THE Script

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2025 ITAA Service Awards Announced

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Michelle Thomé



John Oates

Michelle Thomé is receiving the 2025 ITAA Service Award for her extraordinary efforts to create a new website and brand for the ITAA and for spearheading ITAA's presence on social media. She had demonstrated leadership, commitment, and creativity to bringing the ITAA into the digital age.

Michelle's extraordinary dedication and contributions to the ITAA span 6 years and multiple roles, marking her as an invaluable asset to the organization. As the regional representative for Latin America from 2018–2021, she played a pivotal role in collaborating with the IBOC to secure the recognition of UNAT exams, a crucial achievement for meeting the certification needs of members in her region. She then transitioned into the position of ITAA Vice President Development and continued to demonstrate exceptional

John Oates, the past Treasurer of the ITAA, is receiving the 2025 ITAA Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the association. In 2017 during the Berlin World TA Conference, at a time when the ITAA urgently needed a treasurer with deep expertise and strategic insight into the financial implications of decisions, investments, cost-saving measures, and overall financial strategy, by a stroke of luck, John Oates was present while his wife, Steff Oates, received the ITAA Service Award. We were fortunate that John, a chartered accountant with vast experience and wisdom, agreed to step into the voluntary role of ITAA Treasurer.

John served in that position for two terms, and under his leadership, the ITAA's financial health improved steadily. During those years, John ran the finances with precision and diligence, much like a cap-

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INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION

Michelle Thomé, continued

leadership, creativity, and commitment.

Michelle led several initiatives, including the highly successful 2021 Online TA Conference. As the Conference Chair, she ensured that it was profitable and was deeply appreciated for its effectiveness and impact within the TA community, especially during Covid when it was not possible to organize an in-person event.

Michelle's most significant legacy, however, was her leadership in the redesign of the ITAA logo and the ITAA website. She developed a branding process that involved not only the executive and the Board of Trustees but also the membership, a process that was time consuming but also gave the membership the opportunity to be involved in future functioning of the organization. She invested months of painstaking effort, collaborating with multiple tech teams, managing constraints, and addressing the complex challenges of initiating, halting, and reinitiating the project several times. Her persistence in navigating the technical and logistical hurdles, coupled with her ability to build consensus among stakeholders, was nothing short of remarkable.

Her efforts extended beyond the website redesign to integrating it seamlessly with ITAA's social media presence, creating a coherent and comprehensive digital brand identity. Under her leadership, ITAA's digital transformation now presents a unified, vibrant, and professional image to the world, enhancing its accessibility and engagement with members and the broader community. The result of her relentless efforts is a rejuvenated digital presence for the ITAA, one that is not only visually appealing but also functionally robust and user friendly, representing ITAA as a vibrant, contemporary organization poised for the future.

Michelle lives the fundamental philosophy of TA and works with ITAA members, the Board, and our the administrative organization, HAM, in a contractual manner with clear guidelines and timeframes. She is a great team member and inspires those she works with to produce a high-quality product.

In addition to her work on the website, Michelle was actively involved in a range of ITAA committees, including the Ethics Committee, Social Engagement Committee, and the Website, Marketing, and Social Media Committees. Her tireless commitment to making ITAA a true professional association is unparalleled. Her passion for excellence and her willingness to go above and beyond in every task she undertook made her stand out within the ITAA.

John Oates, continued

tain overseeing a tight ship, always keeping an eye on the bottom line. He helped us with his expertise in management, accounting, and budgeting to solve the many financial issues ITAA had developed over the years. He sorted out financial issues, found creative solutions to urgent problems, and offered perspective in board meetings. On our executive boards, we often benefitted from the perspective on an "outsider" whose professional passion is not TA.

John championed several initiatives, including long-term cost-saving measures such as reducing inventory and storage costs (e.g., auctioning books at conferences), cutting down on bank fees and investment charges, and developing strategies to boost membership numbers, thereby strengthening ITAA's overall financial position.

John also brought a sense of humor to the table, often lightening the mood, yet he was never shy about openly disagreeing when he had a different perspective. He was also quick to acknowledge when an issue was beyond his purview and not directly related to "TA."

A strong advocate for marketing and outreach, John supported both online and offline initiatives, including conferences, that not only contributed to profits but also helped increase membership. He was also instrumental in tapping into the Eric Berne Fund for the Future and the Scholarship Grant Fund, ensuring they were not overlooked. He prioritized financing for two key projects: the development of the new ITAA website and the creation of a new professional association. Despite his busy schedule, John was always available for crucial discussions or meetings, even while on vacation.

As his term ended, the board found ourselves wondering who could continue the solid foundation he had established. Before he stepped down, however, John took great care to involve himself in the recruitment of a capable successor.

Our congratulations and thanks to Michelle (michellethome@gmail.com) and John (john@mobb.co.uk). Their awards will be presented during the ITAA Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting on 8 August 2025 in Montpellier, France, during the 2025 World TA Conference.

SPECIAL *TAJ* ISSUE:

Revisiting Radical Psychiatry

by Coeditors Keith Tudor and Karen Minikin



Keith Tudor



Karen Minikin

Radical psychiatry was an early influence on TA, and in the 1970s and early 1980s it was recognized as a "school" of TA by Wilson and Kalina (1978), Woollams and Brown (1978), and Karpman (1981). Informed by its analysis of alienation, oppression, deception, and mystification and its practice conducted primarily in groups, radical psychiatry, especially through the work of Claude Steiner and others (Steiner et al., 1975), contributed to TA with regard to the script matrix, the Pig Parent (P_1), the stroke economy, cooperative contracts, psychomechanics, and, more generally, to viewing and promoting TA as a social psychology. Although most of its early proponents were psychologists, social workers, and community activists, its theory is applicable across all fields of practice.

Although not referenced much in the 1980s and 1990s, more recently, and primarily through the work of the editors of this special issue, radical psychiatry has been enjoying something of a revival in TA. Radical psychiatry was known for its examination of alienation, power, and dynamics including the psychodynamics of deception, mystification, and isolation. It also formulated a way of bringing about social and psychological recovery via awareness and cooperation leading to liberation. The scope of this field speaks directly in relevant ways to the challenges of our increasingly complex world. Hence, it seems timely to plan this special issue entitled "Radical Psychiatry: Revisiting and Revitalizing TA's Critical Tradition for Contemporary Challenges."

We are now calling for papers that invite transactional analysts to review, apply, evaluate, and synthesize the theory and practice of radical psychiatry in the context of contemporary challenges. These may be in practice—in all fields—including the education/training of transactional analysts. In professional life, there is opportunity to position TA in relation to the recognition and "legal" regulation of transactional analysts and the espoused neutrality of TA organizations. In the social/political world, there is scope to explore conflict and war, including the lived experience of oppressed groups and the dynamics of silence and silencing with regard to some conflicts and particular issues.

For the Submission Guidelines for preparing papers for the *TAJ*, please visit this link. **The deadline for submissions is 1 February 2026.**

Keith Tudor can be reached at keith.tudor@aut.ac.nz and Karen Minikin can be reached at karen@insights-sw.co.uk

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Engage with the ITAA: Join Us in Shaping the Future

by Thorsten Geck

Our association thrives because of you—your passion, your engagement, and your commitment to the values of transactional analysis (TA). The ITAA is a dynamic community shaped by the people who actively participate in it.

When I stepped into the role of president, it was not through a contested election but through a willingness to serve. The ITAA follows democratic principles: When there is a choice to be made, elections take place. But **leadership is not about formalities: It is about people stepping forward, getting involved, and participating** to bring TA into awareness as a theory and an approach.

Your Membership: More Than Just a Status

In *The Structures and Dynamics of Organizations and Groups*, Eric Berne (1963) described how membership in a community evolves and moves through different stages of engagement. He distinguished various classes of membership: accidental, voluntary, obligatory, and by invitation. Additionally, membership can also be based on fulfilling a specific condition or being appointed as a delegate. This dynamic nature of membership reflects what is going on in organizations. At some point, TA may have sparked your interest, and you voluntarily became a member. Perhaps you sought connection, knowledge, or professional development. For those pursuing certification, membership becomes a required step.

But the ITAA is more than just an organization you belong to—it is a space where you can contribute, lead, and grow.

How You Can Get Involved

In the ITAA, leadership is open to all. There are only a few requirements. Our system is based on voluntary participation: If you feel called to take on a role, you can nominate yourself, present your vision, and be elected or appointed by your peers. Over recent years, we have noticed that more and more members are personally invited to take on leadership positions. While this can be flattering, ideally, leadership should be a choice, not just an invitation.

We need engaged members who bring both enthusiasm and competence to the ITAA. If you have ever considered stepping into a leadership role, now is the time!

You Matter

Every member—whether new or experienced—has a role to play in shaping the ITAA's future. By stepping up, you not only help develop the organization but also deepen your connection with the ITAA community. Leadership is an opportunity to collaborate, innovate, and ensure that our association remains vibrant and forward moving.

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

Here are the positions for which we are currently seeking volunteers:

- Director Professional Standards
- Regional Representative for Australasia and The Pacific
- Eric Berne Memorial Award Committee Chair
- ITAA Research Award Committee Chair

Take the Next Step

Curious about these opportunities and other opportunities? **Reach out to your Regional Representative, a member of the Board of Directors, or check out the job descriptions on our website.** We are happy to answer any questions about how you can become more actively involved. And if you are interested in being considered for one of the positions currently open, please let me know. Your engagement is what keeps the ITAA strong!

Reference

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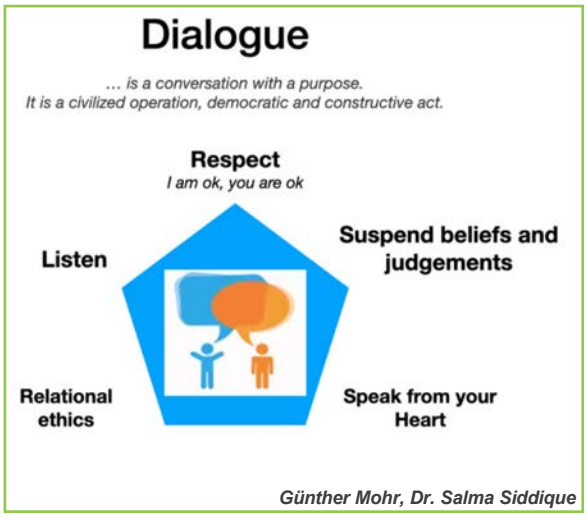
Seeking a New Chair for the Research Award Committee

Do you have expertise and demonstrated competence in transactional analysis research? Are you a member in good standing with ITAA? If so, consider becoming the new Chair of the Research Award Committee! The chair is responsible for overseeing and publicizing the call for nominations; overseeing the nominating, ranking, and voting processes; and working with committee members to develop and improve committee operations. The chair will also work with the Director Research & Innovation and the ITAA Board of Directors (BOD) to ensure that the TA community worldwide is informed about and engaged in the ITAARA process. The term for chair is 3 years. If you are interested in serving as chair, please submit a letter of interest and a copy of your CV to the ITAA office. Please consider joining us in this important work! Contact Elvin Aydin Keles, Director Research & Innovation (director_r-i@itaaworld.com)

Social Engagement Committee New Members Sought

The Social Engagement Committee (SEC) plays a vital role in serving the TA community by offering engaging workshops and exploring relevant topics such as LGBTQ+ issues, eco-TA, and the impact of global disturbances on the personal and professional lives of TA practitioners. The SEC's mission is to foster dialogue around political and social themes that intersect with the work and lives of TA practitioners. Living and working with TA does not occur in isolation; it is deeply influenced by the societal and political contexts we navigate. Transactional analysis has a rich history of engagement with political and social dimensions. From the early contributions of figures like Claude Steiner, Martin Groder, and Muriel James, to contemporary practitioners actively involved in social and political initiatives, TA has consistently provided a framework for addressing societal challenges. The SEC has established a strong foundation and remains committed to continuing this important work. **We are interested in welcoming new individuals to join the committee, so if you are passionate about exploring the intersection of TA, politics, and social issues, we encourage you to get involved** and help shape the future of the SEC. Contact: info@mohr-coaching.de



Welcome to New Members

JANUARY 2025

Zhanar Azhdurli, Kazakhstan
Karen Baguley, United Kingdom
Gabriella Boniotti, Italy
Jean-Christian Bourion, France
Lynessa Coutto, India
Janani Damodharan, India
Susan Danford, South Africa
Samantha Elvyhart, United Kingdom
Pritha Ghosh, India
Joanna Gosk, Poland
Catherine Hall, United Kingdom
Mihaela-Leocadia Hartescu, Italy
Lea Horvat, Croatia
Azra Imširović, Croatia
Natalija Isailovic, New Zealand
Alina Lavrishcheva, Russia
Deepa Madhu, United Kingdom
Nathan McLachlan, United Kingdom
Małgorzata Mrug, Poland
Anand Phatak, India
Michelle Price, Australia
Sumithra Ramachandran, India
Debbie Rowlands, United Kingdom
Martin Škurla, Czech Republic
Xiao Sun, China
Andrea Vidovic, Croatia

Conferences & Events Calendar

11–13 April 2025
UKATA National Conference
Swindon, UK
conference@uka4ta.co.uk

8–10 August 2025
World TA Conference
Montpellier, France

20-21 September 2025
SAATA Conference
Chennai, India



Three ITAA Past Presidents meeting up in South Africa in fall 2024 (from left): Elana Leigh, Diane Salters, and Servaas van Beekum

Next SEC Webinar Scheduled for 6 May

The ITAA Social Engagement Committee (SEC) had planned for a **three webinar series on the theme of "Avoidance & Engagement in a Disturbed World."** The first two of the series were presented last year on 23 January and 22 April. **We are proud to invite you to join us for the final part of this series on 6 May 2025 at 8am UTC.** In this 90-min webinar, we will explore the community self: "Building Stronger TA Community Bonds to Hold Difficulties Together" with two inspiring speakers: Marina Rajan, TSTA-E, and Keith Tudor, TSTA-P. Don't miss your chance to engage in meaningful discussions and contribute your thoughts on fostering unity and support within our communities. To register, go here.



Teaching Ethics Can Be Fun!

by Michelle Thomé

Ethics is one of the topics I most enjoy teaching in transactional analysis (TA) training. I think this is because I relish engaging with ethical questioning, reflecting on how my values and principles influence my decisions and interactions. I think that every decision has an ethical aspect.

When I was at university, I "turned up my nose" at the first philosophy and sociology classes in the course. I imagined they would be dull. However, over time, I became fascinated by the practical application of these concepts and eventually became an admirer of these topics. So much so that when I decided to pursue a master's degree, I chose sociology as my field of study.

Recently, in an online class for a group of TA trainees in Brazil, I began with a simple yet engaging activity: I asked them to draw, using colored pencils and markers, what came to mind when they thought about ethics. This was the first activity of the class, meaning they had not yet been exposed to the theoretical content. The result was surprising: Spontaneous perceptions of ethics were transformed into symbolic images, dilemmas, and personal values. With their permission, I share here two of these drawings.

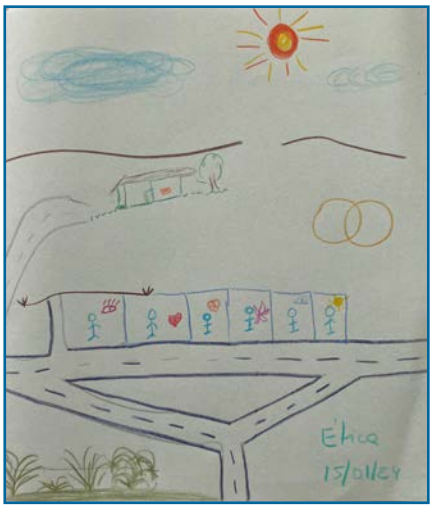


Figure 1: Ethics as a Path



Figure 2: Ethics as a Compass

Following this, I invited each participant to present their drawing and explain its meaning to the group. As they spoke, I noted down keywords and examples on the virtual board. There were moments of joy, expressed through smiles and laughter. Then, I introduced the ethical principles outlined in the Transactional Analysis Ethics Code, and together we made connections with the concepts they had already brought forward. It was like watching a beautiful puzzle come together before our eyes! As a result, I noticed a seamless integration between their preexisting knowledge and the concepts I was introducing as the facilitator of this learning process. We encountered confirmations, new insights, and some contrasts along the way.

To prepare the group for the next topic, deontology (professional ethics), I proposed an interactive exercise. Participants were divided into pairs to discuss a professional situation with a relevant ethical aspect. Each pair selected a case to reflect on in relation to how the statute's principles could be applied and later shared their insights with the



"The ITAA Ethics Committee is considering gathering content from transactional analysis trainers to make available to colleagues in a dedicated area on the ITAA website in order to foster an exchange of best practices in ethics education. What do you think of this idea?"

whole group. The most fascinating part? Many pairs revisited their initial drawings to deepen their reflections! This connection had not been planned, and it became a learning moment for me: Next time, I can explicitly suggest this correlation.

The trainee who drew the compass at the beginning of the class said, "My understanding that ethics is a compass has become even stronger. To use the compass, I need to be present, in my Adult. I need to look at my surroundings, situate myself where I am, who the other person is, and what's around me. So, as I realized and positively qualified my existential position, considering the code of ethics that supports our work, I felt confident in deciding what to do, and I'm going to expand my work."

I believe this approach made learning more dynamic, engaging, and meaningful. Moreover, this educational experience aligns with the principle of empowerment because I was able to initially assess the trainees' existing knowledge and then provide guidance to support their learning within the group context.

The ITAA Ethics Committee is considering gathering content from transactional analysis trainers to make available to colleagues in a dedicated area on the ITAA website in order to foster an exchange of best practices in ethics education. We believe this could be a valuable opportunity to share different approaches and teaching resources, thereby enriching ethics education within our community. What do you think of this idea? Please share your thoughts via email at ethics_committee@itaaworld.com .

Together, we can make ethics learning lighter, more engaging, inspiring, and meaningful!

Michelle Thomé is a member of the ITAA Ethics Committee and can be reached at michellethome@gmail.com .

January *TAJ* Free-Access Article on "Video Gaming as a Bridge to the Real Self: From Avoidance and Disorder to Connection and Intimacy"

From the January 2025 *Transactional Analysis Journal*, the free-access article is "Video Gaming as a Bridge to the Real Self: From Avoidance and Disorder to Connection and Intimacy" by Claire Bowers.

This paper explores the integration of play and video gaming into psychotherapy, emphasizing the unique transitional space cocreated between therapists and clients who are gamers. The author highlights the importance of understanding the gaming world as a bridge to clients' internal worlds or "secret gardens." The author draws from Winnicottian concepts to emphasize paradoxes in play and the transition from isolated gaming spaces to realms of connection in the therapeutic relationship and in clients' real lives. Case vignettes illustrate the therapeutic journey, showcasing video gaming as a tool for expressing unspoken traumas, supporting deconfusion, and fostering deeper intimacy. The therapeutic alliance is strengthened by validating clients' gaming experiences and bridging the gap between the language of transactional analysis and that of gaming. When therapists embrace games and play in therapy, transformative possibilities become available to their clients.

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 January issue available on the Taylor & Francis TAJ website** (accessible via the ITAA website). Look for the green checkmark in the lower right corner.

Transactional Analysis and Neuropsychology in Understanding Neurodiversity

by Alva Ramírez Villatoro

In clinical practice, implementing the principle that all individuals are inherently OK becomes challenging when focusing on terms such as "excess" or "deficit," "health" or "pathology." Recognizing neurodiversity validates the differences in how we integrate and respond to stimuli, acknowledging that the manifestation of humanity includes both typical and divergent expressions along a continuum.

Berne (1961/1985, p. 78) adopted a neuropsychological approach, asserting that a "complete diagnosis" must consider the properties of the psychic organs within ego states, such as executive power (psychophysiology), adaptability (social situation), biological fluidity (response modification), and mentality (subjective phenomena). The latter, particularly addressed by the neuropsychology of subjective experience, relates to the so-called "hard problem" in consciousness studies (Chalmers as cited in Seth, 2023, p. 29).

At this juncture, it becomes valuable to ask whether our diagnostic inferences consider divergence, difference, and otherness as part of a neuropsychological combination uniquely expressed in each individual rather than merely analyzing based on traumatic events as described by Berne (1961/1985) in his chapter on "Pathogenesis" (pp. 52–60).

For instance, individuals with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) experience alterations in the dopaminergic system affecting attention and motor control (Carboni, 2011). Considering this solely from an early decisions perspective might limit necessary medical or neuropsychological treatment. Furthermore, it is crucial to recognize "the risk of diagnoses becoming self-fulfilling prophecies" (Goulding & Goulding, 1979/1997, p. 14). However, a psychiatric, neurological, or clinical psychological diagnosis does not preclude the possibility of early decisions manifesting as part of a script.

Therapeutic accompaniment from an OK-OK perspective and a recognition of neurodiversity, supported by contemporary neuropsychology, fosters an authentic relationship. This approach avoids imposing adaptations to normative standards and allows individuals to express themselves as they are, promoting self-understanding and nurturing intrapersonal communication. If a patient's ultimate behavior is shaped by "the voices in their head" (Berne, 1972/2002, pp. 120, 302), how different it would be if those voices included one of genuine self-acceptance! This positively impacts



cognition and self-awareness through internal speech (Vygotsky, 1934/2020), as "when an individual talks to themself, they can regulate and control their behavior" (Barragán & García, 2020, pp. 26–27).

Based on my clinical experience, medical treatments and psychotherapy yield better results when individuals feel OK as they are. It is OK not to want to be touched by everyone, it is OK to play with some group members but not the entire group, it is OK to refrain from smiling if the joke was not understood, it is OK to withdraw from overstimulating environments, it is OK to receive support, and so on. This contrasts with self-persecution driven by internalized social persecution stemming from an environment expecting conformity to typical norms (Long, 2022).

According to Aldridge and Stilman (2024), harm occurs in neurodivergent individuals within neurotypical-designed environments due to differences in information processing, which negatively affect self-perception, and constant misalignment with their environment. This often leads to "masking" (Price as cited in Aldridge & Stilman, 2024, p. 49) as a "social-relational adaptation" (Leong & Graichen, 2024, p. 96) aimed at fitting into the typical world. Therefore, it is essential to look beyond potential manifestations of a script, a disorder, or psychopathology to genuinely appreciate others for their unique, diverse potential.

Alva Ramírez Villatoro is ITAA Regional Representative for the North America region and a Certified Transactional Analyst and a Provisional Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst in Psychotherapy. She lives and works in Mexico in private practice both in person and online. Alva an be reached at alvavillatoro@yahoo.com.mx .

Changing the narrative about neurodivergence and neurotypicality involves shifting away from a deficit perspective (Rupchand & Kormann, 2024). A "multidimensional therapeutic perspective" (Leong & Graichen, 2024, p. 92) allows individuals to embrace their subjective, phenomenological experience (Seth, 2023) as a valid way of being in the world, thus making inclusive accompaniment a reality highlighting the fundamental principle that "I'm OK, you're OK, and we're all OK" (International Transactional Analysis Association, 2025).

***The Spanish version of this article can be found at** this DropBox link **or** accessed with a QR code here.*

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TA-O Festival

31 March – 3 April 2025

For all TA students who are interested in organizational applications: Join us online for eight 90-minute workshops presented by international (P)TSTA-O trainers & practitioners.

Language: English.
Cost: 240 € regular price; 132 € for non-EU countries and students who ask for a discount.

For more information: taogrowthcode@gmail.com.

Organized/sponsored by Growth Code.

Multi-Level Learning 2025 in India

by Kala Balasubramanian

The new year brings hope and an invitation to new beginnings. **The South Asian Association of Transactional Analysts (SAATA) has a tradition of conducting Multi-Level Learning (MLL) events at the beginning of the year**, where TA trainees, trainers, and supervisors engage in experiential learning together around a chosen theme.

The 24th MLL was held in Bangalore, India, on 4-5 January 2025 and attended by 75 participants and 13 faculty members. The theme was "Dismantling Oppression: An Exploration Through a TA Lens to Reclaim Our Power and Take Responsibility."

The MLL Structure

Participants were divided into smaller groups, facilitated by different faculty members. Each day had an opening plenary in the morning and a closing plenary in the evening. There were two small-group sessions on subthemes each day. The Day 2 plenary featured an expert lecture and exam celebrations.

Post the plenary, each group went to their respective rooms, and the exploration of each subtheme was



The 2025 MLL Group



2025 MLL expert guest lecturer Dr. Ashwini

facilitated by a faculty member (CTA/PTSTA). This was followed by supervision of the facilitation by a supervisor (CTA/PTSTA/TSTA) and supervision of the supervision by a TSTA. This was followed by a concretization process during which the whole group came together and reflected on the proceedings. Multi-level learning in action!

This Year's MLL Event

The convener of the 2025 MLL was Prathitha Gangadharan (PTSTA-P), who offered a warm welcome to the participants. Then Piyush Dixit (CTA-P) energized and engaged the gathering with an ice-breaker using sociometry. It was a mixed group, some attending their first MLL and others who have attended 20 years or more of the MLLs. Dr. Susan George (TSTA-P) has the distinction of attending every MLL since its inception!

I, Kala Balasubramanian (CTA-P), introduced the theme and subthemes of the MLL and invited participants to use their lived experiences and to take care of the safety of their sharing but to have courage, stay vulnerable, and offer a safe, empathic, holding space for others' sharing too. I talked about the various social and personal identities that we hold and how in some of these identities we may face oppression and in others we may hold privilege or even be the oppressor or a bystander. This set the tone for the next 2 days of reflection and learning.

The theme "Dismantling Oppression" was initially seen as ambitious and controversial, especially in the current global climate where oppression is ubiquitous and it is easy to feel powerless, helpless, and indifferent. But it is important to have these conversations, to have a space for dialogue, and to reclaim our power by taking responsibility, building awareness, and accessing resources, thereby potentially empowering ourselves and others. The outcome could be awareness of beliefs, feelings, actions, or shifts in emotions.

Four subthemes were identified by which the structure, cause, and impact of oppression were explored with the intent of recognizing visible and invisible oppression and generating viable options.

- ***What Is Oppression:*** Various ways of knowing and understanding oppression were explored. Session faculty facilitated the process of exploring the subjectivities of experiences and helped make meaning using a TA lens.
- ***Oppression and the Intrapsychic Process:*** The groups explored how oppressive messages are internalized and impact the individual. The facilitators invited an exploration and accounting of personal power in the context of being oppressed and/or being the oppressor.
- ***Oppression in the Interpersonal and Institutional World:*** How oppression shows up in interpersonal contexts was explored by the groups. Participants explored their own role in being the oppressed/oppressor/bystander and recognized the privilege they might hold. The role of institutions such as family, workplace, organizations, and so on in enabling and perpetuating oppression was explored. As TA professionals, participants used a TA lens to explore the themes.
- ***Oppression in Society at Large:*** The groups explored how oppression is deeply entrenched in the social and cultural context. The facilitators enabled the group to experience safety and solidarity



Kala Balasubramanian givng her introductory presentation

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Our thanks to Bilal Abdurahman A for the photos.



2025 MLL Faculty group



2025 MLL group presenting their learning in the plenary session on Day 2



2025 MLL convener welcome with Prathitha Gangadharan (left) with Piyush Dixit

in the group, allowing recognition of personal power and collective responsibility.

Expert Lecture

The plenary on the morning of the second day was led by Dr. Ashwini N. V., founder of Mukhta Foundation, an organization committed to preventing interpersonal violence and promoting mental health. She gave a brilliant, eye-opening talk on intimate partner violence (IPV), talking about the cycle of abuse, the typology of perpetrators, the impact of IPV on children, and the process of psychological entrapment. She highlighted the three forms of support that the survivor needs and how as TA professionals we can and need to be prepared to offer these: (1) informational support about available resources, (2) psychological support, and (3) functional/practical/on the ground support.

Closing

The closing plenary was a time for saying goodbyes, and participants summarized their experiences. Conversations and dialogues were essential rather than solutions and conclusions. It was a wholesome experience. A participant summed it up well when she said that "being able to sit without knowing the answers was the best experience and learning."

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Dear Friends,

We're excited to share new updates with you!

The WTAC 2025 General Program is now available online. Explore the program page here: https://wtac2025.ifat-asso.org/program/ This interactive and eco-friendly online program page is your essential guide to all the inspiring sessions, workshops, and events planned for WTAC 2025.

Saturday Gala Party a Night to Remember! Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with entertainment, fine dining, and celebration. The Gala Party program is now live, so take a sneak peek at the incredible performances and surprises awaiting you! 50% of tickets are already sold!

Fun and Belonging Program: More Than Just Workshops! We're finalizing an exciting Fun & Belonging Program to offer you unique experiences beyond workshops, including:

- Friday Kick-Off Aperitif & Party (included in your conference ticket!)
- Relaxing sensory experiences and rejuvenating massages
- Yoga, Tai Chi, Qi Gong sessions
- Special activities designed to spark fun and connection

Stay tuned – more details will be available soon! We can't wait to welcome you to Montpellier!

Warm regards, Jean-Luc Boyer, IFAT President & Organizing/Conference Chair WTAC 2025 and the WTAC 2025 Organizing Committee

WTAC website: https://wtac2025.ifat-asso.org

WTAC ticketing: https://my.weezevent.com/world-ta-conference-france-2025

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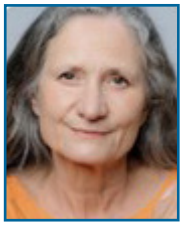
Keynote Speakers


William Cornell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