THE Script

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Zefiro Mellacqua Honored With the 2024 Eric Berne Memorial Award



We are extremely pleased to announce that Zefiro Mellacqua, MD, is the recipient of the 2024 Eric Berne Memorial Award in recognition of his elaboration of a transactional analysis model for the conceptualization and treatment of schizophrenia in clinical practice. The specific works cited include:

"Beyond Symbiosis: The Role of Primal Exclusions in Schizophrenic Psychosis," Transactional Analysis Journal, *44(1), pp. 8–30, 2014*

"The Transactional Ego in Contemporary Clinical Practice." Chapter 1 in Transactional Analysis of Schizophrenia: The Naked Self, *pp. 1–30, 2020*

"Therapeutic Transactions. Chapter 8 in Transactional Analysis of Schizophrenia: The Naked Self, *pp. 172–190, 2020*

The nomination was prepared by William Cornell, Carole Shadbolt, Susanna Ligabue, Gianpiero Petriglieri, Marco Mazzetti, Mick Landaiche, Diana Deaconu, Moniek Thunnissen, Nicoleta Gheorghe, Marina Brunke, and Maria Teresa Tosi. The following are excerpts from their statement supporting the nomination.

Zefiro Mellacqua's writings on the treatment of schizophrenic psychoses bring a compelling, humane, and deeply informed theory and methodology to the transactional analysis psychotherapy of these profoundly distressed individuals. In so doing, Zefiro undertakes an extraordinary return to Berne's original writings, reexamining and expanding them through a contemporary lens of psychiatric, trauma-based, and relational perspectives.

Although we are putting Zefiro's work forward for its landmark importance in the understanding and treatment of severe emotional disturbance, we feel that his work further

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merits the EBMA for its demonstration of the importance of our constantly returning to the earlier work of our founders to consider them anew so as to renew and expand the breadth of transactional analysis.

Zefiro is a scholar-clinician, that is, a figure inscribed in the TA literature from Berne onward, which, at times, is too poorly understood both in academic and clinical circles. While not a university-based academic, Zefiro is a scholar in that his work builds on, challenges, and expands prior work in TA and bridges it to scholarship in different fields. He is, first and foremost, a clinician in that his concern is not with abstract understanding but with helping others live healthier lives, unlocking developmental resources within and around people.

What is asked of us as mental health professionals in order to meet and work with people whose psyches have fragmented and who have retreated from engagement with the world as others prefer to know it? In his book, *Transactional Analysis of Schizophrenia: The Naked Self*, Zefiro brings alive his encounters with patients diagnosed as schizophrenic. On the basis of sound theoretical reflections, well rooted in the history of psychiatry, TA, and recent advances in neuroscience, Zefiro shows us promising therapeutic strategies with these individuals, taking into account the relational difficulties these therapies may bring, especially in relation to the complexities of transference and countertransference dynamics. He invites us to enter the worlds of psychotic anxieties and desperate efforts at communication as he seeks to reach through to the core of patients who have been so long alienated from safe and enlivening contact with others.

In "Beyond Symbiosis," Zefiro elucidates the work of Berne, the Gouldings, Mellor, Novellino, and Moiso in developing a model of intrapsychic conflict and impasses. He offers an important, substantial critique of the Schiffian model of the treatment of schizophrenia. It is central to our nomination that Zefiro not only critiques the Schiffian model but offers the first major work on the treatment of psychotic disorders since the publication of *Cathexis Reader* in 1975. In stark contrast to the Schiffian approach, which recommended (and sometimes required) a complete separation of the patient from their parent(s), Zefiro presents an approach that directly involves the whole family in the therapeutic undertaking, sometimes even bringing treatment into the home.

Zefiro then goes on to develop a trauma-based model of the roots of psychotic disturbance by returning to Berne's pre-TA (1957) writing about a schizophrenic patient he called Cary, suggesting a model of splitting that resulted in a deeply fragmented sense of self. Then, in *Transactional Analysis in Psychotherapy*, Berne (1961) returned to questions of psychosis, this time emphasizing the functions of exclusion, through which, as Zefiro (2014) notes, "He [Berne] embraced various psychodynamic processes such as splitting, dissociation, denial, isolation, withdrawal, and even repression in order to describe the structural pathology of schizophrenic psychoses" (p. 14). Zefiro builds on Berne's work to elaborate a model of structural exclusion of the Parent ego state and the fragmentation of the Child ego state. He states (and demonstrates) two types of traumatic history: one dominated by enduring abuse, the other of chronic neglect, each corresponding to a particular type of exclusion and resulting psychological architecture of the Child ego state that underlie the evolution of psychotic levels of defending against and coping with life.

Anchored in this framework of conceptualizing schizophrenia is a model of intervention that emphasizes the necessity of protocol analysis when working with psychotic patients. The core of this model is represented by a group of transactions that the author

> ***"Zefiro Mellacqua's writings on the treatment of schizophrenic psychoses bring a compelling, humane, and deeply informed theory and methodology to the transactional analysis psychotherapy of these profoundly distressed individuals. In so doing, Zefiro undertakes an extraordinary return to Berne's original writings, reexamining and expanding them through a contemporary lens of psychiatric, trauma-based, and relational perspectives."***

the SCRIPT

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calls "e-motional transactions" or "bodily transactions" (Mellacqua, 2020, p. 173), concepts that are both relevant for these treatments. He reiterates the importance of carefully considering the emotional and relational positioning of the transactional analyst "by taking into account the protocol aspects of both the therapist's and the patient's life experiences as they emerge in the therapeutic setting" (Mellaqua, 2014, p. 24). In so doing, he extends our understanding of protocol, further enriching TA theory. His case examples vividly exemplify the challenging and vitalizing importance of the transference and countertransference relationships.

We originally intended to include all of Zefiro's book as part of this nomination, but since the award outline refers to book chapters, we chose chapters one and eight because they most directly speak from within Berne's own conceptualization of ego states (Chapter 1) and therapeutic operations (Chapter 8), extending and deepening Berne's work to applications in working with patients struggling with psychotic levels of defense.

Zefiro articulates a position and methodology that breathes humanity and meaning back into the treatment of these desperate states of mind and being that are so often labeled "schizophrenic" and set aside to be medicated with little thought or effort beyond that. He remains a respectful companion of his patients' most troubled states of mind, thereby supporting the view that transactional analysis is "a theory of among-ness":

> This among-ness, a kind of middle ground between the self and the other, is what allows the unfolding of a bipersonal and multipersonal field of relationships that ultimately allows one's ego to disentangle defensive processes, loosen up its own rigidities, and achieve authentic reciprocity with other people. (Mellacqua, 2020, p. 8)

"On the basis of sound theoretical reflections, well rooted in the history of psychiatry, TA, and recent advances in neuroscience, Zefiro shows us promising therapeutic strategies with these individuals, taking into account the relational difficulties these therapies may bring, especially in relation to the complexities of transference and countertransference dynamics. He invites us to enter the worlds of psychotic anxieties and desperate efforts at communication as he seeks to reach through to the core of patients who have been so long alienated from safe and enlivening contact with others."

Zefiro makes a broader contribution to our understanding of the self through the study of schizophrenia. The idea of a "Naked Self" is very different from that of a fragmented self. The relationship between self and identity is a vast domain of scholarly interest across disciplines, and we believe that the metaphor of nakedness highlights the way relationships provide the fabric that covers and reveals the self at the same time—allowing it to claim an identity in time.

Zefiro writes in multiple voices—that of a physician, a psychotherapist, a philosopher, and a poet. It seems fitting to end our nomination with Zefiro's own words:

> From this it follows that even mental health, as an exercise of a law shared with the other, is fundamentally family, social, organizational, and even "political" health (from the Greek polis for "city" or "community"), with profound implications for an entire community (large or small) of individuals. (Mellacqua, 2020, p. 23)

This is social psychiatry at its best. Eric Berne would applaud Zefiro's efforts.

Zefiro is a psychiatrist and Certified Transactional Analyst (psychotherapy) who currently serves as the Medical Director at the Cantonal Psychiatric Clinic, Organizzazione Sociopsichiatrica Cantonale in Mendrisio, Switzerland.

He will be given his award initially during the 2024 ITAA Annual General Member (AGM) meeting online on 27 July 2024 (see page 11 of this issue for meeting details). At that time he will deliver brief remarks. He will then receive his plaque and give his official acceptance speech during the World TA Conference in Montpellier, France, in August 2025. As is traditional, his formal article on receiving the award will appear in the January 2025 Transactional Analysis Journal.

Please join us in congratulating Zefiro on his well-deserved award. He can be reached at zefiromellacqua@yahoo.it

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Berne, E. (1961). *Transactional analysis in psychotherapy: An individual and social psychiatry*. Grove Press.

Schiff, J. (with Schiff, A. W., Mellor, K., Schiff, E., Schiff, S., Richman, D., Fishman, J., Wolz, L., Fishman, C., & Momb, D. (1975). *Cathexis reader: Transactional analysis treatment of psychosis*. Harper & Row

"Exploring Legacy, Legitimacy, and Identity: Transactional Analysis in a Changing World"

8–10 August 2025
Montpellier, France

We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to the upcoming World Transactional Analysis Conference, where we will delve into the captivating theme of "Legacy, Legitimacy, and Identity: Transactional Analysis in a Changing World."

With many participants already registered from many countries spanning the globe—including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, and more—the WTAC 2025 promises to be a truly international gathering of minds.

Our Organizing and Program Committees are meticulously curating an enriching program, featuring **over 80 workshops, enlightening keynote speakers, engaging conference debates, and numerous social events designed for networking and collaboration.** And let's not forget an unforgettable gala party on Saturday night, promising an evening of celebration and camaraderie "à la française."

For a deeper dive into our conference theme, click here for more information.

We invite you to explore the beautiful city of Montpellier, where our conference will take place. With its rich history, vibrant culture, and stunning Mediterranean charm, Montpellier offers the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable conference experience.

Are you eager to be part of this extraordinary event? Secure your ticket now at the best rate available through the following link: https://my.weezevent.com/world-ta-conference-france-2025

If you're new to the WTAC/IFAT platform, simply click on "Create Account" to get started.

We are counting down the days until we can welcome you to this enriching and inspiring conference. See you soon!

Jean-Luc Boyer, Conference Chair, WTAC 2025

The WTAC ticketing system is now open:
https://my.weezevent.com/world-ta-conference-france-2025

International Virtual Training Endorsement Workshop (TEW)

by Karen Pratt

An engaging and inspiring TEW was held online on 12–14 April 2024. Twelve participants and a staff of four trainers were spread around the world, joining from Mexico, the United Kingdom, Serbia, South Africa, Ukraine, Romania, Russia, India, and Kazakhstan. And we were joined by six translators, who did a wonderful job!



Top row, from left: TEW Staff: Traian Bossenmayer (TSTA-O), Romania; Karen Pratt (TSTA-E), South Africa; Debbie Robinson (TSTA-O), UK; Susan George (TSTA- P), India; Natalie Shikina (translator) with Alla Goleneva (P), Russia; second row: Lily Grigg (translator); Carole Stilwell (P), UK; Nims Dhawan (O), UK; Igor Gozhiy (P), Kazakhstan; Maja Delibasic (P), Serbia; third row: Maria Gandara (translator); Gunjan Zutshi (P), India; Oksana Nizhevska (translator); Maxim Razdobreev (P), Russia; Alva Ramirez Villatoro (P), Mexico; fourth row: Debi Davidson (P), UK; Olena Dmytrenko (P), Ukraine; Olga Tuchina (translator); Svetlana Geydarova (translator); Larisa Tyutenkova (P), Kazakhstan; fifth row: Claire Bowers (P), UK

A preliminary 2-hour orientation meeting a week before set the foundation for meaningful connection. In contracting to account for the fact that several participants were coming from countries that were at war, and the engagement in the TEW included people teaching and supervising each other, a moving moment came when a Russian candidate said to a candidate from Ukraine, "I hope that you and your family will stay safe."

This depth of honest connection was alive throughout the TEW weekend, and it felt like we all had the privilege of being in a community of human beings really living their OKness. English speakers took care to sometimes rephrase what they were saying when a translator asked for clarity, an awareness of each language having certain idioms and turns of phrase that were not easily translatable across cultures.

The level of conversation around stepping into the role of a PTSTA

gave us hope for the new generation of TA leaders. There was a deep awareness of upholding the values of diversity and social change, educational diversity, and ecological sensitivity. When reading many of the Training Proposal Outlines (TPO), we got a sense of excitement as to what these new PTSTAs are planning to offer in their programs.

Thanks to the staff team—Susan George, Deborah Robinson, and Traian Bossenmayer—for their presence and engagement. **Thanks also to** Jacqueline van Gent for her technical support on the first day, and the IBOC administrator, Sarah Lowes, for her administrative support over the many months of preparation for the TEW.

We congratulate everyone for taking the next inspiring and courageous steps toward becoming a PTSTA!

Karen Pratt, TEW Coordinator, can be reached at karen.pratt@itaaworld.org .

TAJ Theme Issues

"Relationships in Love, Play, and Work"
Coeditors: Brad McLean and Helen Rowland
Deadline: 1 August 2024

"A Life of Digital (Dis)connection: The Impact on Society, Groups, and Individuals"
Coeditors: Alexandra Gheorghe and Traian Bossenmayer
Deadline: 1 February 2025

Please follow the submission requirements posted here.

Submit manuscripts to *TAJ* Managing Editor Robin Fryer at robinfryer@aol.com

IBOC News

Exams: We have sent out the call for examiners for the next set of CTA and TSTA exams 3–5 October 2024. Examiners should have received an email from us, but in case you missed it, you can sign up to examine by following the links here:

- TSTA Form
- CTA Form

The closing dates for applications for the CTA exams:

- 3 July - CTA exams (online) in October
- 19 August - CTA exams (in person) in New Zealand in November

Contracts: We ask that all those who have signed IBOC contracts (trainees, primary supervisors, and TSTAs cosigning) to **check that their contracts are in date and endorsed by the IBOC.** Occasionally we receive applications for exams but there is no contract because it has expired or the trainee did not send it to the IBOC to be endorsed. The date of the endorsement is when the contract becomes valid and the contract length is set. Please check now, in plenty of time.

TEW Coordinator: Karen Pratt is standing down as TEW Coordinator. We thank her for her stellar contribution to leading this workshop. We also welcome Jacqueline van Gent, who took over the role in May. Karen writes about her time and Jacqueline says hello:

Karen Pratt, TSTA (E)—"In 2021 I was delighted to have been invited by Trudi Newton to be part of the TEW staff. Together we created an interactive 3-day process with a total staff of four TSTAs with diversity in both fields of TA as well as a wide geographic spread. We compiled a document of best practice based on our experience of TEWs between 2021 and 2023. I took over as TEW coordinator when Trudi stepped down.

"We planned the staff input to stimulate interaction and discussion to bring alive the ITAA values of cultural diversity, educational inclusion, and ecological practice as well as inviting candidates to consider the Preface to the TEW (*IBOC Handbook* Section 10 - Nov 2022 revision). It has been inspiring to see the shift in candidates over these 4 years. They are deeply reflective about the nature of the leadership role into which they are stepping. I have written a fuller report of the most recent TEW that brings to life some of this elsewhere in this issue of *The Script*.

"It is time for me to hand over the TEW coordinator role to Jaqueline van Gent. Having worked with her in the IBOC/PSC team, I know she will bring the same blend of rigor and care to this role! I wish you well Jacqueline—may you be part of creating an even richer experience in this important entrance ritual into the next phase in a TA professional's life."

Jacqueline van Gent—"I am very pleased that the ITAA Board of Directors has appointed me as TEW coordinator. It feels like a privilege to be able to build on the excellent work that Trudi Newton and Karen Pratt and their team have done over the past several years. My ambition is for the TEW to be an unforgettable, stimulating, and challenging learning experience for anyone who wishes to become a TA trainer and supervisor. If I can achieve that together with an enthusiastic team, then my mission will be accomplished."

PSC Update

Global Conversation

Karen and Giles enjoyed meeting with the ITAA Board of Directors in April to present plans for implementing the next steps in the Global Conversation. The board was full of questions to clarify the arrangements for **experimenting with how to deliver TA training based on the ITAA core principles.** The discussions emphasized that the purpose of this exercise is to explore the potential for systemic changes in the future and is not about replacing the current training and exam arrangements. The Change-Maker program is the next phase of the Global Conversation. It is aimed at establishing a network of projects with trainers and training institutes that are committed to social justice, ecological awareness, and educational inclusion. We anticipate requesting interest from potential partners in the coming months. Watch *The Script* for upcoming news!

Supervising the First TA 101

We would like to remind TSTAs that **the process of supervising an instructor's first TA 101 is an important milestone that needs to be grounded and fully witnessed.** This might include some discussion before the taught days as well as debriefing at the end. This will take place in real time (not recorded), and the supervisor will be present for the whole of the TA 101.

Haseena Abdulla and Sue Eusden, IBOC Cochairs

Karen Pratt and Giles Barrow, PSC Cochairs

IBOC Exam Calendar

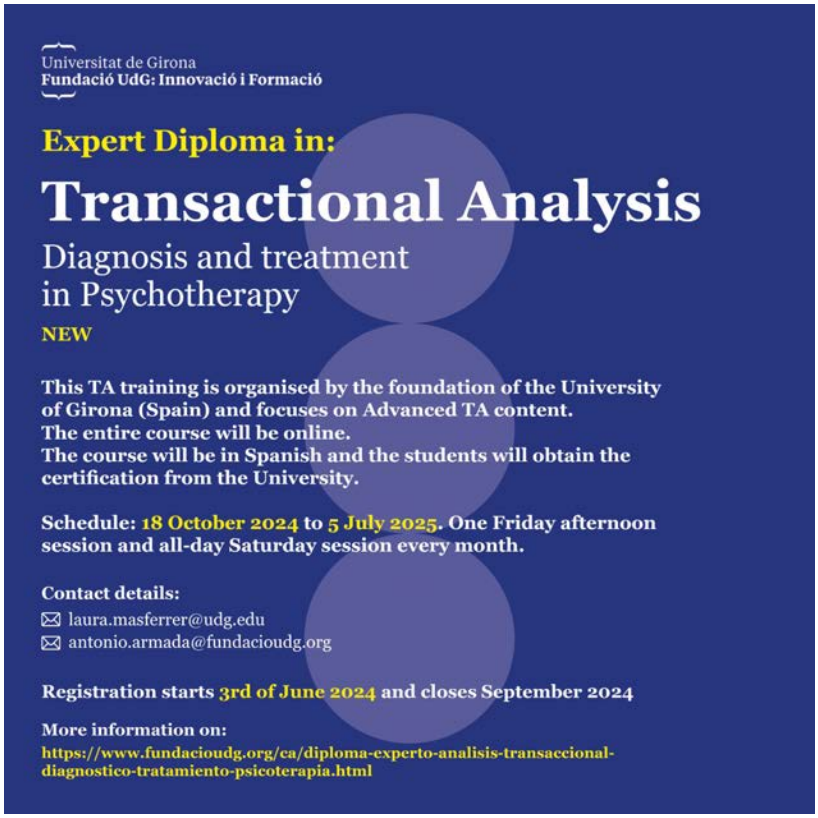
Type	Exam Date	Location	Application Deadline
CTA	3-5 Oct 2024	Online	3 Jul 2024
TSTA	3-5 Oct 2024	Online	3 Apr 2024
CTA	19-20 Nov 2024	Wellington, NZ	19 Aug 2024
TSTA	19-20 Nov 2024	Wellington, NZ	19 May 2024
CTA	27 Feb-1 Mar 2025	Online	27 Nov 2024
TSTA	27 Feb-1 Mar 2025	Online	27 Aug 2024
CTA	9-11 Oct 2025	Online	9 Jul 2025
TSTA	9-11 Oct 2025	Online	9 Apr 2025

IBOC TEW Calendar

Type	TEW Date	Location	Application Deadline	TPO Deadline
TEW	24-25 Nov 2024	Wellington, NZ	Closed	Closed
TEW	25-27 Apr 2025	ONLINE	25 Aug 2024	25 Oct 2024

Note: Written exams can be submitted anytime throughout the year.

Please send applications for exams and TEW to the IBOC administrator: iboc@itaaworld.org
For the EATA exam calendar, please refer to: https://eatanews.org/exams/#coc-calendar and for the EATA TEW calendar, go to: https://eatanews.org/ta-training/?highlight=TEW



Boundaries: Why They Are Important to the Ethical Practice of Transactional Analysis

by Jan Grant

First, let's look at what a boundary is. Boundary literally means "that which serves to indicate bounds or limits of anything" (*Oxford Dictionary*). So, boundaries tell us where the edges are. They also tell us what is in and what is out of bounds.

Why do we need them? Boundaries help us to feel safe. Young children are more likely to explore to the edges of a playground that has a safe fence around it. However, when thinking about child development, the boundaries also change over time, with older children being granted more freedom and, ideally, boundaries being negotiated. If boundaries are too tight, people tend to rebel. If they are too loose, they tend to feel unsafe. We learn what boundaries are and how to set them in our families of origin.

Why are they important in counseling and the other fields of TA? Clear boundaries are intended to keep the client safe and to enable clear agreements between the practitioner and the client. We cannot assume that clients have the same understandings about boundaries



as we do. Boundaries are cocreated, so we need to be able to talk about them. This is where our TA contracting process helps us to be clear. As one of my peer supervision colleagues said, "Boundaries need to be navigated."

What does our Code of Ethics say about boundaries? Clause 9 states:

> In establishing a professional relationship, ITAA members assume responsibility for providing a suitable environment, including such things as specifying the nature of confidentiality observed, providing for physical safety appropriate to the form of activity involved, and obtaining informed consent for high-risk procedures that could possibly have harmful effects. Informed consent includes informing the client of his/her right to refuse to participate in any procedures and/or to end the professional contract at any time. ITAA members will also seek to ensure the protection of clients' confidentiality regarding personal information conveyed through electronic transmission.

Although boundaries are not mentioned directly, they are implicit in this clause.

What are some common issues that come up in, for instance, counseling (since that is my field)? I do a lot of work with couples. Boundary issues often come up there. A recent new couple, whom I have seen twice, has already tested some boundaries with me. For example, at the end of the first session, the woman gave me some notes that she had typed, saying that she often found it hard to

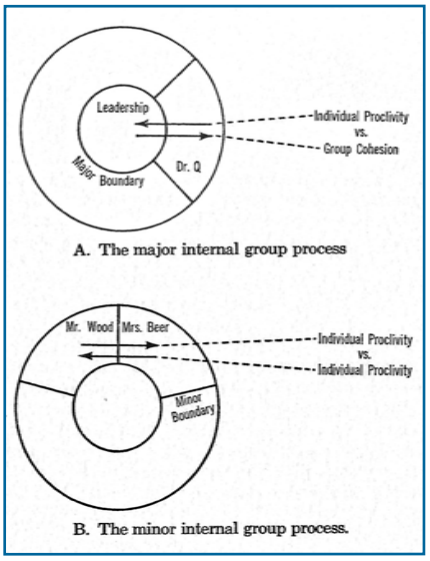
> ***"Clear boundaries are intended to keep the client safe and to enable clear agreements between the practitioner and the client. We cannot assume that clients have the same understandings about boundaries as we do. Boundaries are cocreated, so we need to be able to talk about them. This is where our TA contracting process helps us to be clear."***

express herself verbally so she had written some things down. This was right at the end of the session, so I thanked her and said that I would read them before the next session. There were nine typed pages of notes about her side of what was happening in her relationship with her husband.

After that session, she emailed me, saying that she was worried that I would bring things up from the notes and that her husband was uncomfortable that she had given the notes to me. I assured her that I would take her lead in what was brought into the session. I also noted her husband's response and was glad that he had said something about it.

Just before the second session, the wife emailed me again to say that she was feeling anxious about the session and would I call her that day. My response was that perhaps that was not a good idea when her husband had already expressed his discomfort at her giving me the notes and that my concern was that he would feel excluded. Again, I asked her to bring that into the next session. To her credit, she did. My response was aimed at maintaining a safe boundary around their couple relationship and around our working relationship.

Applying Berne's group diagrams to boundary issues: When thinking through my responses in this scenario, I was reminded of Berne's group diagrams, and I found them helpful to couples counseling. Berne described major and minor boundaries and internal and external boundaries in *Group Treatment* (Berne, 1966) and *The Structure and Dynamics of Organizations and Groups* (Berne, 1963). Applying his theory to the landscape of couple counseling, it was important for me to maintain the major internal boundary between me as the leader and the couple as the members in this small group. It was also important to support the couple relationship by not allowing myself to be aligned with one partner over the other. My role is to be there for the couple.



Berne's Group Diagrams (Berne, 1963, p. 39)

I invite you to think about how you would have handled the situation with this couple and to consider the following questions in general:

- What kind of boundary issues come up for you in your work as a transactional analyst?
- How were boundaries set and enforced in your family growing up?
- Has this model been helpful to you, or have you had to learn to do it differently in your professional role?

References

Berne, E. (1963). *The structure and dynamics of organizations and groups*. Grove Press.

Berne, E. (1966). *Group treatment*. Grove Press.

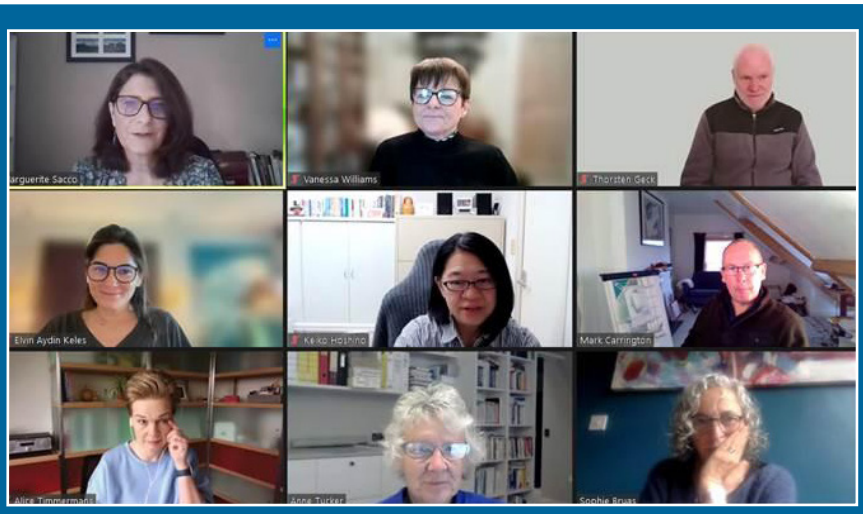
Jan Grant can be reached at jancgrant2100@gmail.com .

Welcome to New Members

APRIL 2024

Amber Bates, United Kingdom
Ekta Baxi, India
Anna Braikovska, Ukraine
Inna Chubatiuk, Austria
Anastasiia Demerkova, Ukraine
Thomas Duin, Netherlands
Berrin Günay, Netherlands
James Hodgson, United Kingdom
Oleksandra Hudkova, Ukraine
Olga Korzhova, Kyrgyzstan
Greg Kromosoeto, Netherlands
Ruth Lawson, United Kingdom
Ana Ljubojevic, Serbia
Olha Lytvynenko, Ukraine
Daniele Mainardi, Italy
Bogdan Markovic, Serbia
Anna Mindykowska, Poland
Daria Modina, United Kingdom
Ajith N, India
Viktoriia Rakitina, Ukraine
Maxim Razdobreev, Russian Federation
Anitha Reddy, India
Carolina Schmitz da Silva, Brazil
Yelyzaveta Titova, Ukraine
Kathy Vidal, New Zealand
Iryna Vseliubska, Germany
Sarah Wilkins, United Kingdom
Maksym Yavorskyi, Ukraine

Onboarding for Incoming ITAA Directors



Onboarding session with incoming members of the ITAA Board of Directors (from left, top row): Marguerite Sacco, Vanessa Williams, Thorsten Geck; (middle row) Elvin Aydin Keles, Keiko Hoshino, Mark Carrington; (bottom row): Alice Timmermans, Anne Tucker, Sophie Bruas

This July marks a significant transformation for the ITAA Board of Directors, with the departure of four existing members and the introduction of four new members. To ensure a seamless transition into their new roles, Anne Tucker and Marguerite Sacco, with the support of ITAA President Thorsten Geck, spearheaded an onboarding initiative that culminated in a meeting on Sunday, 23 April, during which they warmly welcomed the incoming directors and provided a comprehensive overview of their forthcoming responsibilities. With a strong sense of readiness, we anticipate fostering effective collaboration and leadership within the board as this transition unfolds. The four new directors, who will take office following the ITAA General Membership (AGM) meeting on 27 July, are also meeting with the people they are replacing so they can be brought up to date on what is currently happening with regard to their area.

Keeping In Touch

The Transactional Analysis Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (TAAANZ) will be holding its International Conference on 21-23 November 2024 at Te Raukura, Taranaki Wharf, Wellington, New Zealand. The theme will be "Karangarua—Unity Through Diversity in Relationships," and the keynote speakers will be Shirley Rivers, Jo Stuthridge, and Keith Tudor. There will be a TA 101 with a strong bicultural perspective on 19–20 November prior to the conference, TA exams on 19–20 November, and a Training Endorsement Workshop on 24–26 following the conference. For more information visit https://www.taaanz.nz/2024-international-conference. To submit proposals, go here.

The North American TA Association (NATAA) is meeting together with a group of French and Belgian TA people for a "Back to Berne" gathering on 19–25 August 2024 at a beautiful retreat center on the Pacific coast in Santa Cruz, California. It will be a self-organizing conference with optional side trips to San Francisco to the Eric Berne Archive and to Pebble Beach and Carmel where Berne lived and is buried. Space in the retreat center is limited, with overflow lodging available at nearby locations. Those who register earliest will be able to stay on site. For more information, go to https://nataa.net/civicrm/event/info/?reset=1&id=9

The South Asian Association of Transactional Analysts (SAATA) is holding its next conference on 20–21 September 2025 in Chennai, India.

Annual General Membership Meeting—Save the Date!

This year we will again conduct the ITAA Annual General Membership meeting (AGM) via Zoom. The date is Saturday, 27 July at 12 pm UTC. This gathering will also include the celebration of the 2024 ITAA awards. The ITAA Board of Trustees urges members to attend this meeting online.

Agenda

- Welcome to members and visitors
- Honoring and remembering people who passed this year
- Adoption of the minutes of the 2023 AGM
- Adoption of accounts for 2023
- Reports from the president and members of the board of trustees (BOT)
- Farewell and thanks to those leaving the BOT
- Introduction of new BOT members
- Any other business
- Questions and answers
- Notice of 2025 AGM
- Presentation of the 2024 Awards

Registration: For us to plan the event, we need you to register for it. Watch for an ITAA email in the next few weeks with a link to register on Eventbrite. You will receive a Zoom invitation link closer to the date.

Logistics: We will use the Zoom online meeting platform for hosting this event. You can download the application free from the website: https://www.zoom.us

To participate in the Zoom meeting: You must have a signed "Consent to Electronic Transmissions" form on file with the ITAA. Individuals with consent forms on file and who are ITAA members in good standing as of 30 June 2024 (the "Record Date") are entitled to vote.

An alternative in-person AGM will be held at the same time by ITAA President Thorsten Geck at Ohlsdorfer Str 3a, Zip Code: 22299, Hamburg, Germany, for anyone without internet access, who does not have a signed "Consent to Electronic Transmissions" form on file with the ITAA, or who is unable to phone in to a Zoom meeting. Please RSVP to Thorsten Geck at president-itaa@use.startmail.com by 30 June 2024 for details.

Proxy Vote Form: If you cannot attend the 2024 AGM online or in person, please fill out the proxy form here. The ITAA Bylaws state that the quorum for holding the membership meeting is 50 voting members or 5% of the qualified voting membership, whichever is smaller.

Please fill out, sign, and send the proxy vote to ITAA Secretary Rema K Giridhar by email to rema.k.giridhar@gmail.com if you have a signed "Consent to Electronic Transmissions" form on file with the ITAA. If you have not signed and returned such a consent form, return your proxy form by postal mail to Rema K. Giridhar, A402, Palm Court, Thasami Park Residency, Opp Ulavar Sandhai, Singanallur, Coimbatore - 641 005, Tamil Nadu, India. The deadline for receipt of proxy forms sent to Rema K. Giridhar is 1 July 2024, or you can download, print, sign, scan, and transmit the form online to her at least 2 hours before the scheduled start time of the AGM. A "Consent to Electronic Transmissions" form to and from the ITAA is located on the ITAA website under "About"/"Governance Documents." This may be printed, signed, and returned to Rema K. Giridhar to expedite return of your proxy vote form by email.

Proxy Vote Form

I (please print) _____ am a member in good standing of the International Transactional Analysis Association and herewith assign my proxy vote to the secretary of the ITAA or to (print name) _____ ("my agent") to be used to establish a quorum at the membership meeting of the International Transactional Analysis Association, convening on 27 July 2024 at 12:00 UTC online via Zoom, and to cast my vote as my agent believes appropriate in the circumstances. This proxy will expire on the date that is 11 months following the date given below.

Signature:_____

Date:_____

Conferences & Events Calendar

10 June 2024
ITAA-EATA Webinar with Nicole Lenner (2-3:30 PM UTC)

27 July 2024
ITAA Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting (12 pm UTC, online)

19-25 August 2024
NATAA "Back to Berne" Gathering, Santa Cruz, CA

6 November 2024
ITAA-EATA Webinar with Aruna Gopakumar (10-11:30 AM UTC)

21-23 November 2024
TAAANZ International TA Conference, Wellington, Aotearoa, New Zealand

8–10 August 2025
World TA Conference
Montpellier, France

20-21 September 2025
SAATA Conference
Chennai, India

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR 2023 HARD COPY *TAJ*?

If not, please write to Steff Oates at lcfan@me.com . She will arrange for one to be sent to you with tracking information that will allow us to follow up.

April *TAJ* Free-Access Article on "In These Dark Times"

For the April 2024 *TAJ* issue, the free-access article is "In These Dark Times: Exploring Our Values as Transactional Analysts" by William Cornell. This essay addresses personal and professional values underlying (but not necessarily consciously articulated) how we practice and what we define as healthy outcomes for our efforts as transactional analysts. It is an invitation to consider the importance of a professional culture of curiosity and respect, one that can welcome and make use of difference and conflict, stressing the need for the elaboration of theories and values that actively attend to social and political forces that shape beliefs and behaviors. Central to this essay is a critique of the incorporation of "I'm OK, You're OK" as a central value of transactional analysis.

We encourage all *TAJ* readers to read this article and to use this important opportunity to encourage your colleagues and friends to learn more about contemporary transactional analysis. **You will find the free-access article** from the April issue available on the Taylor & Francis *TAJ* website (accessible via the ITAA website). Look for the green checkmark in the lower right corner.

