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Keith Tudor Headlines Webinar on "Avoidance & Engagement in a Disturbed World"

by Luca Fornari



On 22 April 2022, Keith Tudor headlined the latest Social Engagement Committee (SEC) webinar, part of a series entitled "Avoidance & Engagement in a Disturbed World." We were excited to have 194 participants from various countries worldwide join us for the event.

The first session in this three-part series featured Diane Salters's poignant speech exploring the impact on the self. Keith, on the other hand, explored the professional implications of global turmoil for transactional analysts. As the invited keynote speaker for this webinar, he brought his extensive experience with and deep insights into the intersection of psychotherapy and global social issues.

In his presentation, Keith focused on the necessity for TA practitioners to actively engage with rather than avoid the disturbances shaping our world today. He highlighted the origins of transactional analysis as a form of radical psychiatry aimed at addressing broad social issues and advocated for its return to these roots in response to current global conflicts.

Keith emphasized the role of the practitioner in these troubled times, challenging practitioners to consider how they, as professionals, can contribute to resolving or mitigating these global issues through their practice. He urged a proactive stance, encouraging participants to integrate their understanding of transactional analysis with actions that influence social change.

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SEC members with Keith Tudor before webinar (top from left): ITAA tech support, Michelle Thomé, Luca Fornari; (middle row) Thorsten Geck, Chitra Ravi, SEC chair Gunther Mohr; (bottom row) Keith Tudor, Sashi Chandran

Following Keith's remarks, participants engaged in breakout sessions during which they shared personal experiences and discussed practical applications of TA in light of recent world events. Adopting a dialogical approach, participants shared diverse experiences and insights, highlighting the impact of global disturbances on personal and professional lives. **Key themes included:**

- the challenges in integrating refugees from conflict zones like Ukraine and reflecting on local implications
- personal experiences with war, emphasizing how these shape coping strategies and empathy toward others in similar situations
- the urgency to open discussions on topics such as colonization
- the therapeutic challenges of addressing trauma from conflicts, focusing on the need for hope and genuine listening to support clients effectively
- the importance of recognizing cultural specifics in oppression and therapy, thereby enhancing the therapeutic approach for diverse clients
- the importance of keeping soft powers in this world with so many harsh, brutal voices; how can we guard the complexity and our humanity?

The webinar concluded with Keith reiterating the importance of engagement over avoidance in professional practice. He encouraged a forward-thinking approach that considers the transactional analyst's role not just within the therapy room but as part of the larger global community.

This session was another step in our journey to deepen our understanding and better serve a world facing unprecedented challenges. We look forward to continuing this conversation in our next workshop, which will further explore the community aspects of engaging with global disturbances. The Social Engagement Committee will inform you of the date through newsletters and social media.

Meanwhile, **you can watch this and previous SEC webinars on ITAA's YouTube page:** https://www.youtube.com/@itaaworldofficial

Luca Fornari (L4nari@gmail.com) is a PTSTA-O based in Italy. He has been a member of the Social Engagement Committee since 2022.

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Thoughts About Gaza

Dear Editor:

After reading Cornell's (2024) most recent *Transactional Analysis Journal* (*TAJ*) article "In these Dark Times: Exploring Our Values as Transactional Analysts," I felt the courage to start writing something concerning the horrors in Gaza and our community's lack of speaking out about them. It felt like the words percolating in my mind were appearing before me on the page. Then I became afraid that if I actually put them out there, I might be ostracized. This, of course, has its roots in my script and as a wider reflection of a highly divisive and contentious subject that so often results in splitting.

Watching the news, closely following Palestinian journalists Hind Khoudary and Bisan Owda in Gaza and Israeli journalist Amira Hass in the West Bank, and attending frequent demonstrations, it was becoming increasingly impossible not to fall into an "I'm not OK, You're not OK" (I-, Y-). Cornell's (2024) updated articulation of this life position seemed fitting: "What if we consider I-/Y-, rather than being the position of 'losing,' to be an outcome and reflection of tragic loss, despair, collapse of hope, and the potential for violence as we see so often today?" (p. 119).

"Our community responded quite swiftly to the invasion of Ukraine. Training and workshops were set up and therapy offered. I don't doubt there was also caution around those responses given the deep sensitivities to both our Ukrainian and Russian colleagues. But I began increasingly to question the absence of almost any response concerning Palestine and decided to challenge this silence."

His paper expanded on a keynote speech given at a TA national congress in Sicily on the very day of Hamas's atrocious actions in Israel. It felt like there was a part two to the paper suspended in the ether as Israel rapidly responded and continues to respond, and perhaps this is a start and an invitation for others in the TA community to join in.

What prompted me to start forwarding the first piece I wrote (which I uploaded to an online forum and sent around to contacts) was the realization that our community responded quite swiftly to the invasion of Ukraine. Training and workshops were set up and therapy offered. I don't doubt there was also caution around those responses given the deep sensitivities to both our Ukrainian and Russian colleagues. But I began increasingly to question the absence of almost any response concerning Palestine and decided to challenge this silence. It was a daunting experience sending it out, and the response was disheartening.

I began my original piece by naming my cultural identity speaking through the "transgenerational hauntings" (Apprey, 2023) I carry of displaced and colonized family members and ancestors. In the process of writing, however, the more dissociated parts of my identity began to gradually awaken. I began to recognize that, once again, my whiteness is what I am the least able to face. Even as I type this piece, I attempt to speed up and not linger too long on what I make contact with. But Bromberg's words come to me: "To see yourself as others see you while not dissociating from the experience of how you see yourself" (Bromberg as cited in Kabasakalian-McKay & Mark, 2023, p. 5). In doing so, I started to move to a different place, with internal discomfort as a resident companion.

What helps me stay with the discomfort is Rothburg's term "complex implication." "Too often, awareness of being a victim or descendent of a victim in one historical trauma works to close off a person (or group) from accepting their (our) position as implicated subjects in other instances

> ***"Perhaps when faced with horrors like the current situation in Gaza, we approach it unknowingly from only one aspect of our subjective identities. But, if we can bear the internal conflict of our contradictory and opposing self-states, does it then free us up to begin to enter radical open dialogue. . . . Can we then do something differently as an organization, moving us, I hope, toward a culture of courage . . . rather than one of fear or avoidance?"***

of injustice and violence. This defensive dissociation results in political rigidity" (Rothburg as cited in Kabasakalian-Mckay & Mark, 2023, p. 2). So, we can simultaneously be the descendant of a victim in one situation and implicated as a subject in another. We can begin to understand how our complex intersubjective identities can, at times like these, collide, rendering us frozen.

In the current context of Palestine, my multiple subjective identities mean I feel in my bones the deep injustice and affective tension of what is happening, yet I am also implicated in my whiteness in a world that continually reduces the lives of people of color as having less meaning and their deaths less value than White people. I strive to hold the tension of feeling the injustice of this deeply while also being implicated in it. Put another, more eloquent way: "How do we grapple with implication when the fabric of the memories and longings that make us who we are, are associated with injury to others, not only accidental but viewed as acceptable or deliberately invisible?" (Kabasakalian-Mckay & Mark, 2023, p. 5).

Perhaps when faced with horrors like the current situation in Gaza, we approach it unknowingly from only one aspect of our subjective identities. But, if we can bear the internal conflict of our contradictory and opposing self-states, does it then free us up to begin to enter radical open dialogue (Hart, 2017)? Can we then do something differently as an organization, moving us, I hope, toward a culture of courage (Campos, 2012) rather than one of fear or avoidance?

Note: *For those interested in learning more about the Palestinian situation, I recommend the film* Where Olive Trees Weep

Julia Pool
Witney, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom

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Response

I write this response to Julia Pool's letter as an individual, not as the editor of *The Script* and not on behalf of the ITAA (though I am a long-time, committed ITAA member). I am writing because Julia's letter spoke to my deep discomfort (nay, horror) about the situation in Israel/Gaza, which I sometimes manage to push aside. She draws a comparison with the reactions in the TA community to the invasion of Ukraine. With that situation, I felt indignant and horrified, and it was a simple matter (at least to me): There was a "bad guy," the invader, and a "good guy," the country invaded. I had a sense of a "right" and a "wrong" side. Not "Russians = bad, Ukrainians = good" but that "the invasion is wrong and attacked Ukrainians must be helped."

> ***"My answer to Julia is all this mess of my reactions: my confusion, my endless back-and-forth inner dialogue, my appalled passivity. So yes, I am much less vocal and clear about the situation in Gaza than about the invasion of Ukraine. I haven't yet found my way out of this horrific maze."***

However, with the situation in Gaza, I am caught in a struggle. On 7 October 2024 it was horrible and simple: a monstrous invasion, monstrous things done to people who, living in that area of Israel, were mostly friendly with their Palestinian neighbors. I could hold on to a simplistic right/wrong position: the first act was horror committed by Hamas against Israeli people (well, the first act of this particular chapter. I am reminded of Jenni Hine's 1990 article about the ongoing nature of psychological games , and indeed, this relationship

of sorts has been full of third-degree drama for ages). So I went to my usual reaction of standing by Israel (as a person who grew up in post World War II France, after the Holocaust, there was never any question in my mind about being pro Israel).

Then, as weeks went by with the Israeli response, I was daily and increasingly horrified by what the inhabitants of Gaza were submitted to. The deaths of so many Palestinian people: children, women, men, most of them not Hamas, I imagine. And all that destruction, day after day. What will the survivors have to go back to, I wondered. No houses, no buildings, no trees, no nature. And so, so many deaths.

Yet I find myself almost paralyzed. It feels nearly impossible to voice disapproval of Israel because of the centuries of persecution of Jewish people, including because quite a few people demonstrating for Palestine voice antisemitic positions. I cannot be associated with that. I do find myself hating the actions of the Israeli government. "They cannot go on killing so many people!" "They should not have imprisoned Gazans in Gaza for so many years, it bred such deep resentment." "They should defend Palestinians in the West Bank instead of letting settlers do as they please." "They jail Palestinians far too easily, no wonder Palestinians are angry." And on and on.

Then I swing back to "If Hamas would only release the hostages, most of this would stop, would have stopped long ago." "Their actions on 7 October were unforgivable, they probably wanted Israel to react violently in order to discredit them." "They don't seem to care about civilian deaths even on their side." And on and on. I alternate between blaming the Israeli government and blaming Hamas.

My answer to Julia is all this mess of my reactions: my confusion, my endless back-and-forth inner dialogue, my appalled passivity. So yes, I am much less vocal and clear about the situation in Gaza than about the invasion of Ukraine. I haven't yet found my way out of this horrific maze.

Laurie Hawkes
Paris, France

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Conferences & Events

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)

Welcome to New Members

MAY 2024

Meruyert Abisheva, Kazakhstan
Iryna Afonina, Ukraine
Rajkamal Baddepudi, India
Kateryna Bakuta, Ukraine
Maryna Barytska, Ukraine
Jean-Luc Boyer, France
Mariia Bredenko, Ukraine
Sonya Carassik Ratty, United Kingdom
Gülçin Cihandide Ayalp, Turkey
Saša Davidovic, Serbia
Isabelle Delannoy, United Kingdom
Olha Demydova, Ukraine
Sabrina Djefal, France
Joanna Docker-Linnett, United Kingdom
Jaismeen Dua, India
Jelena Dušanic , Serbia
Neal Edwards, United Kingdom
Yuliia Gezey, Ukraine
Anastasiia Golivets, Ukraine
Viktoriia Hevko, Ukraine
Yana Hozh, Ukraine
Benjamin Hylands, United Kingdom
Jennifer Johnston, United Kingdom
Beste Kayacan, Turkey
Anna Konstantynova, Ukraine
Grygorii Korniienko, Ukraine
Vanda Kos Jerkovic, Croatia
Ewa Kotecka, Poland
Anna Lavrenchuk, Russia
Naomi Law, United Kingdom
Angela Lequenne, France
Nadiia Melnyk, Ukraine
Mark Norfolk, United Kingdom
Milica Ostojic, Serbia
Eduardo Paredes, Guatemala
Olga Pekur, United Kingdom
Lisette Plasmans, Netherlands
Olha Poliakh, United Kingdom
Julia Pool, United Kingdom
Georgina Punter, United Kingdom
Valeriia Shcherbachova, Ukraine
Dubravka Šimunec, Croatia
Aysegul Soysal Tasçi, Turkey
Silvia Stanga, Italy
Ksenija Stankovic, Serbia
Viktoriia Starchenko, Ukraine
Siniša Stojiljkovic, Serbia
Assel Suyunbekova, Kazakhstan
Svitlana Tankovska, Ukraine
Nataliia Tomenko, Ukraine
Rosa Trout, United Kingdom
Mariia Vasylieva, Ukraine
Alesia Voronina, Ukraine
Yuliia Yatsyk, Ukraine
Anja Zidaric, Slovenia
Tanya Komicapoba, Ukraine

Professional Standards Committee Change-Maker Project Goes Live!

We are pleased to announce the next stage of the Global Conversation! Many members have been expressing interest in getting involved in delivering innovative approaches to TA training, and we are now keen to formally invite potential partners to express interest in supporting the Change-Maker Project.

Members will be aware that we have been taking steps to increase the ways in which our training and examination system is aligned with the core values of educational inclusivity, cultural diversity, and ecological awareness. We have planned to do this by initiating, supporting, and establishing a network of TA training programs focused specifically on these values. It is intended that the programs be devised locally and enable TA training to reach groups currently excluded from, or at the margins of, mainstream TA training.

A couple of points worth noting for those interested in the initiative. This project is not about trialling an alternative to the current CTA exam. Also, the project supports TA training that integrates new ideas and innovative approaches and increases the diversity of participants. It is not targeted at existing, established mainstream training programs. Crucially, the project has to be international, and we want to encourage interest especially from beyond the Western European region.

We know that many individual trainers and institutes have been waiting to get started, and we thank you for your patience. **We have created a partnership planning approach aimed at supporting the contracting process. At this stage we ask potential partners to express interest to PSC via the emails below by the end of August.** In response, we will circulate details of a first gathering of partners post-August when the coordinating team can introduce the partnering process, and those who are interested in taking the project forward can start this important work.

Giles Barrow (giles.barrow@gmail.com) and Karen Pratt (info@tamatters.co.za), 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/tew-calendar/?highlight=TEW%20calendar

IBOC News

Exams

We have sent out the call for examiners for the next set of CTA and TSTA exams on 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 date for applications for the November CTA exams in person in New Zealand is 19 August 2024.

Applying for an Exam

Please note candidates need to have all the exam requirements met when they apply for the exam. Please do not apply for an exam unless you have met all the criteria. There are exams twice a year, so there is no rush, and to date the IBOC has not operated any waiting lists. So when you apply for an exam your place is there.

Contracts

CTA/TSTA training contracts are only valid once they have been endorsed by the IBOC or EATA, so ensure you have an endorsed copy in your records. We are not able to offer you an exam if your contract is not valid. It is the responsibility of all signing parties to ensure the contracting process is completed.

TEW

We are delighted to have now added another TEW to our calendar because interest in attending has increased. **The April 2025 TEW is now full, so another date in November 2025 has been added.** Please remember that you need to have been certified as a CTA for a minimum of 1 year before you can attend the TEW.

Haseena Abdulla and Sue Eusden
IBOC Cochairs

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS

2025 UKATA National Conference

Contemporary TA: Learning From Across the Four Fields

Celebrating Diversity in Our Practice; Enriching Our Work Together

Friday 11 - Sunday 13 April 2025

Swindon, UK



Last date for submissions: 8 September 2024

This conference will celebrate the richness of diversity and how learning from across the fields can add value to an individual's TA practice. Accordingly, we wish to hear from all members of the TA community, whatever your stage of learning, and especially if you are working with TA in the counseling, education, and/or organizational fields. Presenter hours will count toward your CPD.

The event delivery will be predominantly face-to face but may include a "virtual" element.

Please complete all sections of the form here to apply to deliver your workshop or ask any questions at conference@uka4ta.co.uk.

All applications will be assessed by a scientific committee, and outcomes will be announced by the end of October. If you are making the application on behalf of a copresenter(s), please ensure that their email address(es) are included in your application.

Conference tickets will go on sale in September, and successful workshop applicants may qualify for a conference ticket rebate!

Please check the UKATA website for the most up-to-date information about Conference 2025 at www.uka4ta.co.uk .

#TAconf2025 #UKA4TA #transactionalanalysis

Ponderings About Reframing Ethics

by Ann Tucker

Several times a year I meet with friends to play some piano pieces we have prepared. Last night, being just a small group, our pastiming before sharing our music became quite personal. On the surface, we all have happy, contented lives, but not so far underneath there were shared hurts and frustrations about the imperfect relationships within our families.

Reflecting later on our conversation brought me back to Brené Brown's (2012) research on the fundamental human need for connection and Berne's concept of recognition hunger, which Mountain and Davidson (2011) retermed "belonging hunger." The essence of the human condition is to have meaningful connections, and when that does not occur, the disconnection is often painful.

In our ITAA Ethics Committee work, these disconnections can sometimes quickly, and at other times after much deliberation, prompt someone to raise an issue of concern for the committee's consideration. The petitioner believes their dignity, self-determination, health, security, and/or mutuality (The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights) have been breached.



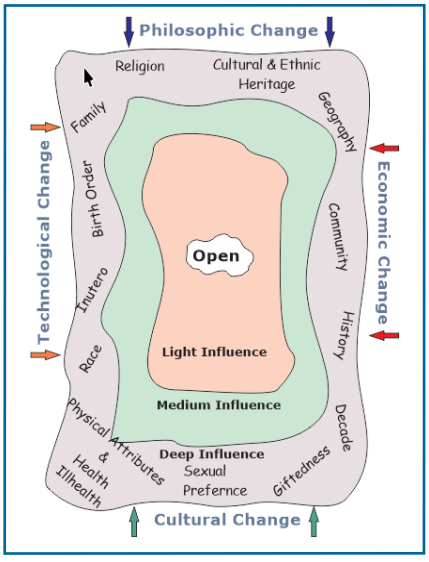
Being deeply immersed in reframing and adapting the Ethics Manual over the past 3 years has given me the amazing opportunity to ponder and ask many pertinent questions: How do we carefully manage, support, and work with the people involved in the situations presented to us as well as how do we recognize issues/problems within the system? And how do we support the petitioner as they raise an issue of concern as well as support the respondent in hearing how their behavior/actions or lack of action impacted the petitioner?

These questions have raised many more questions, such as: Why is ethics so interesting, polarizing, scary, and frustrating? Why do we feel shame, fear, loneliness, and isolation whether we are the person who is raising a significant issue of concern or the person receiving that information? Why do we feel so vulnerable, and why is it sometimes so excruciatingly painful? What is so hard about leaning into the learning from such an event? What is the impact of our culture, frames of reference, personal and professional expectations of ourselves, personality styles, and language? Why does it feel so much easier (quicker) to go to the fall-back position of fighting, of feeling defensive and calling for lawyers?

As we on the committee have immersed ourselves in the Ethics Manual rewrite, the real question emerged: Is there a more effective, productive, and constructive way of obtaining better outcomes for all parties? This and other questions have enabled us to think carefully about what effective, constructive, healthy outcomes would look like when we are all open to learning.

During our pastiming piano soiree conversation, we pondered why a trigger for one family member results in being offended, hurt, and/

or pained, whereas for another it holds no relevance, may not even be remembered, or motivates choosing a completely different outcome? This reminded me of a powerful preconference workshop in Sydney back in the 1990s during which Jean Illsley Clarke introduced us to her diagram adaptation of Schiff's (1975) frame of reference concept. It opened my eyes to the many deep influences on our views of the world and provided me with not only awareness but also self-empathy and a chance for growth and learning. When others shared their frames of reference, it was fascinating as well as exciting to understand where they were coming from. It allowed me to truly value the richness as we each embrace in our views of the world. It helped me to understand my and others' need to control our responses to everyday events and, as we allow ourselves to open our peep hole on the world around us, to instead embrace curiosity.



Frame of Reference (adapted from Clarke, 1996, p. 215)

Anne Tucker can be reached at annetuckernz@gmail.com .

As Jean explained her diagram (Clarke, 1996), the deep influences are the ones that we often experience in early life, and they impact the way we view the world through our open space (in the middle of the diagram). It is like our lens on the world. She further explained that when challenging events occur, such as difficult family relationships or events that result in an issue of concern being raised with the Ethics Committee, we have two options: to close our lens (the open space) and revert to our known deep influences in our frame of reference or to further open that lens to see if we wish to revisit the deep influence/s and update them. The pressures she added to the outside of the diagram are when various changes impact us. We can think about the impact that the resent pandemic has had on us both personally and professionally but also the way the world has changed as a result.

Sometimes this control factor can result in wishing to raise an issue of concern with the Ethics Committee so the person who hurt us can be punished. However, when we bring the lens of curiosity to the situation, it allows for exploration and understanding with potential resolution and healing.

The Ethics Committee's aim in the paradigm shift we are contemplating is to turn the thinking from control where we make sure we know all the answers and know the rules for engagement as well as how to obey them. Our concern is that this thinking stimulates Adapted Child and group think. We want to allow curiosity and not knowing to stimulate flexibility and openness to learning. This openness allows us to inquire and really listen, which allows innovation, caring, and genuine sharing. It opens up a respectful relationship that builds trust and allows us the opportunity to update our frame of reference to one that is much more appropriate to living in the here and now from Adult.

Rules can be perceived as keeping us and others safe. However, they can also stop us from really thinking and behaving in an ethical manner. **We on the Ethics Committee wish to bring about a culture of consideration, of being authentic with our feelings, thinking, and behavior.** Might our humanity be the richness of being truly able to accept our frailties and our humanness and those of the other, to be kind not only to others but also ourselves? That richness of working with difference—culture, sexuality, language, personality styles, humor, learning styles, disabilities, abilities—of seeing the world through our individual lens? Wow, what juiciness!

I believe that our fundamental human need to belong as well as feel valued and accepted sits at the very heart of living fulfilling and satisfying lives. What are your thoughts and ponderings?

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New ITAA Member Badge Now Available!



Would you like to show how proud you are to be part of the ITAA? From now on, **ITAA will provide a digital member badge to display as proud acknowledgment of your membership and your commitment to TA and to the association's professional practice standards and code of ethics.** The member badge is **available at the membership area** (go to "my account" at the bottom) on the website (www.itaaworld.com).

We have written guidelines with important information to support badge use in the digital world. **Before you download the file, please read these guidelines**, which emphasize that the badge must only be displayed in reference to an individual member, not a practice, group, or organization. And it must only be displayed when membership is active.

We hope you enjoy this new feature!

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.

Registration: For us to plan the event, we need you to register for it. Watch for an ITAA email 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.

Grants and Scholarships Available

If you or your organization are in need of funding, the ITAA offers a variety of opportunities.

The Eric Berne Fund for the Future (EBFF) was established to provide financial support for projects that promote transactional analysis, build unity in the TA community, support professional standards, and for research in transactional analysis. EBFF grants are available to individuals and organizations.

The Scholarship Grant Fund (SGF) provides need-based funding for students pursuing certification in transactional analysis. SGF grants are made to individuals for training, dues, contract filing fees, exam fees, conference registration, and workshop attendance. Grants from the SGF are available to members of the ITAA and to students seeking dues assistance to join the ITAA for the first time.

EBFF and SGF grants are available as fund resources permit. If you think you or your organization could benefit from either the EBFF or the SGF, **you are encouraged to apply. To do so, or if you have questions concerning the process or applications, please email Michael Harsh**, Chair of the ITAA EBFF/SGF, at imokayurokay@me.com .

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.

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

Deadline Fast Approaching for *TAJ* Theme Issue on "Relationships in Love, Play, and Work"

The coeditors of this special issue, Brad McLean and Helen Rowland, want to remind authors that the deadline for submissions is 1 August 2024. Please follow the Guidelines for *TAJ* Submissions here and send your manuscript to *TAJ* Managing Editor Robin Fryer at robinfryer@aol.com .

DO YOU HAVE 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.

Transactional Analysis Conference November 2024—Wellington

TAAANZ Transactional Analysis Association of Aotearoa New Zealand

Conference theme: Karangarua—Unity through diversity in relationship.

Join us in Wellington and be part of a transformative experience that bridges cultures and disciplines. At this international conference, we invite you to focus with us on whanaungatanga (relationships) and what happens when they are disrupted. Local and international speakers will lead us in an exploration of how transactional analysis can be used to help us build and maintain crucial relationships.

The conference will be preceded by an introductory TA101 course which will have a strong bicultural perspective (19th–20th November) and TA exams (also on 19th & 20th November). **Early bird pricing** applies until 15 July: **$525NZD for TAAANZ members** and $575NZD for non-members.

21st to 23rd November, Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand

Te Raukura, Taranaki Wharf

To register, go to the TAAANZ website:
https://www.taaanz.nz/2024-international-conference

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

8–10 August 2025
Montpellier, France



We are excited to provide some key statistics about the upcoming 2025 World Transactional Analysis Conference:

- 361 tickets sold to date
- 37 countries represented
- 3 keynote speakers
- 2 conference debates

As of 31 May 2024, we have received:

- 109 proposals for 90-minute workshops
- 54 proposals for 3-hour workshops

The program committee and workshop proposal reviewer team are working diligently to evaluate these submissions and finalize an exciting program before the summer.

Due to this overwhelming response, the organizing committee is negotiating with the conference venue to increase participant capacity and the number of workshops offered. Although we initially planned for 80 workshops, we now aim to offer at least 140 workshop sessions (140 sessions of 90 minutes; the final number will depend on the program committee's evaluation process).

Additionally, we will expand our capacity for the optional Gala party, promising an authentic French experience with a "petit je ne sais quoi." Expect a blend of gastronomy, cabaret, architecture, and the festive spirit of a traditional French "guinguette."

Don't miss your chance to be part of this unique event in the south of France. Secure your ticket now at the second early-bird rate available through this link . If you're new to the WTAC/IFAT platform, simply click on "Create Account" to get started

Jean-Luc Boyer, Conference Chair, WTAC 2025

Registration Discounts Available

If you are interested in being considered for a discount voucher to use for registration fees for attending the Montpellier conference and are not yet a member of the ITAA but are from a TAlent 1 or TAlent 2 country, please email info@itaaworld.org with your full name, your country of permanent residence, and the country where you are currently residing along with your current mailing address.

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