THE Script

VOL. 54 NO. 9 | SEPTEMBER 2024

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Community as a Tapestry: Reflections on EdFest 2024

by Mina Gedikogu

The annual Edfest event took place this July in Suffolk, United Kingdom. Originally set up primarily for TA practitioners in the educational field, it has now become a gathering for a wide range of practitioners from across all fields of application, families and friends, and those beyond the TA professional community. In this article, Mina Gedikogu, one of the young adults attending for a third time, shares her experience of this year's event.

This was my third year of joining EdFest. I have not done any formal TA training, but my mum, Puren, studies educational TA, and having studied psychology myself, I enjoy discussing the concepts and relating them to my life. I first came along to EdFest because I was curious and enjoyed camping, and what I feel a part of now is something our current model for living rarely gives us the opportunity to experience: being part of a community of people who truly share and connect. Doing this among beautiful flower gardens, in an old mill, by the campfire, in a huge teepee, underneath the stars, with the goats and the land, is extra special.



EdFest 2024 group (article author Mina Gedikogu is fifth from the left in the front row)

Throughout the event, during the day, there are a variety of conversations instead of workshops. Topics this year included power, community feminism, "difficult" emotions, and gender identity, to name a few. Even as a non-TA



EdFest 2024 session in the tepee on the farm

person, I find the discussions accessible, enjoyable, and moving. This year, in particular, the conversations I chose to join ended up being more somatic than I expected. I experienced staying with what emerged in my mind and body in the moment and having a safe space to process and express. At points it was difficult for me to stay in this place of vulnerability, but the invitation to be authentic is wrapped up in so much care, gentleness, and trust from others that much of the time I felt comfortable to express my authentic self. I was able to connect with others in a way that I normally only feel with those closest to me. I was also able to take away golden nuggets of wisdom from others' contributions (a few at the end here).

One reason I find EdFest restorative is because I feel the freedom and permission to be on the land as I wish. Although well organized, nothing about the weekend feels rigid, and there is no sense of obligation. I would feel OK exploring the cakes-and-bakes table instead of participating in a conversation, for example, or climbing the old oak tree across the road. It gives me the space to slow down, listen to what is around me, and decide how I would like to interact with my surroundings.

My favorite time of day in Edfest is the evenings. We get together to cook, eat, drink, laugh, and dance. There is a magic to being on the farm, and I feel this most strongly when we gather around the campfire at dusk. As the stars start to appear, tales of mythical creatures and ancient wisdom are shared (by undoubtedly some of the UK's best story tellers); funny, emotional, and beautiful poems are read; songs are sung (in an off-the-cuff four-way canon, I might add); theatrical scenes are improvised; and ukeleles are delightfully strummed. There is no preplanning; people just take turns sharing as they wish. These moments get me out of my mind-universe and allow me to feel part of the universe-universe. It is an experiential reminder of how I am part of a much greater process, both in relation to the natural world and in relation to other earthly human beings.

When I try to picture this experience, I think of the EdFest loom and tapestry. For the past two years, Sue Eusden has facilitated the cocreation of a beautiful tapestry-like sculpture into which we physically wove in string, pieces of wool (including from Giles's sheep), shells, feathers, and fabric. We ended up with a majestic yet delicate spiderweb-like mandala. It is a great physical representation of the psychological/emotional/spiritual processes I feel take place on the farm. Many hands intimately and lovingly coming together to weave conversations, rituals, songs, stories, poems, home-made pizzas, hugs, tears, laughs, and dances into a tapestry of connection and community.

EdFest inspires me to think about where else I can carve out space in my life to facilitate real community. As I witness the riots, hate, and violence currently taking place across the United Kingdom and elsewhere, I am reminded of how many people cannot forge real community and connection in their own lives, and I feel evermore grateful—grateful to be a part of the EdFest tapestry; grateful to Giles Barrow, Sarah Lowes, Katie Shaw, Lisa Paul, Cat Cornthwaite, Rebecca Elston. and Ania Herbut for bringing it to life, and grateful to fellow EdFesters who have been open to connecting and weaving friendships with me. I feel blessed.



EdFest 2024 mandala

Some of the wisdom/food for thought that stayed with me after this year's gathering include:

- "Good where I'm from, good where I'm going."
- "Be the queen of your moment."
- "When is hiding necessary?"
- "What you resist, persists."
- And my favorite: "Black socks, they never get dirty; the longer you wear them, the stronger they get!"

To be on the mailing list for details of EdFest 2025, please contact: edfest22@gmail.com

Mina Gedikogu can be reached at mina.gedikoglu@googlemail.com .

A Look Back, a Look Ahead

by Thorsten Geck

The 2024 ITAA Annual General Membership meeting (AGM), which took place on 17 July 2024, followed the traditional procedure. After the opening, the delegated members of the ITAA Board of Directors presented a summary of their activities, beginning with the President, then the Past President, followed by the Treasurer reporting on our finances and then the vice presidents (whom we now refer to as directors in the professional association).

We can look back on a successful year in some areas:

- We all (and hopefully many more) look with particular pride at the new website.
- Our examination processes have continued to be geared toward online exams. By doing so, the ITAA is providing an important service to members for whom the time is right to take the exam but who are unable to overcome the financial hurdle of in-person exams due to the high price of airline tickets.
- We are preparing for the 2025 World Conference in Montepellier, France (although we will not be able to get there without plane tickets). We look forward to seeing you there.



ITAA Board of Trustees at the 2024 AGM (top from left): Michelle Thomé, Thorsten Geck, John Oates; (second row) Steff Oates, Rema Giridhar, Paula Rodrigues, Cristina Caizzi; (third row) Keiko Hoshino, Marguerite Sacco, Chitra Ravi, Suriyaprakash C.; (bottom row): Jenneva Guzman (from HAM), Sylvie Monin

Unfortunately, **we have not made good progress in the important project of fully setting up the professional association.** It exists but without a tax number, so we cannot pay taxes (that is the good news). However, we also cannot make important financial and formal decisions because we are not allowed to do so without legal protection. Our lawyer and I have now decided to exhaust political options to get the tax authorities to act.

The ITAA Board of Directors has undergone significant changes with several important members leaving: Steff Oates (VP Research & Innovation), John Oates (Treasurer), Suriyaprakash C. (VP Professional Standards), Michelle Thomé (VP Development), Lucy Freedman (Regional Representative for North America), and Chitra Ravi (Past President). I thank them all for their hard

work and good cooperation and wish them all the best!

Our new members of the Board of Directors are: Elvin Aydin Keles (VP Research & Innovation), Mark Carrington (Treasurer), Alice Timmermans (VP Professional Standards), Vanessa Williams (VP Development), Sophie Braus (Regional representative for Africa and the Middle East), Alma Ramírez Villatoro (Regional representative for N. America), and Marguerite Sacco (President-Elect). I am looking forward to working with them cooperatively on the Board

Since the AGM, we have been meeting as boards (Executive and Directors) to work on upcoming projects. We want to be faster and leaner. What sounds like "management speak" has a reason: We have needed more time for seemingly important but minor decisions than we would like and can afford as volunteers. We want to be attractive to new members and remain attractive to those who are already involved.

We would like to hear your questions and are happy to answer them. The dialogue is less fluid online, which I realized when we did not receive any questions at the end of the AGM. Questions, including criticism, give us important feedback as to whether we are on the right track with what we are trying to do. I remember those meetings (as a member) where we discussed, made decisions, and clarified objections. We hope to do this differently in future online meetings and encourage you to engage in dialogue and ask questions. If you have any suggestions, please write to us. We look forward to your suggestions and ideas.

ITAA President Thorsten Geck can be reached at president@itaaworld.com .

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.

New North American Representative to the Board of Directors



We are delighted to welcome Alva Ramírez Villatoro from Nayarit, Mexico, as the new ITAA Board Regional Representative for North America. For the last 20 years, she has worked as a teacher, psychotherapist, and psychologist, framing her work with TA since beginning her professional practice. She became a CTA in 2014 and this year a PTSTA (psychotherapy) because she is enthusiastic about disseminating and training transactional analysts in her country. She has been a member of the ITAA DEIA Task Force to support the analysis of the experiences of ITAA members regarding issues such as inclusion, equity, diversity, and accessibility with an enthusiastic team of colleagues from around the world. Throughout her career she has helped to disseminate TA in Mexico through conferences, workshops, and teaching, mainly in Spanish, and she hopes to expand that experience by contacting others interested in actively participating as ITAA members and contributing to a sense of belonging to a diverse and inclusive community that recognizes the potential of OKness in each person. Alva plans to actively participate in meetings and follow up in her region facilitated by the technology that bridges geographical distances.

She is committed to following Lucy Freedman's impressive trajectory and to continuing the efforts to provide resources to strengthen community ties, integration, and identity through our common language, TA. Her vision as Regional Representative in North America is to strengthen support networks among ITAA members, promote TA training in accordance with ethical and professional guidelines, and expand our presence in the community to reach a wider and more diverse audience interested in living the TA philosophy, values, and practice.

ITAA Awards Presented During ITAA AGM

Among the highlights of this year's Annual General Membership meeting was the presentation of ITAA's 2024 Awards to two outstanding individuals. Congratulations to Zefiro Mellacqua and Chitra Ravi!



ITAA Vice President Research & Innovation Steff Oates (top right) introduced 2024 Eric Berne Memorial Award winner Zefiro Mellacqua (upper left) during the 2024 AGM. ITAA President Thorsten Geck (lower left) introduced 2024 ITAA Service Award winner Chitra Ravi (below right).

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. 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. Zefiro's full address will be published in the January 2025 *Transactional Analysis Journal*, and he will be presented with his award plaque during the 2025 WTAC in Montpellier, France. View the recording of Zefiro's award acceptance speech here: https://loom.ly/aCHvVtA

Chitra Ravi is the recipient of the ITAA Service Award in acknowledgment of her exceptional dedication and impactful service to the association over many years. Chitra's unwavering commitment is evident through her diverse involvement, demonstrating her leadership skills and ethical responsibility. Chitra has served the ITAA as IBOC Cochair in 2012; ITAA Board of Trustees Representative for the Southeast Asia Region; ITAA Vice President Operations, during which she was also involved in planning the 2020 World TA Conference; and as ITAA's 2022-2023 President. View the recording of Chitra's award acceptance speech here: https://loom.ly/QDHpbUI



In May 2024, while in India, ITAA President Thorsten Geck personally presented ITAA Service Award winner Chitra Ravi (center) with her award plaque while ITAA Secretary Rema Giridhar helped in the celebration.

the SCRIPT

Newsletter of the International Transactional Analysis Association
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email: info@itaaworld.org
website: www.itaaworld.org
Editor: Laurie Hawkes
Managing Editor: Robin Fryer
Desktop Publishing: lockwood design

Send all copy to: robinfryer@aol.com

Advertising: Twelfth page: $50; sixth page: $100; third page: $200; half page: $300; full page: $400.

Publication of articles and advertising in *The Script* does not imply endorsement by the newsletter, the editors, or the ITAA.

The Script (ISSN 0164-7393) is published monthly by the International Transactional Analysis Association. For information on membership, visit www.itaaworld.org or contact the ITAA at the above address.

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Mark Widdowson: 1973–2024

by Adrienne Lee



Mark Widdowson was one of the brightest, most intellectually energetic, engaging, irreverent, and authentic personalities in our TA community. His sudden death from a seizure and cardiac arrest while on holiday in Lisbon with his beloved husband, Philip, was devastating for all who knew him personally and through his teaching and his many lively books, articles, and podcasts. He was well known and well loved throughout the TA world, as the hundreds of recent texts, comments, and celebrations of him in the social media evidence.

Mark's vibrant energy, fine mind, and wicked sense of humor impressed me even on his Foundation Year at The Berne Institute. He loved TA and was eager to learn—and, indeed, critique and develop—TA theory with wit and disarming perception. He easily passed his CTA in psychotherapy and then his TSTA and became a trainer, tutor, Academic Registrar, and Associate Director at The Berne Institute. He played a huge part in enabling the CTA to be validated by The Middlesex University for a Master's Degree, which is a major contribution to the academic value and validity of TA training throughout the world. Mark's encouragement for solid, evidence-based TA research enables TA practitioners to achieve recognition for the efficacy of our work. He ran the international Professional Excellence Workshops with Ian and me after Alice Stevenson died, and so many TA professionals have been mentored and supported by him in their TA accreditation.

As well as teaching, having a full clinical practice, and supervising many research projects, Mark was a Senior Lecturer at Salford University in the United Kingdom. He was excited by research and was honored with the first ITAA Research Award in 2017 during the Berlin international conference.

Mark ran training courses and seminars on clinical TA psychotherapy for TA training institutes and conferences all around the world. He was valued and enjoyed because he knew his own mind and spoke with feisty, irreverent humor and frankness. He researched, wrote about, taught, and practiced in many areas of clinical work, including depression, narcissism, neurodiversity, sexuality, relational TA, redecision work, trauma, and anything else you asked him to teach! He was a passionate advocate for equality and diversity in his life and his work.

It is hard to imagine that someone with so much life, energy, brilliance, and vitality is no longer with us. He would often share long, loving stories about his dear husband, Philip; always solved problems with a cup of tea and a fag; playfully mocked anyone who was being grandiose or opinionated; and had a disarming, refreshing, no nonsense approach to all matters, however serious. I remember him saying, "It doesn't matter however many f**ing circles you draw, it is our relationship that is most important!"

He was a good friend: warm hearted, kind, and funny. I will miss him with all my heart, and although I usually say "May His Soul Rest in Peace," I know that is not possible with Mark because he will be almost certainly be arranging a party!

Adrienne Lee (happyadrienne@me.com) is a TSTA (psychotherapy) and Director of The Berne Institute.

Additional Memories of Mark

Leilani Mitchell: Mark and I both took our CTA exams in 2002 in Utrecht in the same time slot. Mark was about three doors along the corridor from me. We wished each other luck and went in. After about 50 minutes, when my exam was still in progress, I heard a massive SCREEEAMMM of delight and feet running down the corridor. My examiners were perplexed, and I said, "I think Mark Widdowson has passed his exam"! Each year on 4 July, we wished each other Happy CTA day!

We both went on to become PTSTAs and then TSTAs. I started The Link Centre while Mark trained at various training centers, immersed himself in research, wrote books, and worked at the University of Salford. Most recently, Mark had been collaborating with the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poland to provide trauma-focused training to Polish therapists who were working with Ukrainian refugees.

Sixteen years ago, Mark met Philip. I remember Mark bringing Philip to a TA conference, proudly showing him off to us. Their love for each other has been a constant in both of their lives ever since. Mark utterly adored Philip (and Philip, Mark) and would talk about him at every opportunity. In July 2018, Philip and Mark married and continued to adventure together.

Mark was a BIG personality and an accomplished and entertaining speaker; he was also a quiet man (not everyone saw that) and loved having time alone at home. When COVID hit, I contacted Mark about doing by-donation, accessible workshops for the community to help support people through that time; he was immediately on board and supportive, doing many wonderful online workshops, again showing his generosity and passion and how accomplished he was at swearing! Sometimes we would take bets on how long it would be until Mark uttered the first swear word!

Mark was so proud of getting the job at Salford University and was especially pleased to be contributing to making TA more recognized and respected. He loved his students and the fact he could really make an impact on peoples' learning journey, professionalism, and effectiveness.

Mark was a funny, intelligent, irreverent, inspiring, remarkable, passionate, geeky (his own words), and sometimes frustrating (when it came to admin), gorgeous human being. His contribution to the TA community as a whole and to individuals both within TA and the wider community, is immeasurable. He was always willing to challenge, question, and debate and was also open to listening to others and to learning. He had a voracious appetite for our profession and was always focused on what is effective, what works, what doesn't work, and how we can best facilitate our clients. He was also open in saying that he felt that some theories were not useful and didn't mind being seen as controversial in those views.

I cannot believe that Mark is no longer in this world. I will miss him greatly.

Moniek Thunnissen: I met Mark for the first time during his CTA exam. I was one of his exam board members, and I recall being impressed by his flair, easy way of talking, and commitment to the clients he described. Especially because of the energy with which he introduced TA in an academic setting and all his work on developing a protocol for depressed patients, we began working more closely together. He started teaching workshops in The Netherlands with much success, took on PTSTA supervisees, and visited The Netherlands regularly. Mark loved the gay scene in Amsterdam and boasted to his partner, "Everybody here in Amsterdam knows me." Of course, his partner didn't believe him until they went to a party in a pub and the disc jockey shouted, "Hey, here we have Mark Widdowson!" Mark was easy to connect with and good fun. He had a bright mind with a nearly inexhaustible amount of energy, sometimes at his own expense. He found it hard to limit himself after he was diagnosed with epilepsy. Mark was an import-



Mark in Berlin with his ITAA Research Award plaque



Mark teaching

ant person with regard to TA and research, with many commitments and responsibilities that he could not always fulfill. He was a rare combination of an intelligent professional and a boyish "eternal-student" type. His life was too short, and he enjoyed it fully. He will be greatly missed in the Dutch and the worldwide TA community.

Marij Peters: Jos ten Vergert and I experienced Mark in 2012 in a supervision group in Belgium. We were thrilled with his knowledge, playfulness, capacity to challenge us, maturity as a rather young professional, and vision and passion about TA. He became our principal TSTA supervisor. I have many precious memories from Mark as supervisor and teacher at The Berne Institute, in the Netherlands in our (P)TSTA group, and in many other meetings. Being seen in my competence is a great gift he gave me. Mark was a striking personality, rebellious in a stimulating and respectful way. "Fields are for cows," was just one of his comments. His heart and energy were with his clients, students, supervisees, friends, and, of course, with his husband, Philip. I wish Philip and Mark's family, friends, and colleagues strength and support.

Physis Scotland: Mark's knowledge, practical tips, and writings will live on. He has contributed massively to the TA community at large, and we are proud that he was a founder member of the Scottish Transactional Analysis Association and taught at the CPTI, which became Physis Training Ltd. He supported colleagues involved in both those organizations to put TA training firmly on the map in Scotland. His wicked and, at times, irreverent sense of humor, his quick wit, and his twinkly eyes are irreplaceable and unique. He always had the right balance of fun and gravitas. We named one of our consulting rooms at Physis Scotland after him last year since Mark was one of our esteemed trainers. He was thrilled and promised to come in person to see the room. Sadly, that will never happen now. We send our love and condolences to his husband, Philip, and his wider family.

Editor's Note: We share with the worldwide TA community a large sense of loss and sadness at Mark Widdowson's passing. We understand that there is a memory page where those who wish to many contribute thoughts and memories of Mark: www.online-tribute.com/MarkWiddowson



Mark Widdowson room at Physis Scotland

In Memoriam: Robert Hempel

We learned shortly before we went to press that Bob Hempel, the former General Coordinator of the North American TA Association, passed away peacefully on 14 August 2024. We send our condolences to his family, friends, and members of the NATAA and will have a longer piece about him in the next *Script*.

Professional Standards Committee: Change-Maker Project Reminder!

In the July issue of *The Script*, we announced the next stage of the Global Conversation. This month **we want to remind and encourage interested trainers and institutes to get in touch before we begin to gather and form the network of Change Makers.**

Many members have been expressing interest in getting involved in delivering innovative approaches to TA training and 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. It is intended that the programs are devised locally and enable TA training to reach groups currently excluded from, or at the margins of, mainstream TA training programs.

The project is not about trialling an alternative to the current CTA exam; instead, it **is intended to support TA training that integrates new ideas and innovative approaches and increases the diversity of participants.** So in this respect, the project is not targeted at existing, established mainstream training programs. Crucially, the project needs 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 the PSC via the emails below as soon as possible so that we can set a meeting in October.** This will give us all the opportunity to introduce the partnering process so that 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	Closed
TSTA	3-5 Oct 2024	Online	Closed
CTA	19-20 Nov 2024	Wellington, NZ	Closed
TSTA	19-20 Nov 2024	Wellington, NZ	Closed
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	Closed	25 Oct 2024
TEW	28–30 Nov 2025	Online	28 Mar 2025	28 May 2025
TEW	24–26 Apr 2026	Online	24 Aug 2025	24 Oct 2025
TEW	27–29 Nov 2026	Online	27 Mar 2026	27 May 2026

IBOC News: Exams in Person

The IBOC will organize CTA and TSTA exams, in person, on 19–20 November 2024 in Wellington, Aotearoa, New Zealand. These will be just before the conference there. There will **also be a mandatory examiners' meeting**, which will take place before the exams on the afternoon of 19 November.

The call for examiners has gone out, but **if you missed it and are interested in participating as an examiner**, please fill in the relevant Google form as soon as possible:

- To be involved in TSTA exams: https://forms.gle/9A8ohosN2Sm-H81gw8
- To be involved in CTA exams or be a volunteer in the TSTA exams as audience members or supervisees: https://forms.gle/guwJJQT4QCkC91DV6

Haseena Abdulla (haseena.manipal@itaaworld.org) and Sue Eusden (sue@itaaworld.org), IBOC Cochairs

Recent Publications

Alice Timmermans and Lies de Bruijn are pleased to announce that their book *Seven Alternative Ways to Be Influential* was published in May 2024 by Routledge. The book is the English translation of Anne de Graaf and Klaas Kunst's 2009 version in Dutch. It is based on Claude Steiner's 1987 *TAJ* article "The Seven Sources of Power: An Alternative to Power." In his recommendation for the original Dutch version, Steiner wrote, "I've been intrigued by the dynamics of power for all my life. … Power is almost universally and mistakenly seen as the capacity to control others." The book aims to be an invitation to a good and courageous conversation about the role of power in the private and public domains. In his article, Steiner offered critical comments on the self-evidence with which people take hierarchy and dominance for granted. In relationships, families, organizations and companies, societies, and even on a global scale, we almost seem to take power and impotence as natural phenomena. Managing without power makes it clear that power, and how it is used, is a matter of choice. It is no coincidence that Routledge saw merit in a translation at this time.



Claude Steiner's book *The Warm Fuzzy Tale* has just been republished by Claude's daughter Noemi "Mimi" Doohan and her brother Eric with new illustrations. For more information, see this link.



TAAANZ
Transactional Analysis Association of Aotearoa New Zealand

Transactional Analysis Conference November 2024 — Wellington

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

fullcircle
learning collective

Beren Aldridge – Bev Gibbons
Helen Rowland – Ronen Stilman

We are four transactional analysis trainers, supervisors, practitioners and friends.

We offer a series of learning circles; developmental group experiences to support practitioners to build their competence as psychotherapists, supervisors and trainers.

TA Practice Development Learning Circle

The purpose of the circle is to support participants to:
• Develop and expand a sense of professional identity and philosophy. • Apply theory to practice. • Become ethically minded. • Develop capacity to work in the intersubjective space. • Attend to issues of context and difference. • Build a collective sense of community and mutual support.

TA Teaching and Supervision Learning Circle

The purpose of the circle is to support participants to:
• Enhance their theoretical, ethical and organisational thinking. • Expand their understanding of supervision philosophy, processes and models. • Develop their understanding of learning theory and its application in teaching practice. • Integrate these aspects into a cohesive professional identity and philosophy of practice. • Build a collective sense of community and mutual support.

Led by a rotating team of two facilitators, each circle will meet **online** on specific Fridays in the year from **10am-5pm UK time**. For more information please visit:

www.fullcirclelearning.uk

"Myth and Memoir" with Aruna Gopakumar and Samhita Arni



Aruna Gopakumar



Samhita Arni

On 6 November 2024, the next ITAA-EATA joint webinar, "Myth and Memoir" with Aruna Gopakumar and Samhita Arni, will explore the connection between the personal and universal. We examine ways to blend personal experiences with the archetypal power of myth, infusing individual stories with universal themes. We express our personal truths in a manner that relates to collective experiences. We understand how artists and writers across time have infused their own personal stories with the power of myth to challenge and question social norms and the status quo, creating epiphanies. We will discuss the relevance of the same to our work as transactional analysts.

Aruna is a Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst and a psychodrama practitioner. Her TedX talk "Psychotherapy, the New Normal" focuses on the importance of normalizing therapy. Her book *And How Do You Feel About That?*, coauthored with Yashodhara Lal (Penguin) consists of 50 stories from the therapy room. Aruna is the current president of the South Asian Association of Transactional Analysis (SAATA) and is the founder of the 25-year-old, Bangalore-based leadership development organization Navgati.



Samhita has been passionate about retelling mythology in current cultural contexts ever since she was a child. As an adult, she has been engaged in exploring the critical ways in which women participate and are excluded from both mythological and historical narratives. Samhita has written four books, starting at the age of 11 with *The Mahabharata—A Child's View*, which has been published in more than seven languages and has sold over 60,000 copies. *Sita's Ramayana*, her second book (in collaboration with artist Moyna Chitrakar), was a *New York Times* bestseller and is in its sixth reprinting. *The Missing Queen* is a mythological thriller based on the Ramayana, and her latest book—*The Prince*—is a work of historical fiction set in the time of the Sangam era. It won the 2020 Neev Book Award.

Register for the webinar here.

Welcome to New Members

JULY 2024

Zuriat Akhmetbek, Kazakhstan
Zohreh Azizi, Iran
Aigerim Bakirova, Kazakhstan
Iryna Bonnet, Ukraine
Naomi Brewer, United Kingdom
Devika Campbell-Johnson, United Kingdom
Sarah Davies, New Zealand
Crystal Dickson, New Zealand
Ritu Gaur, India
Richard Griffin, United States
Marleen Kraaij–Dirkzwager, Netherlands
Claire Lakey, United Kingdom
Thomas Lorenzen, Germany
Milica Markovic, Serbia
Jill May, United Kingdom
Karlygash Mukhametrakhimova, Kazakhstan
Mark Oakshott, United Kingdom
Arabel Pacariz, Serbia
Anastasiia Scerri Sevasta, Ukraine
Aleksandra Ushakova, Russia
Julia Zolotareva, Ukraine

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

8–10 August 2025
Montpellier, France

WORLD TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS CONFERENCE 2025 MONTPELLIER
LEGACY - LEGITIMACY - IDENTITY

We are excited to provide you with the latest updates on the 2025 World Transactional Analysis Conference (WTAC) 2025.

Accommodation Options: We have secured special rates for accommodations around the conference venue, with prices starting at just €63 per night. To streamline the booking process, we've created a one-page platform where you can update your stay dates and the number of guests. Secure your accommodation at the negotiated price by visiting the WTAC Accommodation Platform here .

Gala Party Tickets: Tickets for the optional Gala Party are now available for purchase on our ticketing page here . This unique event promises an authentic French experience with a touch of "petit je ne sais quoi." Enjoy a delightful blend of French gastronomy, cabaret, stunning architecture, and the lively spirit of a traditional "guinguette."

The ticket price includes transportation between the conference venue and the gala, drinks, food, entertainment, and a variety of surprises. For example, on arrival, you'll be greeted with a living champagne wall experience—ring the bell and enjoy a glass of champagne, à la française!

Workshop Proposals, Program and WTAC Website: Our Workshop Proposal Reviewer Team has completed the review of the many outstanding submissions we received. They did an amazing job! The Organizing Committee and Program Committee are now working diligently to assign time slots and conference rooms for all accepted proposals.

Social Activities: In addition to the conference sessions, we are organizing various social activities, including yoga, art sessions, healing singing bowl sessions, massages, and sensory experiences. We are also planning city tours for accompanying persons and families who are not attending the conference.

We are thrilled to have 467 participants registered so far! All of the Organizing Committee members are grateful for your trust, and we can't wait to meet all of you!

Jean-Luc Boyer
IFAT President & Conference Chair
WTAC 2025

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


TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS PODCAST
CONVERSATIONS ON THE THEORY, APPLICATION AND SPIRIT OF TA
Transactional Analysis Podcast is seeking proposals from TSTA's, PTSTA's & CTA's for podcast episodes for any of our series in Ed TA, Org TA, Counselling, Psychotherapy or Special Themes. Episodes can be with one guest or with a panel.
Please submit your proposals via the form on our website which can be accessed via the "submit proposal" button on our homepage.
Please submit your proposals via the form on our website: www.tapodcast.com
Founded in 2019 by Matt Taylor and John Fleming as the "3 People In Your Head" podcast, the TA Podcast rebranded in 2024 and has been sponsored by ITAA and EATA as part of a joint venture since 2022.
EATA European Association for Transactional Analysis
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