing land and cultures, having less tolerance for difference, and generally displaying more extreme thinking and behavior as a way of surviving. To engage with these complex dynamics, we urgently need to think in new ways in all walks of life.

Some of us in the ITAA are asking similar questions about identity and survival: Who we are? Who do we serve? How will we survive? In the wider world, we are experiencing many shifts in power and populations. As a microcosm of a macrocosm, we in the ITAA are also observing changes and shifts in our membership demographics, with India, China, Korea, and Japan showing the fastest growing interest in TA. This interest, however, does not always translate into ITAA membership. Their focus is not necessarily on certification but rather on recog-

nition from their local national associations as well as applying TA to their personal and working lives and using the core concepts of transactional analysis to empower change in diverse areas of society.

Perhaps this suggests the importance of returning to our ITAA roots, which are represented in our mission statement: "The specific purpose of this corporation shall be to promote awareness and understanding of transactional analysis, a psychology of human behavior, communication, and problem solving designed to enhance the life of individuals, groups, organizations, and communities and to carry on other charitable and educational activities associated with this goal as allowed by law."

The tension between those who prioritize training and certification and those who value "spreading TA" in a more generic way has always existed. But regardless of the lens we look through, we need to address ways of stabilizing our membership and income and, at the same time, of responding to the growing interest in TA in Asia and the Indian subcontinent as well as the need throughout the world for the contributions transactional analysis can make to fostering understanding and connection rather than division and polarization.

These were my thoughts before flying into Raleigh, North Carolina, and what follows are my reflections and intentions after the conference.

It is no coincidence that the spirit of cooperation and togetherness in Raleigh flowed seamlessly from the ITAA Board of Trustees meetings and the certifying examinations into a conference that was all about heart, soul, and being politically active. The conference was cohosted by the Southeast Institute, USATAA, and the ITAA. It was, in part, a celebration of Southeast Institute's 50 years of existence and the profound impact they have and continue to have through their professional training and their ongoing determined actions to say NO to inequality and injustice.

The keynote speeches, workshops, openings, and closings of each day along with the social programs and the women's, men's, and LGBQT+ meetings as well as continuous contacts throughout the days were a powerful reminder of what the ITAA always stood proudly for: an association that was committed to using its unique model and accumulated knowledge to stand up and be political on all levels. We seem to share the passion of wanting to make a difference in an extremely troubled world, and when the light is shone in these areas, our similarities, not our differences, come through. This was deeply felt at this gathering.

> *"We seem to share the passion of wanting to make a difference in an extremely troubled world, and when the light is shone in these areas, our similarities, not our differences, come through. This was deeply felt at this gathering."*

This does not discount or place a binary on the importance of maintaining and developing excellent training standards and certification, but when that is done in ways that do not foster cooperation and integrity, it can in itself be diminishing to who and what we represent. We in the ITAA hold both these vital strands as part of our identity, and like all functioning symbioses, they need each other to thrive.

Our International Board of Certification and professional practice committee take excellent care of the training and certification aspect of our identity, which leaves us in the ITAA free to focus on who we are and what we stand for as a community. That, in turn, can only strengthen our identity and training.

It is my hope and vision that we continue to strengthen both aspects of our identity, and I intend to work cooperatively and collaboratively with our excellent board of trustees and our membership to find creative ways of moving into the future. At its meetings in Raleigh, the board came up with some dynamic and exciting ideas for addressing the needs mentioned earlier. In the coming months, we will be working to actualize some of those ideas and will be sharing them with you as appropriate. Some of the ideas put forward may involve script change, which is often challenging but also exciting when there is safety, integrity, democratic thinking, and a willingness to think outside our familiar and well-trodden frame of reference: "Working with the past in the present to create a new future" (Berne, 1961).

We want to hear your ideas, thoughts, and feelings because our strength lies in our collective thoughts, dreams, and visions.

ITAA President Elana Leigh can be reached at tthreech@bigpond.net.au .

Make Sure You Receive the 2019 *TAJ* Bound Volume

Log into your ITAA membership account to check your mailing address and update if necessary so you will receive the 2019 *TAJ* bound volume. If you need help, contact Ken Fogleman at ken@itaa-net.org .

A Message From Outgoing ITAA President Diane Salters

As I stand down from my term as president of the ITAA, I want to share a few thoughts and many appreciations.

First, I want to thank Elana Leigh for stepping into the role of president-elect at a time when we were facing some serious challenges. She has been a great asset to the board of trustees (BOT) and a particular support to me. I have every confidence in her leadership in the years ahead and commit to being her right-hand woman for my year in the role of past president.

I also want to appreciate the commitment, competence, and team initiative of all the members of the current board. It was truly a privilege to lead such a team, and I will be happy to continue with whatever tasks need attention from me now.

The conference in Raleigh was a wonderful occasion during which to end my term of office. I salute Vann Joines, Lucy Freedman, Emily Keller, Chellie Joines, and Dianne Maki-Sethi for their vision and determination and for bringing together a great team to build a wonderful experience for us all. The conference was inspiring and served to renew a sense of how much transactional analysts care about social equity and how we might contribute to the healing of our world.

Diane Salters, now past president of the ITAA, can be reached at disalters15@gmail.com .



Diane Salters receives a gift from the board of trustees members at the end of her last board meeting as president

And, of course, the whole reason for our work on the BOT is our members. Thank you to the many members who serve on our committees, who have expressed a desire to be more involved, and/or who offer criticism and suggestions. Many are also engaged in other associations to develop TA in our worldwide community.

At the presidents' lunch in Raleigh we had a meeting—sadly too brief—to hear from presidents, or their spokespersons, from many TA associations around the globe. They reported on their challenges and successes and the needs of their members in India, Latin America, North America, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Japan, and Europe. We also had a prior meeting with the president of the Korean association and his team, who unfortunately had to leave the conference early.

Krispijn Plettenberg also represented EATA President Peter Rudolph during the first day of our BOT meeting earlier in the week.

The role of the ITAA in this worldwide community is, I believe, a valuable one that will be further developed and clarified in the coming years. Transactional analysis has been the most important influence in my personal and professional life for more than 45 years, and I feel privileged to have been able to offer leadership to the ITAA for these past two-and-a-half years.

Thank you.



Diane Salters (with earphones) watches the video of appreciation prepared by Deepak Dhananjaya, with VP Research & Innovation Steff Oates (left behind Diane) and India/Asia Regional Representative Prathitha Gangadharan (right behind Diane) looking on

2019 Raleigh Exam Results

Congratulations to the successful examinees who passed their exams in Raleigh on 30-31 July 2019:

TSTA and TTA Candidates
Cristina Caizzi, TSTA (psychotherapy), Italy

Yoshinobu Kitamura, TTA (education), Japan

CTA Candidates
Maggie Brown, CTA (psychotherapy), New Zealand

Keiko Hoshino, CTA (education), Japan

Clarissa Ruggeri, CTA (psychotherapy), Mexico

Andrea Polzer-Debruyne, CTA (psychotherapy), New Zealand

Many Thanks to the Examiners and Others

TSTA Examiners: Diane Salters, Steff Oates, Elana Leigh, Janice Dowson, Gloria Noriega, Bill Cornell, Isabelle Crespelle, Chie Shigeta, Stephen Karpman, Alberto Jorge Close, Giles Barrow, Lynda Tongue, Marina Rajan Joseph, Lorna Johnson, Sylvie Monin, and Servaas van Beekum

CTA Examiners: Lorna Johnston, Laurie Hawkes, Marina Rajan Joseph, Michael Harsh, Takayuki Muroki, Soo Hee Oh, Prathitha Gangadharan, Anisha Pandya, Keiko Ikeda, Deepak Dhananjaya, Bernard Gentelet, and Maja Pavlov

TSTA Exam Supervisor:
Chitra Ravi

CTA Exam Supervisor:
Alessandra Pierini

Process Facilitator TSTA and CTA Exams: Julie Hay



New TSTA Cristina Caizzi (right), TSTA exam supervisor Chitra Ravi (center), and new TTA Yoshinobu Kitamura

Supervisees TSTA Exams: Maja Pavlov, Michelle Thomé, Emily Keller, and Michael Harsh

Audience Members, TSTA Exams: Emily Keller, Nadica Hegedus, Krispijn Plettenberg, Carol Solomon, Joy Roshan, Mick Landaiche, Anisha Pandya, Ravi Sethi, Michelle Thomé, and many more



New CTAs (from left): CTA exam coordinator Alessandra Pierini, Keiko Hoshino, Andrea Polzer-Debruyne, Clarissa Ruggeri, and Maggie Brown

TAJ Editorial Board Members Sought

The Transactional Analysis Journal coeditors are looking for new members to join the editorial board. If you are interested, please email your name, country, and a brief statement about your areas of interest/expertise and your experience in writing and/or editing to *TAJ* Managing Editor at robinfryer@aol.com by 1 October.

Observing a CTA Exam

At the international TA conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, I was the observer for a CTA exam board. Comprised of four individuals from different countries, the board examined a candidate from yet another country and culture who was accompanied by a translator for an exam conducted in English. And that language was spoken differently by everyone present, including my silent self. It was a small group that had never met before, going through a process of finding connection for the purpose of working together—an effort typical of any newly formed team yet complicated further by the linguistic differences. Yet this particular group gradually found its way toward serving its important function: that of facilitating another person in joining the professional international TA community. In this particular group, given our context, there was also another shared language, that of the concepts, principles, and practices of transactional analysis. I found it fascinating to observe how that shared framework facilitated connection across the other cultural and linguistic dissimilarities. I felt privileged to be present for the active, thoughtful dialogue that emerged as the team strove toward thinking together about professional work that was vitally important to everyone present. At the same time, I was struck by the way this commonality and connection did not erase the differences and did not produce conformity. All of our distinctions were still there; we just had a way of bridging them. I felt a renewed appreciation for this aspirational dimension of the international TA community, this conduit across divides that still fosters the diversity so important to any community's ongoing and vibrant life.



Mick Landaiche
(mlandaiche@gmail.com)

Award Nominations Sought

Eric Berne Memorial Award
Deadline: 1 December 2019
Send EBMA nominations to committee chair Lis Heath at lis.heath@gmail.com .

Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award
Muriel James Living Principles Award
ITAA Service Award
Goulding Social Justice Award
Deadline: 1 January 2020
Send nominations for the Capers, James, Goulding, and Service Awards to ITAA Secretary Sumithra Sharatkumar at sumithrask@gmail.com

ITAA Research Award
Deadline: 1 January 2020
Send nominations for the ITAA Research Award to committee chair Susan George at susangeorge4@yahoo.com

See the ITAA Web site at www.itaaworld.org/itaa-awards or contact the ITAA at info@itaaworld.org for details on making nominations for these awards.

Keeping In Touch

The Australasian TA Conference is planned for 8-9 November 2019 with the theme "Storytelling: Curing the Past in the Present to Enable the Future." Organized by the Australian TA Association (ATAA), it will take place at the Novotel in Sydney. Exams will be held on 7 November, and there will be a TEW on 10-11 November. The keynoters include Rollo Brown, who will talk about "The Living Story and the Nature of Warm Up" and Susan Moylan Coombs. The closing workshop will be put on by the Human Sound Project, which empowers groups from all backgrounds and musical abilities to come together and collaboratively create new songs about their stories. For more information and to register for the conference, visit https://www.ataaconference.com.au/ and/or contact Jan Grant at jangrant@optusnet.com.au .

Raleigh Conference Photo Gallery



Eric Berne Memorial Award winners (from left): Steve Karpman, 2019 winner Ray Little, Servaas van Beekum, Gloria Noriega Gayol, Jean Clarke, Bill Cornell, and Vann Joines



(From left) ITAA Finance Coordinator Ken Fogleman, his husband and fellow bookseller Tom Encinias, and ITAA Treasurer John Oates



ITAA Past Presidents (from left): Julie Hay, Lucy Freedman, Ellyn Bader, Servaas van Beekum, Diane Salters, and Gloria Noriega Gayol



Dianne Maki-Sethi (left) presents ITAA President Diane Salters with a check for $4500, a donation in honor of Mary Goulding on the dissolution of the Redecision Therapy Association. As Mary said in her last letter to RTA members, "I cannot imagine a better life than I have had—so much of it stimulated by ITAA." Dianne writes, "It seems fitting since ITAA was so important to Mary that as we close the organization of which she was a founding member that we share what we have left with you."



Chellie and Vann Joines enjoy a quiet moment in the midst of the extraordinary conference they helped to put together.



Bill Cornell was taken by surprise when Steff Oates presented him with a special poem and fabric sculpture from the many colleagues who wanted to celebrate his 15 years as a TAJ coeditor.

Thanks to Photographers!

Many thanks to the individuals who shared their wonderful photos from the Raleigh Conference, including Carol Solomon, Chitra Ravi, Deepak Dhananjaya, Krispijn Plettenberg, Laurie Hawkes, Lucy Freedman, Gloria Noriega Gayol, Michelle Thomé, Corinne Laurier, Anisha Pandya, Jane Read, Lynda Tongue, Ravi Sethi, and Robin Fryer.



Southeast Institute trainees, many of whom served as conference volunteers



Sylvie Monin and Bill Cornell celebrating their ITAA Service Awards



Enjoying each other's company (from left): John Oates, Sylvie Monin, Laurie Hawkes, Steff Oates, and Robin Fryer



Soo Hee Oh (left) and Young Tae, two of the Korean delegation who attended the conference



Brenda Schaeffer (left) and Brenda Bary



The amazing 94-year-old Jean Clarke with Prathita Gangadharan at the women's meeting



Ed Novak in his workshop on "Working in the Terrain of the Damaged Self Core"



(From left) Lucy Freedman, Marian Weisberg, Rebecca Trautmann, and Carol Solomon



Anisha Pandya sang a lovely song at the banquet, the words of which said: "Without losing your colors, come blend in my colors / Without dimming your light, come walk into my shadow / Let's engage in a way so that you remain you, I remain I, and we remain we / Let's all three of us walk together you, me, and us."



2018 ITAA Goulding Social Justice Award winners (from left): Felipe Garcia, Valerie Batts, and Lucy Freedman



Janice Dowson (left) and Gloria Noriega Gayol



(From left) Len Campos, Isabelle Crespelle, and Abe Wagner



(From left) John McNeel, Graham Barnes, and Tom Nissley



Elana Leigh (left) and Emily Keller



(From left) Michelle Thomé, Deepak Dhananjaya, and Alessandra Pierini

TEW trainers and participants (from left): Alberto Jorge Close (trainer), Julie Hay (trainer), Jessica D'Andrea, Alva Ramirez Villatoro, Joy Roshan, Geraldo Fernandez Gavito (translator), and Lynda Tongue (trainer)





Steve Karpman (left) and Richard Erskine



CTA exam board (from left): Michael Harsh, Prathitha Gangadharan, Clarissa Ruggeri (new CTA), Anisha Pandya, and board chair Laurie Hawkes



Gloria Noriega Gayol with some of her students from Mexico (from left): María Renée Gándara, Clarissa Ruggieri, Rosario Chavez, Rolando Barrenechea, Gloria, Alva Ramírez, Elizabeth Cuellar, and Gerardo Fernández



Janet Lee O'Connor and her husband, Michael O'Connor



Chie Shigeta and CTA trainee Yuri Fujii at the women's meeting



CTA Exam Supervisor Alessandra Pierini (left) and TSTA Exam Supervisor Chitra Ravi



(Front from left): Clarissa Ruggieri, Gloria Noriega Gayol, María Renée Gándara; (back from left): Gerardo Fernández, Alva Ramírez, Antonio Fernández, and Elizabeth Cuellar



Amaia Mauriz Etxabe at the Women's Meeting

Call for Papers: TAJ Theme Issue on Concepts of Cure

by Helen Rowland and Ales Zivkovic

It has been 39 years since the *Transactional Analysis Journal* last dedicated a theme issue to the concepts of cure. The April 1980 issue, guest edited by John R. McNeel, contained an abundance of articles on the subject from all four fields. In his editorial for that issue, McNeel asked the two "consuming questions" of his professional life: "What brings about change?" and "What constitutes cure?" These questions proved to be not just enduring but also tantalizingly difficult to answer even 39 years later. As McNeel (1980) wrote:

> Eric Berne urged fellow TA practitioners to think constantly in terms of cure. His early writings instill an excitement as he spoke of "cure" versus "progress." This excitement was born of a devotion to his craft—of his want for good, honest, self critical forms of doing therapy and working with people in which the yardstick would always be the highest goal he could hold imaginable—"cure"… cure of individuals, families, organizations, couples, groups, society, and, yes, the world community. His challenge to us was always, always to keep our sights on this perhaps unattainable, always elusive goal. (p. 94)

Berne's (1961) four stages of cure—social control, symptomatic relief, transference cure, and psychoanalytic cure or script cure (Berne, 1972)—include reference to both behavioral outcomes and intrapsychic reorganization. But there remains a productive and critical tension within the practice of TA as to where the locus of change ought to be. While behavioral theories of psychological change have been subject to critique over the past 30 years, and observable, behavioral outcomes are no longer considered the gold standard for understandings of "cure," some would say that the focus on observable and tangible outcomes is a fundamental tenet of TA's philosophy and should not be disregarded lightly.

> *"Questions about the curative factors of particular clinical theories and technical precepts are as hotly debated as they ever were, and perhaps even more so."*

If we understand Berne's concept of cure from the perspective of script cure—the breaking out of script toward autonomy—we find ourselves with another variable in this formula: namely, what is an autonomous individual? As Berne observed, to live within society we must give up some of our individual proclivities, and we inevitably, therefore, lose some of our autonomy in the service of group membership. How does this fit with a strict adherence to the concept of cure?

One could argue that in recent years the mapping of the theoretical landscape has become polarized between the phenomenological-hermeneutic axis, on the one hand, with the growth of a relational tradition and the positivist-behavioral axis, on the other, with the demand for evidence-based and outcome-oriented practices. Or perhaps one might take a more postmodern view and infer a multiplicity of practices and theories occupying the breadth

of this landscape. What is clear, however, is that questions about the curative factors of particular clinical theories and technical precepts are as hotly debated as they ever were, and perhaps even more so. Should we, as Berne urged us to, hold a conscious concept of "cure" versus "progress"? What does this mean in a postmodern world in which we question not only the deterministic correlation of observable behaviors with the internal experience of autonomy but perhaps also the often unconscious assumptions about behavioral, psychological, and relational norms that underpin ideas about psychological health, pathology, and "cure"?

Because Berne believed that TA practitioners should hold a concept of "cure" versus "progress," it is one of the concepts we ask our CTA candidates to write about in the fields of counseling, psychotherapy, and education. It is as a result of reading the deeply thoughtful and philosophical reflections in our trainees' work that our enthusiasm has been revived to revisit this concept for a theme issue. We are also interested in whether there are corresponding concepts in the organizational field that may translate into the other fields.

Although we may differ with Berne and some of the contributors to the 1980 theme issue about what cure might mean, his insistence on us holding it in mind has led to a continued and productive conversation within the transactional analysis community. The coeditors agree that it is testimony to the respect paid to the value of learning, development, and growth in our community that some of the most interesting reflections on the concept of cure can be found in the unpublished pages of our transactional analysis trainees' CTA written exams.

In the April 2021 theme issue we hope to embrace this diversity of thinking on concepts of cure. We welcome submissions from new writers as well as seasoned writers, and we particularly welcome submissions from all fields of application. The deadline for submissions is 1 May 2020, and submission guidelines can be found on the ITAA website. Please feel free to contact us (helen@helenrowland.co.uk and/or ales@zivkovic.uk) for further discussion and/or questions.

References

Berne, E. (1961). *Transactional analysis in psychotherapy: A systematic individual and social psychiatry*. New York, NY: Grove Press.

Berne, E. (1972). *What do you say after you say hello? The psychology of human destiny*. New York, NY: Grove Press.

McNeel, J. R. (1980). Letter from the guest editor. *Transactional Analysis Journal, 10*, 94–95.

Helen Rowland is the coeditor and Ales Zivkovic is the guest editor for this theme issue.

TAJ Theme Issues

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

"Concepts of Cure"
Editor: Helen Rowland and Guest Editor Ales Zivkovic
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 .

EXAM CALENDAR

Exam Date	Exam	Cert. Body	Location	Application Deadline
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	*
24-25 Sep 2020	CTA	IBOC	Bangalore, India	24 Jun 2020
7-8 Nov 2019	TSTA	COC	Köln-Rosrath, Germany	*
9-10 Nov 2019	TSTA	COC	Belgium	*
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/ .

World Transactional Analysis Conference 2020

Expanding the TA Map –
Sharing Learning Across Our Fields

16-18 July 2020 - Metropole Hotel, Birmingham, UK

Welcome From the Organizing Committee

The ITAA, EATA, and FTAA are combining for the 2020 World TA Conference, and the conference is being run for them by a team of volunteers drawn from UKATA, IARTA, and IDTA. There will also be a TA 101, exams, a TEW, four postconference workshops, and the EATA Council and ITAA Board meetings. We are also planning several social evenings as well as options to have men's, women's, and LGBTQ meetings and some other activities during the early mornings.

With almost a year to go, by the time this *Script* appears, we will probably have about 400 bookings. We are aiming at 1000 and have a venue that is big enough for us all to have lunches and coffees together. It is also accessible for those with various physical attributes and will cater to a variety of dietary needs.

We have negotiated a very low rate for bedrooms at the hotel (£120/night incl. VAT), and there is a travel agency that will help you find alternative accommodation if you wish as well travel arrangements to Birmingham. We have checked on what happens if/when Brexit occurs, and there will be no additional requirements for visas beyond those that apply to the UK already. Birmingham is full of interesting places with lots of history, there are many flights and trains going there, the surrounding area is great for a holiday, and London may be on the way for those coming from outside the UK.

We are already receiving presenter proposals, and they are being evaluated by the first group of volunteers who have joined the scientific committee. So expect announcements soon—maybe on social media even before this is published. Why not submit your own proposal and/or volunteer to join the scientific committee? We are also talking to interpreters and have some free places allocated for them if they are coming with a group.

The conference fee is only £355, which covers the 3 days, including coffee breaks and lunches. The TAlent discount process applies by country, so even though the early-bird bookings have gone, those in economically disadvantaged areas of the world will get significant discounts on the conference fee. We hope you will book soon!

- Heidi Amy, Susan Arslan, Carol Faulkner, David Gibbons, Julie Hay (Chair), Lynda Tongue, and Sandra Wilson


Sandra Wilson


Carol Faulkner


Susan Arslan


Heidi Amey


Julie Hay


Lynda Tongue


David Gibbons

WTAC2020
UKATA EATA
IARTA ITAA
IDTA FTAA
World Transactional Analysis Conference 2020

- TA 101 on 14-15 July
- 4 Postconference Workshops on 19 July
- Exams on 14-15 July
- TEW on 20-22 July

www.taworldconf2020.com
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