THE Script

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Serbian Students Call for Redecision About Responsibility

by Marina Banic and Danijela Budiša Ubović

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Last year, in the city of Novi Sad in Serbia, the reconstruction of the railway station was completed, financed with public funds. A few months later, a section of the station's canopy collapsed, killing 15 people (including children) and leaving two young people permanently disabled. Initially, the authorities denied any responsibility, which led to public outrage. Citizens began protesting, first in Novi Sad near the accident site, and then in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, where they blocked streets at the exact time of day when 300 tons of concrete fell on the heads of innocent people. This included stopping traffic for 15 minutes (one minute for each victim) as a tribute to those who lost their lives.



Protest crowd in Belgrade (Photo: Bojan Džodan)

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Serbian flag flown in crowd at protest (Photo: Bojan Džodan)

In the meantime, only those who did the construction were arrested for the tragedy along with some activists who demanded accountability from the government. During one traffic-stopping action, students were attacked and injured by various individuals, including those holding public office. The government indirectly supported such attacks, claiming that people had the right to "remove" those in their way and that the protesters were actually hindering the country's development. From that moment, students began self-organizing, blocking universities across the country by living and sleeping on campus, halting classes, and demanding that institutions do their job and bring all those responsible for the deaths and injuries to justice.

Claude Steiner, along with his colleagues (Steiner et al., 1975), introduced the concept of oppression within radical psychiatry, considering it—alongside deception—as a key to alienation, which he saw as the source of all human suffering. The introduction to that text offers a real-life example of what Steiner wrote about (as well as Minikin, 2018, 2023; Tudor et al., 2022; and authors in the July 2022 *TAJ* theme issue on "Systemic Oppression: What Part Do We Play?" Rowland & Minikin, Eds.).

Following the Novi Sad tragedy, public outrage existed but gradually weakened over time due to intimidation, deception, and, ultimately, the alienation of citizens from their own anger and from each other. Divisions reemerged along with growing aggression. Civic solidarity was almost nonexistent.

The situation changed drastically with student blockades, peaceful protests, and protest marches across the country. Citizens began welcoming students as liberators. The general public slowly started to wake up, reconnecting and resisting injustice more strongly. Civil protests have regained intensity and persistence, reminiscent of Steiner's formula for liberation, which states that awakening, combined with anger, leads to social action (see Minikin, 2023).

As we write this, protests in Serbia have been ongoing for 4½ months. University classes have been suspended since December 2024., and as of 2025, this has extended to a number of elementary and high schools. Citizen gatherings are becoming larger, and on March 15, we witnessed the largest joint protest of students and citizens in the history of our country.

Thousands of students never learn about TA directly, but they have been spreading the TA philosophy in an authentic, spontaneous way that we have not seen here before. They are walking hundreds of kilometers through Serbia delivering strokes to people who are welcoming them along the roads. Some students, mainly from the Faculties of Psychology, are TA trainees and come from different TA schools in Serbia. They know well about the concept "I'm OK, You're OK" and manifest it on each step of their protests. It seems that students, through their personal integrity and modeling, deliver permissions that Gysa Jaoui (see Hawkes, 2007) described in her permission wheel, especially the parts of the wheel "Me and the World" and "Me and Others." They are modeling belonging, closeness, trust, and an invitation to think, know, grow up, and take responsibility for their lives instead to being passive, afraid of an autocratic regime, and reluctant to



Young girl at protest holding sign that says, "When I grow up, I will be a student." (Photo: Bojan Džodan)



Protesters face police (Photo: Bojan Džodan)

question the false and incongruent information about the tragic event in Novi Sad.

Eric Berne said that big tragedies can be, for some people, an elevator in their autonomy. The protests in Serbia are a clear picture of that. Students want to wake up people in Serbia to trust their feelings, to reveal empathy and care for each other, and to be aware of the situation. They strive for self-awareness, to act responsibly and ethically, to avoid games and lies, to confront the regime's passivity, and to ask for change toward taking responsibility. They want the freedom to choose their own destiny in their country. It looks like a call on the social level for REDECISION. It is also impressive that people in neighboring countries (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro) support requests from students in their own social contexts, even though some of those countries had a history of war with Serbia in the 1990s.

Our special thanks to well-known Serbian photographer Bojan Džodan, who generously let us use photos of the protest from his webpage.

The 15 March 2025 protest in Belgrade was the biggest one at that point—some say between 300,000 and 500,000 people participated. The way the students organized was an example of solidarity and respect as well as a strong demand to the regime to behave in accordance with the law. In the moment of silence while remembering the victims, by reports of protesters, sudden and strong unidentified sounds occurred that created panic and a stampede of the people. (For more about this, see *Le Monde*, BBC, DW.) Even in such a dramatic situation, students were calming people down, and they decided to terminate the protest in order to prevent any further tragic events.

The day after the protest they delivered a strong message to the regime: "You have hit our love and empathy with a cannon. With each of your misdeeds, you expand and strengthen the front against you." This kind of confrontation Carlo Moiso once described as Adult elaboration of the situation.

Students and their movement have still not stopped the Serbian authorities from continuing to oppress and deceive the people. However, our alienation is fading, and our solidarity is strengthening day by day thanks to the student leadership. We believe that their OKness and the benevolence of their movement will encourage people in Serbia to take responsibility for the change toward a democratic future for our society. It is encouraging when famous French philosophers Alain Badiou and Jacques Rancière highlighted in their observation of the Serbia student protests that they represent a model for the whole world.

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Fifth Ukrainian TA Conference

by Tetyana Prus

As the head of the organizing committee for the conference dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the Ukrainian Society of Transactional Analysis (USTA), along with USTA President Olena Kryvonis and the other members of the organizing committee (Lana Koval, Nataliya Klymento, and Svitlana Ursatieva), I want to share some important news from the Ukrainian TA community.

Five years ago, the TA community in Ukraine was founded, and in February 2025 we gathered many friends from all over the TA world to celebrate this occasion. We want to share about this event to highlight how important it is to unite and to feel the support of the worldwide TA community!

During these 5 years we have overcome and achieved a lot. **USTA today unites 467 specialists and is a dynamic community of professionals** in which everyone can find support, development, and inspiration. We have created a genuinely OK space where professionalism, ethics, and humanness are appreciated. With friends from around the world, we have overcome not only the pandemic but also the drastic attack on our country that is still ongoing. The mission of the conference was to provide a platform for representatives of all four TA fields to join and strengthen their feeling of belonging, to enrich their frame of reference and professional repertoire, and to widen their awareness of relevant topics, methods, and practices carried out by ITAA and EATA members. It is also a space to get to know each other and exchange, to reflect together and look for solutions, and to celebrate togetherness and the potency we all possess. This year the conference became a space of great mutual support and recognition. We felt the potency of the TA community worldwide, enjoyed sharing ideas, and had a chance to



USTA Conference Organizing Committee

approach existential and crucial topics. The event also met the goal to celebrate life and affirm our vital power gained within unity!

Our conference was held on 7-8 February 2025 and was intended to unite friends, share achievements, get support, and create a space of care and warm relationships. It is so important now to have sincere and loving contacts; they provide space for peace and harmony. The event united 27 speakers and 137 attendees from different countries as well as Ukraine. It was held online, which allowed participants and speakers from different countries to participate, get to know Ukraine and each other, and share feelings. **Included were people from Ukraine, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, and Romania.** We shared a space of transactional analysis and the core values that this method embodies.

This year we did not have a conference theme so as to give speakers the space to create master classes reflecting their interests and vision. Thus the conference was diverse, interesting, and dynamic. For 2 days, from morning to late evening, master classes were held and reports were given. **Among the important existential topics touched on were** relationships and how people understand power in their relationships; oppression, alienation, and reclamation; cocreation of a common communicative home; and spiritual intelligence as a resource for individuals and organizations. The conference also addressed trust, social fears, relationships with money, how to remain yourself and adapt to others, neurodiversity, solving prohibitive messages, and other interesting topics. **The main themes of the conference were** humanenness, OKness, acceptance, friendship, and creating a professional family.

Among the important support for this year's conference were the presence and contributions from several TA luminaries from outside of Ukraine. These included John McNeel, TSTA-P, an honorary member of USTA who has supported USTA since its start and been a constant participant in our community events. He contributes to the development and training of Ukrainian transactional analysts and for almost 3 years has been conducting support meetings for Ukrainian colleagues. We are grateful to John for his reliable support and for his conference workshop on "Injunctive Messages Resolving: Life Function of Confrontation, Love, and Invitation."

We also express our gratitude to Tony White, TSTA-P (Australia), also a USTA honorary member, for his constant support of our community and his contribution to the training and development of Ukrainian transactional analysts. For 5 years, Tony has supported our conference and community, always conducting relevant and interesting workshops. This year, his seminar topic was related to how people understand power in relationships.

We thank Keith Tudor, TSTA-P (New Zealand), for presenting the conference keynote speech on "Cocreating a Communicative Home" and for giving us permission to translate it into Ukrainian for publication in our journal "Dialogues of USTA."

We also express our appreciation to Michelle Thomé, PTSTA-OE (Brazil), counselor, coach, and consultant with a systemic perspective in TA and chair of the ITAA Communications Committee. Michelle has supported our community and been a guest of the conference multiple times. Her presentations always resonate with the community and bring a fresh look at relevant topics.

Finally, the event was also supported by USTA honorary member Harry Gerth (Netherlands) and dear friends of the USTA community Dr. Sylvia Schachner (Austria), Ray Little (United Kingdom), Karen Minikin (United Kingdom), Alex Piotrowska (United Kingdom), Patrick Odendal (Netherlands), Rosanna Giacometto (Italy), Alina Comendant (Netherlands/Romania), and John Fleming (Ireland).

Among the Ukrainian speakers we had USTA honorary members Roksana Yashchuk and Nataliia Isaieva and Ukrainian TA specialists Nataliya Yehonska-Spencer, Serhii Kukharuk, Vlada Berezianska, Anhelina Sashko, Denys Starkov, Vladlena Artemenko, Kateryna Shelest, Snizhana Nikolaieva, Natalia Klymenko, Olga Pletka, and Lana Koval.

Despite the challenges the world is facing, we keep organizing our conferences and contributing to resilience and the continuity of professional TA development in Ukraine. We are thankful for all the support and contributions to sustaining our community, and we invite you to be in cooperation with us!

With warmth and love, the members of Ukrainian Society of Transactional Analysis and USTA President Olena Kryvonis, conference chair Tetiana Prus, and committee members Lana Koval, Nataliya Klymento, and Svitlana Ursatieva (USTA website https://usta.org.ua; email: uctanews@gmail.com, ustaconference@gmail.com)

Responses to "Is the *TAJ* Elitist?"

The following two letters were sent to us in response to the January 2025 Script *article by Trudi Newton and Helen Rowland entitled "Is the* Transactional Analysis Journal *Elitist?" We are always eager to hear from readers and hope you will consider writing to us about anything you read in* The Script *or the* TAJ *(or anything else).*

Dear Trudi and Helen,

I've just read your article in *The Script* about the *TAJ*. I am filled with respect, deep appreciation for the force of your words and thinking, and gratitude. It is a delicate needle you are threading with this piece, and I think you've done it with an amazing combination of directness and finesse. So, I wanted to offer you my personal thanks.

These days statements of integrity and commitment are especially precious to me. As I deal with my grief over the death of my son Caleb, I am leaning into the integrity and commitment he brought to his life and community, assembling stories, patching my heart.

Thank you for another patch.

Bill Cornell
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Dear Trudi and Helen,

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated (and cheered) your piece in *The Script*. I was so happy to read about the topics you addressed and your clear explanations of them. Really outstanding!

As an aside, in speaking with many colleagues who have been thinking about a first-time submission to the *TAJ*, I have heard some comments that imply authors who have prior relationships with the editors tend to receive preferential treatment over first-time submissions. I'll share with you my general response.

I can unequivocally tell you that is not true. Furthermore, having been on the editorial board for 10 years, I have seen over and over the enthusiasm the coeditors have for first-time authors and how much time and effort they put into papers by first-time submitters to see if the article can be published. I have also seen how hard it is for the coeditors to reject a first-time author submission to the point where, if anything, the *TAJ* works too hard at trying to make an article that is poorly written but has some good ideas in it publishable.

For the special January 2025 theme issue of the *TAJ* on "Secret Garden Work," there were several papers that Karen Minikin and I as the coeditors tried really hard to make work, but for various reasons we just couldn't. Having had a paper of mine rejected, I completely understand the punch to the gut it can be if your submission is not accepted. As we say, nobody likes to be told their baby is ugly! So I understand why people need to find another reason why their paper wasn't accepted. But I don't think people have any idea how much time and effort and care the *TAJ* coeditors and editorial board take with papers. Having been involved in some other journals on the psychoanalytic side, I can tell you no one seems to put more time and effort into papers than the *TAJ* team.

Anyway, congratulations on a wonderful *Script* piece. I'm sure I will be referring folks to it for years to come!

Ed Novak
Akron, Ohio, United States

Write for *The Script*!

We are especially interested in hearing from members who are using TA in socially responsible efforts to impact the world positively and those who use TA in all four fields. Send us your articles (around 1000 words) and letters (around 400 words). Or if you have other ideas for *Script* material you think readers would be interested in, please get in touch. Contact *Script* Managing Editor Robin Fryer at robinfryer@aol.com .

Latest Updates from the ITAA: An Invitation to Become Involved

by Thorsten Geck

In the March *Script*, I wrote about the importance of and opportunities for active membership in our vibrant community. There remain many ways to contribute, and **the ITAA is looking for successors for various positions** (see page 13). We are looking for engagement in IBOC and other departments, which provides you with many opportunities to help shape the ITAA. We will be delighted if you decide to be part of this process. To encourage you to actively join us, I will summarize what we are currently working on in the ITAA.

From Association to Professional Organization

A key concern for many professionals is the need for recognized standards and accreditation. With the ITAA's transition into a professional association, we are now able to meet this demand effectively. The shift from the ITAA as a public benefit organization to a professional association is progressing. Since the beginning of the year, you have officially been members of this new ITAA. The previous ITAA has been restructured as the ITAA Foundation, which is now dedicated to promoting transactional analysis as a serious theoretical framework for practical applications. The ITAA Foundation manages funds for research and education and owns the *Transactional Analysis Journal* (*TAJ*). As ITAA members, you continue to have access to this prestigious scholarly journal at an exceptionally affordable rate.

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

World Transactional Analysis Conference (WTAC) 2025 in Montpellier

Registrations for the 2025 WTAC in Montpellier are in full swing! **This is a fantastic opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world in person and to engage in meaningful discussions.** We are especially pleased that **the TAlent program and a strategic allocation of financial resources have made it possible for many members, including those with limited financial means, to attend the conference.** A key event will be the Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting, which will take place on the first day of the conference. We will provide you with important updates in advance and look forward to your questions. The AGM will be held in a hybrid format, allowing all members to participate, even if they are not in Montpellier.

IBOC and Certification Within the ITAA

One of the core aspects of the current transformation is certification within the ITAA. This includes the Certified Transactional Analyst (CTA) certification as well as teaching credentials. **Currently, the International Board of Certification (IBOC) is undergoing an audit to establish a legally sound framework for its certification processes.** Once this audit is completed, we will decide whether the IBOC should become a

formal department within the ITAA. Although this may sound like a technical process, it is at the heart of our transition: **By integrating certification into the ITAA, we strengthen the professional interests of our members and position ourselves alongside other respected professional associations.** At present, the leadership of IBOC and PSC is being managed by the ITAA President. We are actively seeking successors for these roles (see page 13).

Future Outlook and Member Participation

The transition to a professional association will take approximately another year to complete. This transformation will bring new opportunities for our members. One example is the development of a member directory, which will allow potential clients or customers to find you more easily. But this is just the beginning! We want to further establish the ITAA as a platform that provides valuable services and support to its members.

In April, the ITAA Board of Directors will hold a strategic meeting to discuss the future of the ITAA, including:

- What new services could we offer?
- What values should we represent?
- What will bring the greatest benefit to our members?

We will keep you informed about the results. As always, **we welcome your ideas, suggestions, and questions.** Please reach out to your regional representative; they are your first point of contact for direct communication with us.

Your participation is key to the future of the ITAA. We on the management board invite you to get involved, share your ideas, and consider taking on a role within the ITAA.

TAJ Theme Issues

"Research in the Social Sciences: Contexts, Challenges, and Worldviews"
Coeditors: Helen Rowland and Andy Williams
Deadline: 1 August 2025

"Radical Psychiatry: Revisiting and Revitalizing TA's Critical Tradition for Contemporary Challenges"
Coeditors: Keith Tudor and Karen Minikin
Deadline: 1 February 2026

Please follow the submission requirements posted here.

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

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.



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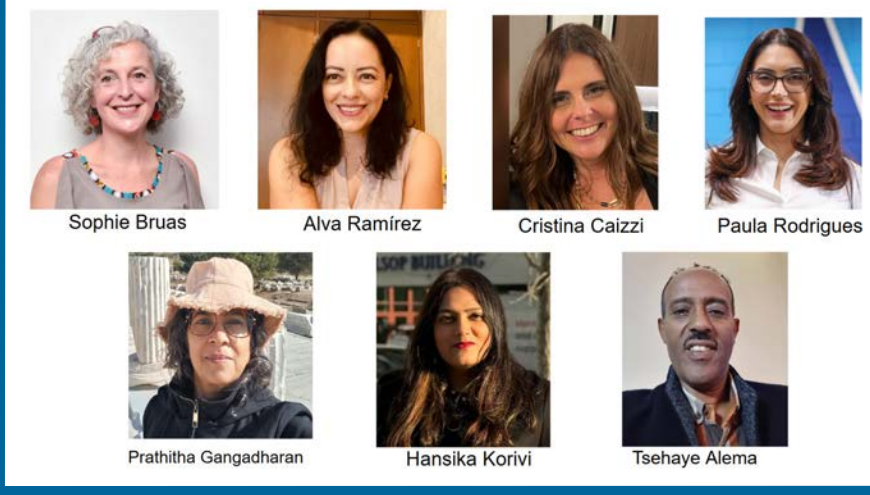
ITAA DEIA Task Force: Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

The DEIA Task Force arose from the proposal of John Fleming (Ireland) with the purpose of creating a working group to examine how members are experiencing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in their relationship with ITAA. From September 2023 to December 2024, the task force engaged in extensive research to understand how members experience inclusion and exclusion within the organization.

The team currently includes the following members: Hansika Korivi (India), Prathitha Gangadharan (India), Paula Rodrigues (Brazil), Alva Ramírez (México), Cristina Caizzi (Italy), Sophie Bruas (Kenya), and Tsehaye Alema (Ethiopia). **This article presents an overview of the task force's research findings and key insights as well as ideas about the way forward.**



DEI Task Force Members

Core Values

The core values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility include creating a fair, inclusive, and supportive environment in which all individuals are valued and respected. **Diversity** celebrates differences and similarities, ensuring that varied perspectives are represented. **Equity** ensures fair treatment and access to opportunities for all, whereas **inclusion** emphasizes active participation of diverse individuals in all aspects of organizational life. **Accessibility** guarantees that everyone, regardless of ability or background, can fully engage and benefit from ITAA's organizational resources and systems, thus fostering continuous learning and improvement to meet the diverse needs of all members.

To build this comprehensive understanding of DEIA within the ITAA, the task force employed multiple research strategies, including surveys, focus groups, literature reviews, and an analysis of ITAA's internal documentation. Through this article, the task force extends their gratitude to members who participated in the focus group calls for their noteworthy insights.

Approximately 1500 members were invited to participate in the survey, with a 9.53% response rate. Following this, 27 members attended 12 focus groups across multiple languages, providing qualitative insights into the lived experiences of ITAA members. Furthermore, a review of over 600 *Transactional Analysis Journal* (*TAJ*) articles related to DEIA highlighted significant engagement with these topics within the transactional analysis community. However, ITAA's governing documents were found to have minimal references to DEIA principles, reinforcing the need for a structured DEIA framework. The research process revealed several critical areas that require attention, as outlined below.

Key Findings

1. Accessibility as a priority: Members identified linguistic, technological, and economic barriers that impact access to ITAA resources. There is a strong call for multilingual

translation services, diverse format options for materials, and accommodations for financial constraints.

2. Enhancing diversity and inclusion: Participants also emphasized the importance of creating safe spaces, supporting underrepresented groups, and establishing structured DEIA initiatives within the ITAA. This includes expanding outreach efforts and diversifying leadership roles.

3. Improving transparency and communication: A clear demand for improved communication was expressed regarding ITAA policies, awards, and certification processes. Members expressed the need for proactive engagement through interactive media such as webinars and forums.

4. Simplification of organizational processes: The task force identified a need to streamline training and assessment materials to better reflect cultural diversity. Members also requested more accessible pathways for engagement with ITAA's leadership and decision-making processes.

5. Inclusive and multicultural training: There is a growing demand for the ITAA to offer training opportunities that reflect the global diversity of its membership. Members called for greater representation in training faculty and more accessible educational materials.

6. Strengthening community connections: Participants highlighted the value of creating interactive spaces for international discussions and cultural exchange. They expressed a desire for networking opportunities that foster collaboration and deeper engagement across regions.

7. Addressing economic and structural barriers: Financial constraints were frequently cited as barriers to certification, training, and access to ITAA events. Suggestions included exploring alternative funding options and state-funded subsidies to enhance accessibility.

Next Steps and Recommendations

The findings highlighted the need for the ITAA to adopt a proactive and systemic approach to integrating DEIA into its governance, policies, and member engagement strategies. After presenting the findings to the ITAA Board of Directors, the DEIA Task Force was given a mandate for 1 more year to continue its work. Meanwhile, the ITAA can take meaningful steps toward embedding DEIA principles within its curriculum, training, and leadership structures.

Conclusion

The ITAA has the potential to become a global leader in DEIA by embracing systemic change. By implementing multilingual solutions, inclusive training, and transparent policies, the community can strengthen its global reach and create a more equitable community for all members. The task force remains committed to advancing this mission and looks forward to continued collaboration with ITAA leadership and committees to make lasting improvements.

To enable further development in the coming year, **the ITAA DEIA Task Force invites members to share their perspectives and to join us in shaping the future of the ITAA as an inclusive and accessible organization.** Together, we can build a stronger, more connected community that reflects the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Members may contribute their responses to this article via contacts listed here:

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Welcome New Members

FEBRUARY 2025

Marijke Arendsen Hein, Netherlands
Mia Bentley, France
Jelena Bojkovska, Serbia
Zorica Božić Miljanović, Serbia
Aarthi Chandirasehar, India
Rayani Dessa, India
Jasna Dragisic, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tony Dyer, United Kingdom
Kyle Harvey, United States
Marie Gabrielle Hicter, France
Steve Hoblyn, United Kingdom
Andre Hogevoll, Sweden
Anna Istomina, Ukraine
Gabrijela Ivanov, Croatia
Elżbieta Jasnosik, Poland
Vedrana Kelec, Croatia
Liliia Lukianova, Russia
Nirmala Molloy, United Kingdom
Josipa Piuk, Croatia
Gianclaudio Plebani, Italy
Tetiana Pyvovarova, Ukraine
Anusha Raghunandan, India
Sanja Sahačić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Nishtha Sinha, India
Megan Taylor, United Kingdom
Balzhan Tuyakbayeva, Kazakhstan
Jovana Zdravkovic, Serbia

Congratulations on TSTA and CTA Exam Successes!

by Haseena Abdullah and Nicole Lenner

On 27-28 February and 1 March, we held the first of two sets of IBOC exams in 2025. We are delighted to share that **we concluded the 3 days with 15 new CTAs, 3 TSTAs, 1 TTA, and 2 STAs**, which is very satisfying. Congratulations to all who have passed their exams.

CTA: Alena Todorov, Alexandra Ivanina, Anna Gozhaya, Antonina Zubareva, Deepti Elizabeth Chandy, Imke van Wanrooij, Matthew Bird, Margaret Moroney, Navinder Kaur Barya, Peter Golder, Sarah Hubbard, Siân Rivers, Taras Kriva, Vanda Kos Jerković, Xue Jing Wang

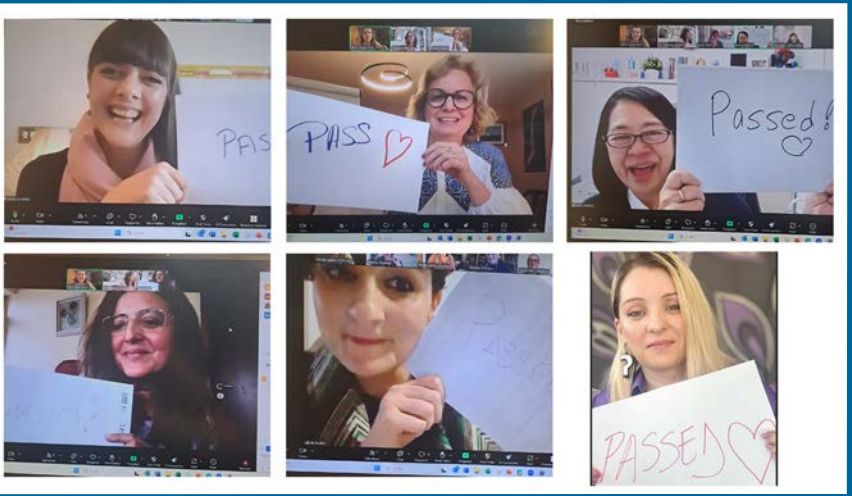
STA: Alina Brigitte Rus, Ioana Cupsa

TTA: Keiko Hoshino

TSTA: Antonella Raffaella Paolillo, Janine Piccirella, Joana Cezara Dasu

We acknowledge that not everyone who came for their exams left with a success to celebrate. We hope to welcome them back soon at one of the upcoming exams.

We are grateful for the tremendous work of Jacqueline van Gent and Sue Eusden over the past years because it has allowed us to collaborate effectively and build on their efforts. We appreciate the collaborative contributions of everyone involved, which have helped bring this endeavor to fruition. We had commendable examiners who chose to serve, along with colleagues working with translators.



Successful TSTA/STA/TTA Candidates: (top from left): Janine Piccirella, TSTA-P; Ioana Cupsa, STA-P; Keiko Hoshino, TTA-E; (bottom from left): Alina Brigitte Rus, STA-P; Antonella Raffaella Paolillo, TSTA-P, Joana Cezara Dasu, TSTA-P

One aspect that inspires us as cochairs is witnessing community members return to examine after their enriching experience of being assessed and succeeding. We express our gratitude to all the examiners and observers as well as to the process facilitators (Ann Tucker, Emma Haynes, Enid Welford, Cholena Mountain, Marijke

Arendsen Hein, Anette Dielmann, and Michele D'Errico) as well as those who stepped in at the last minute to examine when we faced a shortage of examiners. Thank you to everyone who volunteered as supervisees and/or audience members for TTA and STA exams. Finally, we are thankful for the translators who assisted us in better understanding our candidates and examiners.

Our thanks to all the CTA examiners, observers, and volunteers: Adam Bekier, Adina Tita, Adri van den Brand, Alla Dalit, Alva Ramírez, Anca David, Annette Terry, Aya Konoike, Cholena Mountain, Danijela Djuric, Diana Deaconu, Dubravka Pešorda, Elena Gamova, Farah Tasneem, Fiona Firman, Florenta Turlea, Jacobien Geuze, Joanna Gosk, Jason Brennen, Jennine Rook, Jr-Earn Lam, Karen Bruyn, Kate Hardy, Liliana Horvath, Lisa Paul, Luca Fornari, Maja Delibasic, Maria Petrova, Maria Sorokopud, Marieke de Groot, Mariko Seki, Masumi Aonuma, Mateja Škorc, Meera Ravi, Marina Ionescu, Michelle Hyams-Ssekasi, Monika Cox, Nathalie Goursolas Bogren, Nea Clark, Nicki Wisbey, Norma Mckinnon Fathi, Nynke de Geus, Patrick Odendaal, Prathitha Gangadharan, Rosario Chavez, Sudha Thimmia, Sushma Ramachandran, Sylva Joliffe, Valentyna Zakharchenko, Vanessa Williams, Will Daniel-Braham, and Yinka Junaid

We also thank all of the TSTA examiners and observers: Anette Dielmann, Charlotte Sills, Danijela Budiša Ubović, Dina Kononova, Elena Soboleva, Eleonore Lind, Elly Voorend, Emma Haynes, Enid Welford, Jan Grant, John Savage, Jule Endruweit, Karina Heiligers, Mandy Lacy, Marina Rajan Joseph, Michele D'Errico, Piet van Haaster, Ragu-raman K, Rosalind Sharples, Sudha Thimaiah, Susie Hewitt, Traian Bossenmayer, Gerry Pyves, Beatrijs Dijkman, Evelyne Papaux, Marijke Arendsen Hein, Anne Tucker, Debbie Robinson, Paul Robinson, Ragini Rao, Cholena Mountain, and Karen Pratt



Successful CTA Candidates (top from left): Alexandra Ivanina, Alena Todorov (bottom from left): Anna Gozhaya, Navinder Kaur Barya



Successful CTA Candidates (top from left): Imke van Wanrooij, Margaret Moroney; (bottom from left): Peter Golder, Matthew Bird

Special thanks to our exam supervisors: Sabine-Inken Schmidt, Beatrijs Dijkman, Sudha Thimmia, and Sarah Lowes. Sarah volunteered to support the exam process after she stepped down as IBOC administrator at the end of January. It was a pleasure having her with us.

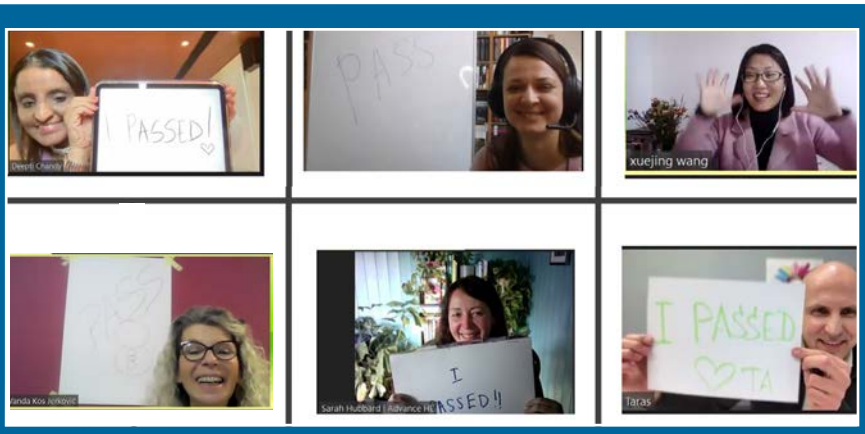
While we share our delight, we also recognized **three areas where we see room for improvement in future exam planning and procedures:**

1. We noticed with interest that *Handbook* updates are sometimes overlooked or misunderstood, which results in candidates being unaware of or not fully meeting the (new) requirements.
2. We have also observed that examiners often provide material to examinees on short notice, which can result in increased stress just before exams.

3. Another significant reflection is that we all together need to gain a deeper, common understanding of how we want to meet diversity, that is, cultural and neurodiversity. Following one of our IBOC principles outlined in section 1 of the *Handbook*, "Social Justice and Diversity," we want to emphasize more how we can enhance curiosity and appreciation of context. We also need to find a balance of rigor and flexibility, ensuring the utmost dignity for all parties involved in the examinations.

Here are some ideas that we have developed so far to meet the need for further development:

- Once the lists of candidates who will take their exams with us are finalized, we will offer "Meet the IBOC Sessions" for their principal supervisors in order to review current *Handbook* requirements and explore ways to support candidates in their final phase of preparation together.
- During the examiner training and/or briefing for the next set of exams, we will dedicate more time to exploring the principle of "social justice and diversity" to minimize the risk of misunderstandings and experiences of discrimination. What is considered "standard" in each cultural context varies, despite the *Handbook*'s outline of the requirements for each segment of the exam.
- We have also decided to restructure and update our database to ensure that our communications (such as the call for examiners) reach candidates when emails are sent. To start this process, IBOC Administrator Max will soon send the link to a Google form.



Successful CTA Candidates (top from left): Deepti Elizabeth Chandy, Antonina Zubareva, Xue Jing Wang; (bottom from left) Vanda Kos Jerković, Sarah Hubbard, Taras Kriva (not shown: Siân Rivers)

Last but not least, we would like to remind you to r**egister for the WEW (written exam workshops) on May 6, 8, and 13 and in November in different time zones** as announced in the February *Script* and on the ITAA webpage. We offer separate WEWs for colleagues new to evaluating written CTA exams and experienced evaluators. **This is the link for your registration:** https://forms.gle/9YSBT7HYTq9hu3mw8

Successors Sought

The ITAA is looking for a new Director of Professional Standards (a member of the ITAA Board of Directors) starting as soon as possible. For information and application, please contact Thorsten Geck at president@itaaworld.com.

The IBOC is looking for a successor to Jacqueline van Gent in her role as TEW coordinator starting after the April TEW. For further information and application, please contact IBOC cochairs Haseena Abdullah (iboc_co-chair1@itaaworld.com) and/or Nicole Lenner (iboc_co-chair2@itaaworld.com).

The Professional Standards Committee (PSC) is looking for a successor to Giles Barrow in his role as PSC cochair starting at the latest in the summer of 2025. For further information and application, please contact PSC cochairs Beatrijs Dijkman (psc_co-chair2@itaaworld.com) and/or Giles Barrow (psc_co-chair1@itaaworld.com).

Conferences & Events

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

WORLD TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS CONFERENCE 2025 MONTPELLIER
LEGACY - LEGITIMACY - IDENTITY

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

8–10 August 2025 | Montpellier, France

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

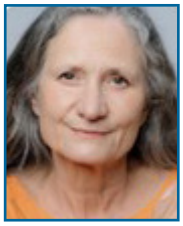
WTAC ticketing: https://my.weezevent.com/world-ta-conference-france-2025

Accommodation Options: https://loom.ly/ELcsb6E

Gala Party Tickets: https://loom.ly/egwS_Ng

Keynote Speakers


William Cornell


Isabelle Filliozat


Sailaja Manacha

Debate Chairs


Karen Pratt


Lucy Freedman