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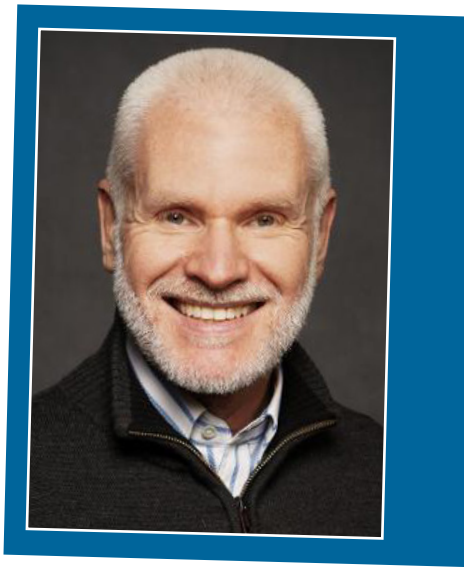
ITAA in Transition: On the Path to a Professional Association

by Thorsten Geck



Dear ITAA Members:

I want to update you on **the latest developments in our transformation process toward becoming a professional association.** It is important to us—the Board of Directors—to shape this journey with transparency and in dialogue with you.

By way of reminder, **a key weakness of the former structure of the ITAA** (now the ITAA Foundation) was that, as a public benefit association, we were not permitted to directly certify our members. Our legal advisors have also confirmed that the solution we chose at the time—outsourcing to a separate entity, the International Board of Certification (IBOC)—did not create sufficient legal distance to address this issue.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) therefore laid the groundwork some years ago to transform the ITAA into a professional association. However, our options were limited because membership dues from previous years are tied up in funds that are legally dedicated to promoting the spread of transactional analysis and cannot be used directly to build a professional membership organization.

This is why we sought—and received—your mandate to establish an independent professional association. We took this decisive step in December 2023, renaming the "old" ITAA as the ITAA Foundation and transferring the members to the new professional association. The Board of Trustees is now a Board of Directors (BOD).

Since then, **we have been working intensively on integrating the IBOC into the new professional ITAA.** The plan is to "acquire" the IBOC from the ITAA Foundation and establish a dedicated department within the professional association that deals with the professional foundations of transactional analysis practice—what was previously the role of the Professional Standards Committee (PSC). This department will also include the

itaa INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Membership Meeting—Save the Date!

This year we will conduct the ITAA Annual General Membership meeting (AGM) during the 2025 World TA Conference in Montpellier, France. The date is 9 August 2025 from 8–8:50 am CEST (or 6am–6:50 UTC). (This year the celebration of the 2025 ITAA awards will occur at a different time: see elsewhere on this page.) The ITAA Board of Directors invites members to attend this meeting in person or online if attending in person is not possible. For us to plan the event, we need you to register for it. Watch for an ITAA email in the next few weeks with a link to register. You will receive a Zoom invitation link closer to the date. We will use the Zoom online meeting platform for hosting the online part of this event. You can download the application free from the website: https://www.zoom.us . You must have a signed "Consent to Electronic Transmissions" form on file with the ITAA to participate via Zoom. Individuals with consent forms on file and who are ITAA members in good standing as of 30 June 2025 (the "Record Date") are entitled to vote.

ITAA Award Ceremonies in Montpellier

This year the **ITAA award ceremonies will take place on Friday 8 August at 7 pm at the conference center.** These will include the 2025 Eric Berne Memorial Award to Keith Tudor, the 2025 ITAA Research Award to Roland Johnsson, the 2025 Service Awards to Michelle Thomé and John Oates, and the plaque for the 2024 Eric Berne Memorial Award to Zefiro Mellacqua. **We hope you will join us in honoring and celebrating these individuals** for their outstanding contributions to the ITAA and the transactional analysis community worldwide.

ITAA in Transition

continued from page 1

certification unit, the IBOC, covering all forms of qualification you are familiar with: CTA, 101 Instructor, TEW, PTSTA, and finally TSTA. **I hope that we will be able to complete this process by the World TA Conference 2025 (WTAC 2025) this August.** That would lay the central foundations for our professional association, enabling us to continue our work on a solid and future-proof legal basis.

Strategy

In addition, **the BOD has engaged in a strategic process to consider what it means to be a professional association and how we can better support and strengthen our members in their external profile.** One of our key goals is to broaden the membership base. We know from a previous member survey what you, the existing members, want and expect, and we are incorporating these insights into our planning.

We also want to make TA more widely known by overcoming language barriers. Artificial intelligence can help us translate articles or this newsletter. Example languages include Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, French, German, Italian, and many more. Our website is already set up to support this. This is a typical example of how the funds are being used to promote TA worldwide.

Other important topics are emerging on the horizon. For example, how can we increase the visibility of transactional analysis in other modalities, perhaps at their professional conferences? How can the *Transactional Analysis Journal* (*TAJ*) reach a wider readership and provide more people with valuable ideas and in-depth knowledge? We also want to do more to highlight that TA is evidence based, built on a solid theoretical foundation, and has demonstrated significant success.

We are also examining how different generations search for, access, and absorb information and what this means for the ITAA's external communications. Finally, we see that there are new demands on certification. In response, the international trainers' meeting of the ITAA and EATA, under the leadership of the TA World Council of Standards (TAWCS), has been working intensively on these questions. The ideas developed there will feed into our future work.

Thank you all for your trust, patience, and support during this important phase of our shared history. We are, of course, always available for your questions and feedback.

With warm regards,

Thorsten Geck, ITAA President (president@itaaworld.com)

Questions Answered About Getting Your Paper Published in the *TAJ*

by Alexandra Gheorghe



The *TAJ* coeditors talk often about encouraging people to write and our desire to support new authors. We realize that many people who have not submitted articles before have questions, so we thought we would address some of these questions and clarify the process.

The best place to start is with the detailed *TAJ* Submission Requirements, which are available on the ITAA website here . You can also ask questions of any of the coeditors or our managing editor, Robin Fryer.

1. Once your manuscript is consistent with those guidelines, email it to Robin at robinfryer@aol.com. The guidelines cover a wide variety of issues, including referencing and preparing tables/figures, and following them will make the process go more quickly and smoothly.

- **"Do you need to know someone on the coeditors' team to get your paper through?"** Absolutely not. We want to receive papers that fit the guidelines and are committed to doing what we can to support new authors.
- **"Will there be space for my paper?"** There is no limit to the number of papers we can publish.
- **"I've heard that it's hard to get your paper published."** We are committed to maintaining scholarly standards and do our best to support authors as well as keeping readers in mind. One colleague said, "Having written my first piece for the *TAJ*, I encourage anyone who has even an inkling of energy to publish to do so because of the level of support you will receive in terms of encouragement, and professional editing will 'hold' you through the writer's journey."

2. If your submission is in good order, Robin will send it to the coeditors, and one of them will pick it up based on area of expertise, who is available, limitations on dual relationships, and so on. If all the coeditors have a full plate, your paper will be added to a waiting list and picked up as soon as someone is available.

- **"How do I know if my ideas are worth writing about?"** Perhaps share your ideas with a colleague(s). One first-time author offered, "Know what you want to write; be clear about what your message is before you put pen to paper. Then bounce ideas off colleagues and get support to bolster areas where you have less knowledge." Another option is to write the skeleton of the paper and send it to a supervisor or even a coeditor.
- **"How do I know if my paper is good enough?"** Ask someone to read it. One colleague shared "a reminder of the transformative power of editing: Don't worry if you don't like your first draft, this might come with time and patience." Another said, "I found that getting other inputs or supervision on my writing and thinking before submission was helpful. I am grateful that I had colleagues in the TA world who were willing to share their thoughts on my ideas. This helped me structure my writing and fine-tune my

thoughts about theory. It can be as basic as having a conversation about your idea or as technical as sending just a page or two of your drafts to someone else to read and comment." If your ideas are clear and bring a new perspective, rooted in both theory and practice, chances are readers will find them interesting. If you worry that the *TAJ* is elitist and won't accept your paper, read Rowland and Newton's article in the January 2025 issue of *The Script*.

3. Once a coeditor picks up your paper, they will contact you. Some coeditors like to work closely with authors on adjustments before review; others send papers out for review right away. What is common is that we all aim to support authors to highlight their ideas in the best way possible.

- **"Is there a chance of the manuscript getting rejected?"** Yes, that occasionally occurs. But if your paper needs reorganizing or requires significant changes, you will be informed about what needs to be done, and you can usually integrate the feedback and resubmit.

4. Once the coeditor thinks your paper is ready for review, the anonymized version will be sent to two reviewers who will not know who wrote the paper or who the other reviewer is. They will evaluate your submission in terms of its ideas and contribution to the evolution of transactional analysis theory, principles, and practice based on a standard review form we have developed. Once the reviews are returned, the coeditor will collate their feedback, add comments of their own, and send it to you. This blind review process/feedback may take some time.

- **"Will reviewers tear my work apart?"** No, the questions for reviewers are constructive and focused on "What does this author do well, what does this paper bring that is new, and what does this paper still need in order to meet *TAJ* standards?"
- **"Do I need to make all the changes the reviewers suggest?"** No, the coeditor will be clear about which changes, if any, need to be made and which can be feedback for you to consider.
- **"How are reviewers chosen?"** The coeditor chooses reviewers based on their experience and how it is relevant for a particular article as well as on their availability at the time.

5. It is normal for this process to include several versions and adjustments. If you have questions or worries, you can always email your coeditor. One of our priorities is to build relationships with authors and to promote lively and respectful interaction.

- **"Why is it taking so long?"** Our goal is for your paper to be in the best shape possible when it is published. Our coeditors and reviewers are all volunteers using their free time on behalf of the *TAJ* and its authors and readers. In fact, the time between submission and publication for the *TAJ* is, in general, shorter than for many other journals. One colleague who recently had her paper published shared her advice for new writers: "Block out large chunks of time in advance through to the submission date so that you have space for detailed thinking and reflection on the whole piece, which makes the process more pleasurable."

6. When the coeditor considers your paper ready for publication, you will be notified that it is being sent to our managing editor, Robin Fryer, for copyediting. She will be in touch with any remaining questions and will send you a copyedited proof. At that point, you will work with her to clarify/adjust the text until it is in final shape for typesetting. That is the last point at which you may make changes. Once the article is typeset, you will receive another proof but only to correct errors.

- **"Robin hasn't contacted me yet. Has she forgotten about my paper or did it get lost?"** Robin seldom forgets or loses things. It may take some time depending on which issue your article is scheduled for, but you will hear back.
- **"When will my paper be published?"** If it is accepted for a theme issue, it will be published then. For nonthemed issues, all papers are queued together and published as space is available.
- **"If an established author has submitted a paper, will it be prioritized?"** No. Although we greatly appreciate and respect well-known authors who are still committed to contributing and sharing their thoughts with the community, it is also important for the vitality and relevance of the journal that we hear from new voices and perspectives.

If you have thoughts about sharing your ideas with the community and feel intimidated, I hope we have addressed some of your concerns. If you have more questions or are still unsure, please write to us (at robinfryer@aol.com or any of the coeditors).

Alexandra Gheorghe is one of the TAJ coeditors. She can be reached at ale.gheorghe@gmail.com .

Rebranding Debate Continues

Dear Editor:

I am writing to contribute to the debate about the term "transactional analysis" initiated in *The Script* (May 2025) by Srinath Nadathur. It was a timely initiative and a wake-up call. A move away from our current name would involve a reconceptualization of both theory and method. That would be a serious undertaking, but the motivations that prompted the suggestion are equally serious. It stimulated me to reassess the negative baggage that the term brings with it.

To be frank, I've always disliked it as a signifier of what I do professionally because I find it too mechanistic. Outside of TA circles, I generally try to avoid using it. In any case, I hardly ever analyze transactions, and even if I do, it is as a tiny part of a much wider process.

I find that the term means little to most people I work with. Sometimes those who know it think it's a 1960s pop psychology with an irritating vocabulary. They may also have a negative association with the word "transaction." My own discomfort with a transactional psychology has grown more intense since the US presidential style has itself been described as transactional. That's a lot of baggage, and it's likely to become a more significant encumbrance as the world swings toward a more transactional mode of relating, driven by our online life, artificial intelligence, and politics based on a business model. Those represent the polar opposite of what, I hope, we strive to offer in the therapy room. Actually, they are also the opposite of what the natural world needs humans to be doing.

> ***"Berne is no longer here to comment on the demands of the 21st century. I urge that we respect his legacy and undertake to move it forward. Every so often that will need a paradigm shift. We are at such a time now."***

A fish does not see the water it swims in, and similarly, we do not easily see the ontology (the model of what is real) in which our theory sits. Our core concepts (ego states, transactions, script, etc.) are used like structures or mechanisms that explain what is going on in our inner life and relationships. This practice rests on an invisible mechanistic or materialist ontology that was once the basis of virtually all science. This is yielding now to an ecological ontology in which reality is conceived as a multiply interconnected, emergent process. Harmonizing with this shift will involve bringing into awareness the unseen tram lines on which TA theory runs, otherwise we may make do, as we have before, with a new split and a new school.

I think we need to do more than that, and serious debate about a change of name could usher in a truly radical update. We now have a common mission statement adopted by both the ITAA and EATA that is deliberately ecological in focus, placing our work in a global, planetary perspective. Ecology is not a mechanism. It is an evolving and cooperating process of creation, growth, death, and decay. It is how all of nature works. This cannot be well represented in a mechanistic ontology in which reality is represented as an array of objects, separate and separable from each other.

There is a growing and urgent need to formulate an ecology of mind, relationship, and our existence as self-aware beings in the flow of nature. The state of the planet and the state of our minds are reflections of each other. We cannot attune to this sensitively in our work on human mental health and well-being if we continue to rely on mechanical concepts that do not reflect nature itself. As Gregory Bateson (1972/2000) famously said, "The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between how nature works and the way people think." Thinking is our business, and therefore, so is the state of the world around us.

> ***"Serious debate about a change of name could usher in a truly radical update. We now have a common mission statement adopted by both the ITAA and EATA that is deliberately ecological in focus, placing our work in a global, planetary perspective."***

The ecological shift is a call toward the reinvention of the principle of essential unity. I've written on that aspect of the topic in the *TAJ* for anyone interested to know in more detail what I mean by this (Heath, 2022). There is also a growing literature on eco-psychology, both inside and outside of TA.

I know that many colleagues are already working holistically with ecological awareness. To do this they will have had to develop an understanding that is well beyond the reach of the current precepts of transactional analysis. Our current ontology does not in itself support this, and it needs to. Our core concepts are not real objects. At best they are metaphors for processes, shifting and changing in the ecological field in which they function. But often these metaphors have been learned simplistically in a TA 101 context and reinforced in the early training years where they create the illusion of shining a light on an objective reality. That is hard to give up, not least because it does shine a light, but on a map, not a terrain. If we mistake the map for the terrain, we are apt to overlook that we don't know where we are, believing the illusion that we actually do know because it's where the map says we are. Anyone who's ever been misled by a satnav, or who gets stuck in an unproductive loop with a computer, will know what this feels like.

Berne helped move psychological thinking and practice on in the 20th century and has helped build the path to where we are now. His work shaped my thinking and my career, along with those of many others. He is no longer here to comment on the demands of the 21st century. I urge that we respect his legacy and undertake to move it forward. Every so often that will need a paradigm shift. We are at such a time now. I'm stopping short of a concrete suggestion for a new badge name to signify this. Such work belongs with the community. The key question to think about first is probably "If not now, then when?"

John Heath, Penrith, Cumbria, United Kingdom

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Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to Ales Zivkovic's thoughtful and insightful letter about rebranding in the June 2025 issue of *The Script*. As the ITAA Director of Research and Innovation, I greatly appreciate the critical reflections he brings to the discussion surrounding transactional analysis's recognition and relevance. His points resonate deeply with areas of focus and the broader efforts being undertaken by the ITAA.

> ***"I firmly believe that demonstrating the empirical efficacy and academic rigor of TA is paramount to its wider acceptance and integration into professional and academic circles and in addressing the perception of TA as merely 'pop psychology.' "***

Zivkovic astutely questions whether a name change is the primary solution for broader recognition, suggesting instead that "gaining traction as a credible evidence-based science may be a safer bet." This perspective is one that I, and indeed the ITAA, strongly endorse because it aligns with a significant emphasis in our ongoing work to enhance the academic and clinical standing of transactional analysis. I firmly believe that demonstrating the empirical efficacy and academic rigor of TA is paramount to its wider acceptance and integration into professional and academic circles and in addressing the perception of TA as merely "pop psychology."

Berne (1958) coined the term "transactional analysis" because his theory focuses on the analysis of "transactions," which he defined as the fundamental units of social interaction. This foundational understanding of transactions as the core units of social intercourse also underpins Berne's (1964) later work *Games People Play*. As initially raised by Srinath Nadathur in his *Script* article and further explored in the valuable responses from Laurie Hawkes and Steff Oates in that same issue, the very term "transactional analysis" sometimes elicits questions about its scope, occasionally being misconstrued in a purely commercial sense. However, Berne's concepts of transactions and games delve far beyond simple exchanges, revealing complex patterns of give and take that, although sometimes appearing superficially straightforward, often carry ulterior motives and psychological payoffs. It is this profound analysis of human interaction in all its nuanced forms that the name "transactional analysis" ultimately seeks to convey. Indeed, this capacity to make explicit the often implicit dynamics of social phenomena is a unique and powerful strength of TA that we are committed to owning and making better known, rather than allowing it to be discredited.

From my vantage point, I see tremendous value in expanding TA's reach and applicability beyond immediate TA communities where there are several existing TA training establishments. To this end, a key area of focus involves establishing academic partnerships, particularly in less saturated

geographical areas in terms of the availability of training opportunities, to develop university diploma programs tailored to local needs. This initiative aims to expand the global accessibility of TA education and integrate TA more formally into higher education curricula. This puts the emphasis on our members who have access to such networks to initiate such partnerships.

The significant gap between TA practice and the volume of research conducted, as highlighted by Zivkovic, is a critical area of focus. As an academician with experience in designing and evaluating evidence-based programs, I share this concern. My efforts are also dedicated to leveraging existing research to strengthen evidence-based messaging. This involves a comprehensive review of available TA research, synthesizing key findings into accessible formats, and actively promoting the consistent integration of these findings into presentations, publications, and online content. Zivkovic makes a vital point in terms of the need to shift from empirically supported treatment (EST) toward practice-based evidence (PBE) because this approach prioritizes what is observed as effective in diverse, real-world clinical settings, directly from the experiences of practitioners and their clients. This represents a significant opportunity for our community to robustly contribute to TA's evidence base.

> ***"This capacity to make explicit the often implicit dynamics of social phenomena is a unique and powerful strength of TA that we are committed to owning and making better known, rather than allowing it to be discredited."***

Furthermore, a crucial aspect of improving TA's image and fostering its academic credibility involves supporting researchers within the TA community. This is vital for encouraging more rigorous studies, facilitating the dissemination of findings, and ultimately strengthening the empirical foundation of transactional analysis. By actively promoting research and integrating its findings into our training and certification standards, we can ensure that future practitioners are well versed in evidence-based practices, both within and beyond TA.

Those of us within the TA community who possess academic standing and connections have a vital role to play in making these advancements possible. It is through our collective and collaborative efforts, always grounded in mutual respect and the fundamental principles of our community that emphasize an "I'm OK, You're OK" stance, that we can effectively address perceptions and build a stronger, more recognized transactional analysis. In all our professional discourse, we must be particularly mindful to avoid any tone that could be perceived as condescending or dismissive of others' perspectives because this runs counter to the very essence of our shared values and the spirit of open dialogue we champion.

The ITAA is committed to a proactive and evidence-driven approach to advancing transactional analysis as a reputable academic and clinical methodology. I am grateful for Zivkovic's valuable contribution to this ongoing dialogue, which further underscores the importance of these collective efforts. I invite all members to engage with us as we work collaboratively to realize these vital goals.

Elvin Aydin Keles,
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

References

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Berne, E. (1964). *Games people play: The psychology of human relationships.* Grove Press.

Dear Script:

Srinath Nadathur's proposals in the May 2025 issue of *The Script* for rebranding TA strike a chord with me. The word "transactional" usually requires some enlightenment/explanation to be fluently part of an initial conversation about TA. There are strong positive and negative associations with TA that are held by those who have heard of TA but have no in-depth experience with it. TA seems to (unconsciously) position itself as not mainstream, which could be unconsciously self-limiting, whereas the experience of learning/insight and thankfulness to TA is quite large with many people who actively engage in it. This is what we came across while interviewing members, new members, and former members of the Dutch TA association NVTA in a process of reenergizing in 2012/2013.

> ***"TA seems to (unconsciously) position itself as not mainstream, which could be unconsciously self-limiting, whereas the experience of learning/insight and thankfulness to TA is quite large with many people who actively engage in it."***

If the aim is to support TA in reaching its potential for supporting, for example, the "more systemic understanding of human interaction by many people" (Nadathur, 2025, p.

11) and being accessible to many, then finding an approach for that is a challenge and a worthwhile aim for our community.

To me it appears that TA is "owned" by many practitioners and associations internationally and is professionally distributed. There are some coordinating agents (ITAA, EATA, etc.) that have a strong sense of ownership and institutional functions for TA as a body of knowledge/practice and community (and much thanks and praise for that). It is a diverse and distributed field with many different people, practices, and interests, and practitioners can be very vested in it. So it is a challenge to come to a form of further development or (radical) change. Renaming TA could be a step.

Another option could be further loading or reloading the "brand" transactional analysis or TA (which has strength and appeal, I think) in different ways. Maybe specifically building on the acronym "TA" (and its core symbols) and developing slogans/taglines/images as well as explicating our shared challenges/

"TA is a diverse and distributed field with many different people, practices, and interests, and practitioners can be very vested in it. So it is a challenge to come to a form of further development or (radical) change. Renaming TA could be a step."

issues/strategies and choices to move forward would be useful.

On an underlying/process level, what comes to mind is a sentence attributed to Gustav Mahler: "Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of the fire." The point is that this a process of finding movement on the continuum between homeostasis and growth; it is what and how we choose to preserve that makes all the difference. And I trust there is a lot of "fire" in the TA community and many traditions, so there is a lot to work with and relate to.

I have been part of several rebranding operations for former employers. In my experience, what has worked for repositioning a brand for the future while connecting with the past and peoples' (deep) connections with the system can work like this: interview people/members/users internationally about TA; get input from the "outside" world (e.g., clients, universities, business schools, etc.); with them explore TA (the substance/content/developments, the values and how they show up, experiences and associations, suggestions for roles, strategies and labels, etc.); connect with a branding agency (or people in the TA community familiar with this kind of work; and do it in a cocreative way.

As you might see, I have some "fire" around this in me, and I am willing to engage in further dialogue.

Eric-Jan Rijnierse,
Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands

Reference

Nadathur, S. (2025). Rebranding transactional analysis: A conversation worth having. *The Script*, 55(5), 11–12.

New Members

MAY 2025

Fleur Cummings, United Kingdom
Saiyada Fazal, United Kingdom
Valeriia Golovko, Russia
Natalya Isaeva, Russia
Branwen Jeffreys, United Kingdom
Urška Košenina, Slovenia
Martina Kvarantan Šmitran, Serbia
Daniela Lau, Germany
Bai Lu, China
Manuel Luciani, Italy
Lorna MacDougall, United Kingdom
Katarina Makevic, Serbia
Valentina Marcattilj, Italy
Marina Matijasevic, Serbia
Eleonora Merlo, Italy
Marija Morović, Croatia
Anda Nacu, Romania
Katarina Orac, Croatia
Anna Pezacka-Gumna, Poland
Anastasiia Pylypenko, Ukraine
Paul Reisbach, United Kingdom
Loredana Salomone, Italy
Suzana Savić, Serbia
Elena Shovina, Russia
Anna Starikova, Ukraine
Carmelina Strano, Italy
Letizia Tumedei, Italy
Marieke van den Berg, Netherlands
Valeria Villa, France
Rachel Woster, United Kingdom
Mariya Zagurskaya, Kazakhstan
Kinga Zawada, Poland
Borui Zhang, China

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ITAA-EATA Joint Webinar Honored Mark Widdowson

by Kristyna Tomanova

On 25 February 2025 we came together to celebrate the life and work of our late colleague Mark Widdowson. It was a deeply moving and heartfelt gathering, bringing together his husband Phillip, family, friends, colleagues, and students from both EATA and ITAA.

We are immensely grateful to all the speakers who honored Mark's brilliance, sharing invaluable insights into his work alongside personal anecdotes and memorable quotes. His contributions to the fields of depression, anxiety, relationships, research, and beyond have profoundly impacted so many lives. This tribute was a testament to the lasting influence of his work, which will continue to inspire us.

Our sincere thanks to Leilani Mitchell for bringing us all together and hosting the evening with such warmth and sensitivity. **She created a space in which we could honor Mark's legacy while also making room for our shared grief and appreciation.**

This special gathering took place within the context of the joint EATA and ITAA webinar series—an initiative that continues to foster connection, reflection, and community across our associations. The webinar dedicated to Mark exemplified what these events are truly about: creating meaningful moments that unite us around the values, ideas, and people who shape our field.

> ***"We are delighted that the joint webinars, managed by the EATA and ITAA Webinar Committee, continue to generate genuine interest among members of both associations. This collaboration represents a deeply valued and appreciated partnership between our organizations."***

We are delighted that the joint webinars, managed by the EATA and ITAA Webinar Committee, continue to generate genuine interest among members of both associations. This collaboration represents a deeply valued and appreciated partnership between our organizations. These webinars began during the pandemic, a time when we were physically distant yet eager to remain connected, at least virtually. Rather than focusing solely on training and teaching, they were—and still are—designed to foster a sense of community and dialogue.

Over the years, the committee has welcomed and bid farewell to many esteemed members from the ranks of the associations' presidents, including Elana Leigh, Peter Rudolph, Chitra Ravi, Sylvia Schachner, and Thorsten Geck. We have also had the pleasure of working with invaluable members such as Steff Oates, Kristyna Tomanova, Cristina Caizzi, and Deepak Dhananjaya. More recently, Elvin Aydin Keles and Marguerite Sacco have joined the team, alongside the ever-present Leilani Mitchell, whose warm and generous presence continues to shape each webinar.

Another recent webinar featured Aruna Gopakumar and Samhita Arni, who explored the fascinating topic of "Myths and Memoir." They examined how the stories we have been told and those we tell ourselves impact us psychologically, culturally, and emotionally. Attendees were invited to participate in exercises that helped them gain insight into their internal processes when engaging with stories and myths. The presenters introduced the famous story of the Ramayana and encouraged reflection on its personal and professional relevance, particularly in the context of transactional analysis. We

thank Aruna and Samhita for their time and expertise.

Looking ahead, the webinar committee has agreed to adjust the frequency of these joint webinars from three to two per year, recognizing that both EATA and ITAA now also host their own webinar offerings. The joint sessions will continue to take place in February and November, and we are currently in discussion with Zefiro Mellacqua, recipient of the 2024 Eric Berne Memorial Award, about a future appearance.

If you have suggestions for potential guest speakers who would be a great fit for our joint EATA and ITAA events, please contact us at cc-chair@eatanews.org. We look forward to welcoming you to future webinars and continuing to celebrate what connects us.

Kristyna Tomanova, EATA Communications Committee Chair and EATA and ITAA Webinar Committee Chair, can be reached at cc-chair@eatanews.org .

Conferences & Events

20-21 September 2025
SAATA Conference
Chennai, India

31 January–8 February 2026
NATAA Gathering
Frenchman's Cove,
Port Antonio, Jamaica
programs@nataa.net

July 20–26 2026
NATAA Gathering
Villa Maria Del Mar,
Santa Cruz, California, USA
programs@nataa.net



SEC Webinar (top from left): SEC chair Günther Mohr and speaker Marina Rajan Joseph; (bottom) speaker Keith Tudor

SEC Webinar on "Avoidance & Engagement in a Disturbed World"

On 6 May 2025, the ITAA Social Engagement Committee (SEC) hosted its latest webinar. With major wars in Ukraine/Russia and Israel/Palestine and also in Sudan, many people in those areas are suffering directly. Additionally, people around the world are experiencing insecurity and anxiety about developments in their area as well as worldwide. There are varying views on what is happening, and it would be a mistake to take only a Western perspective. Since the new US administration came into power, it is also unclear whether there is still a unique Western perspective because many people who used to feel they were secure because of America no longer feel that way.

The latest SEC webinar is the third in a three-part series about the personal, professional, and community impacts of disturbances in the world. This one focused on the community aspect with two speakers: Marina Rajan Joseph from India and Keith Tudor from New Zealand. The questions they addressed ranged from "What impacts do you see for the TA community?" to "What do you think Eric Berne would say about our current situation?" Then in breakout rooms participants shared their perspectives, which were quite inspiring. For example: "How political should or must professional organizations be with a message around good relationships between and among people?" The SEC participants appreciated the chance to exchange and learn about people from different parts of the world.

The recorded webinar can be found on the ITAA website at https://youtu.be/loWrZ4ENhuo .

Günther Mohr, ITAA Social Engagement Committee Chair, can be reached at hedmohr@aol.com .

Confidentiality: In Theory a Simple Ethical Principle

by Jan Grant

Confidentiality is a core tenet of counseling, psychotherapy, educational, and organizational applications of transactional analysis. Practitioners across all fields agree that protecting client confidentiality is an important aspect of contracting and establishing a trusting relationship. It is key to our core ethical principles of respect, empowerment, protection, responsibility, and commitment in relationship.

It is important to define what is meant by confidentiality. Different people may mean different things. Confidentiality is sometimes spoken about as though it were total. However, it is important to remember that we can never offer a client total confidentiality. I remember one new client opening our first session by asking if everything that was said was confidential. Clearly, it was important for me to share my thinking around confidentiality with her and to be realistic about the limits to confidentiality.

According to Bond (2000), confidentiality causes counselors the greatest number of ethical challenges. Our core principles of respect and commitment in relationship means that we need to navigate these issues sensitively. Our initial contract will presumably say something about confidentiality, and when issues arise, this may need to be renegotiated.

Many circumstances around confidentiality—legal, social, personal, or organizational—can cause ethical dilemmas for practitioners. Legal issues might involve having our notes subpoenaed for a legal case or a client telling us something they have done that is illegal. A social issue might be finding out in ongoing work that a client sometimes goes to a social group that you occasionally go to, which may not have been obvious at the beginning. A personal issue could be realizing that a client has a friend in common with you, which you may not have been aware of. An organizational issue might involve being asked by your contact in a company to report on certain clients whom you are coaching or have in a training session.

One particularly challenging area is working with children and young people. I think in such cases there is always a three-cornered contract (English, 1975) between you, the child, and the parents. It is wise to take this into account from the beginning and be clear with the parents that you will not tell them everything discussed by their child and clear with the child that there may be times when you need to share some information with their parents. Even more complex is working with young people. In Australia where I live, 18 is considered the age of consent. The ages 16–18 are particularly difficult because the young person is not legally an adult. Yet their views are considered in the legal system, and they do have some right to confidentiality.

Thus, confidentiality is complex. Although it is part of our contracting process, the contract may need to be revisited and revised to account for the many possible ramifications of situations that occur. Ultimately, it is part of the professional responsibility of the transactional analyst to ensure that appropriate confidentiality is maintained and to ensure that clients are adequately informed of the limits of that confidentiality.

References

Bond, T. (2000). *Standards and ethics for counselling in action*. Sage.

English, F. (1975). The three-cornered contract. *Transactional Analysis Journal*, 5(4), 383–384. https://doi.org/10.1177/036215377500500413

IBOC News

Digitalization of IBOC Systems

Since last year, the International Board of Certification (IBOC) has been working on digitalization of our contract and exam processes. The programming is a work in progress, and we are aware that the system had and still has its pitfalls. Please be assured that the IBOC system is undergoing constant technological advancements and regulatory updates. **We would genuinely appreciate your feedback and patience during this development period.** This transition requires input and collaboration from all trainers and trainees to ensure smooth operations, a responsibility adeptly handled by our IBOC administrator, Max Eggeling. There are processes that require teamwork to enhance efficiency and simplicity that were previously challenging to manage manually until we received technical support for digitalization.

As trainers and trainees, we have been accustomed to a system where we manually sent documents to the administrator for separate filing. This method consumed considerable time that could have been allocated to other activities. We are aware that as we navigate this transition, the new IBOC system may catch some of us off guard, and we might struggle with operating it or it leads to frustration if it is not working as it is supposed to. This sometimes results in colleagues requesting the previous system. We are convinced that the digitalized IBOC system will be much easier and more efficient for all of us once its set up is finalized. **Max is considering producing a short explanation video to assist everyone in understanding how the system operates, which will be made available on the website for your convenience. We hope you find this helpful.**

Call for Examiners for October 2025

With a rising number of candidates applying to take their oral exams during the IBOC exams held on 9–11 October 2025, **we are renewing our call for examiners and volunteers and invite all CTAs/PTSTAs/TTAs/STAs/TSTAs to join us for this gathering** that is at the heart of our accreditation system. Please follow this link to our Google form for your registration: https://forms.gle/oYibq1F48ag8XVsbA . **Please note three innovations to this set of exams:** There is only one google form for all exams (not two separate ones for CTA and TSTA exams as in previous years), and there is an new additional mandatory all-examiners meeting on Monday 6 October at 7–8am UK time during which we will focus on roles and responsibilities as well as the high level of diversity we will be encountering during the exam days. The third innovation is the exam timetable over the 3 days: On Thursday there will be one set of exams after a morning full of welcomes and briefings; Friday and Saturday there will be two exam time slots followed by celebrations (Friday for CTAs and Saturday for TSTAs). Thank you for considering dedicating your time and energy to the exam days!

TEW and Exam Dates

With the welcome increasing number of colleagues who want to enter the path of becoming a Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst, our new TEW coordinator, Marina Rajan Joseph, has planned **an additional online Training Endorsement Workshop (TEW) for July 2026**. We will ask those participants who are registered for the TEW in November 2026 and preregistered for TEWs in 2027 first if they want to participate in July 2026, and after their responses we will fill the places with new applicants. (See the exam calendar for new CTA/TSTA exam and TEW dates on page 14.)

Written Examination Workshops: Report From the Floor

by Masumi Aonuma

The IBOC team conducted four written examination workshops for beginner (Part A) and experienced markers (Part B) in two different time zones in May. Twenty evaluators attended the workshops. In the following, Regional Exam Coordinator Masumi Aonuma shares some reflections from the workshops.

I have worked as a marker in the education field several times, and this time, I participated in both the beginner's course on 6 May and the one for experienced markers on 8 May. The beginner's course included people who had recently completed the Training Endorsement Workshop (TEW) and those who had just become Certified Transactional Analysts (CTAs). Here, I note some of the anonymized feedback shared from the workshop during the group discussions and the subsequent whole-group sharing session. These are valuable insights that I believe all ITAA members should be informed about.

The following comments were made in the beginner's course:

- Differences between countries significantly impact the content of written exams. This is seen in differences in individuals' frames of reference, so markers need to be aware of cultural differences when reading written exams.
- Even within the same country or within a TA community, it is important to pay attention to the invisible (and implicit) aspects of diversity.
- It is important to read an exam first and become aware of the emotions that arise within oneself. I thought it would be good to read it again afterward.
- It is essential to always be mindful of cultural differences.
- Supervision is necessary, not just for the first time one marks but also at other times when it is necessary.
- It would be a good approach to take a step forward from protective review to objectively reading the whole text.

The IBOC team, who organized the event, offered this advice, which everyone found convincing: Writing a written exam and marking it are both processes that are carried out by an individual. It is important to take a community-wide perspective. Even experienced markers often find it important to return to the mindset of a beginner when reading.

- What impressed me was the importance of being sensitive to each person's frame of reference.
- After deep self-reflection, one participant said, "When marking, I tend to focus on what I cannot hear in the candidates' answers rather than what I can hear." We can take this deep insight back with us as a growth point for our future marking activities.

The following comments came from the workshop for experienced participants:

- It is challenging to assess the consistency of a candidate's performance.
- When it is difficult to clearly understand the candidate's profile from the written materials, evaluations tend to be lower.
- Understanding how candidates apply theoretical concepts in practical situations and the critical perspectives they possess regarding those concepts are key indicators of their competence.
- Regarding each theory, the trainer's perspective often influences the content. It is important to understand this when evaluating.
- The level of consideration for "safety" can vary depending on national regulations. Being conscious of this is crucial.

Finally, participants in both courses expressed the importance of learning through discussion and the sense of security that comes from learning new information. This was also a moment when everyone felt the need for continuing education.

Masumi Aonuma can be reached at f-voice@outlook.jp .

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The South Asian Association of Transactional Analysis (SAATA) Conference is fast approaching, and registrations are now open. The conference will be held in Chennai, India, and the theme will be "The Kaleidoscope of Life." Preconference institutes will be held on 19 September at the Hotel Vestin Park, and the main conference will be on 20-21 September at the Hotel Savera. The conference will offer a dynamic platform to explore transactional analysis and related approaches, reflecting on the shifting patterns of human thoughts, emotions, and experiences. Highlights will include 26 interactive workshops designed to expand perspectives, deepen self-awareness, and enrich professional practice across diverse fields; preconference institutes will be led by respected presenters, including Aruna Gopakumar, Samhita Arni, Rosemary Kurian, Radhika Iyer, Suriyaprakash C., Gunjan Zutshi, and Deepak Dhananjaya; and keynote speakers will be Sailaja Manacha, TSTA, leadership coach, TA educator, and author, and Shiv Kumar, Senior HR leader at Merck India, specializing in inclusive leadership. The conference will be a creative expression space and offer research paper presentations and opportunities to engage with TA professionals from across South Asia and beyond. Early bird registration is now open at https://saata.org/page/saata-conference

Conference coconvenors
Susan George and Rosemary Kurian
(contact: conference@saata.org*)*

IBOC Exam Calendar

Type	Exam Date	Location	Application Deadline
CTA	9-11 Oct 2025	Online	9 Jul 2025
TSTA	9-11 Oct 2025	Online	CLOSED
CTA	5-7 Mar 2026	Online	5 Dec 2025
TSTA	5-7 Mar 2026	Online	5 Sep 2025
CTA	1-3 Oct 2026	Online	1 Jul 2026
TSTA	1-3 Oct 2026	Online	1 Apr 2026
CTA	4–5 Mar 2027	Online	4 Jan 2027
TSTA	4–6 Mar 2027	Online	4 Sep 2026
CTA	30 Sep-1 Oct 2027	Online	30 Jun 2027
TSTA	30 Sep- 2 Oct 2027	Online	30 Mar 2027

IBOC TEW Calendar

Type	TEW Date	Location	Application Deadline	TPO Deadline
TEW	28–30 Nov 2025	Online	CLOSED	CLOSED
TEW	24–26 Apr 2026	Online	CLOSED	CLOSED
TEW	24–26 Jul 2026	Online	24 Nov 2025	24 Jan 2026
TEW	27–29 Nov 2026	Online	27 Mar 2026	27 May 2026
TEW	23–25 Apr2027	Online	23 Aug 2026	23 Oct 2026
TEW	26–28 Nov 2027	Online	26 Mar 2027	26 May 2027

TEW Note: All TEWs for 2025 and 2026 are currently full. If you wish to get on the waiting list for any openings that develop, please contact Marina Rajan Joseph at iboc_tew-coordinator@itaaworld .

Note: Written exams can be submitted anytime throughout the year.
Please send applications for exams and TEW to the IBOC administrator: iboc@itaaworld.org . For the EATA exam calendar, please refer to: https://eatanews.org/exams/#coc-calendar and for the EATA TEW calendar, go to: https://eatanews.org/tew-calendar/?highlight=TEW%20calendar

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

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 Transactional Analysis Colleagues and Friends:

What a journey! WTAC 2025 is already a great success with 810 participants from 46 countries registered. It's turning into a truly exceptional opportunity for our global TA community to come together, share, and grow.

If you haven't booked your ticket yet, now is the time. Ticket sales will close at the end of June or once we reach 900 participants, whichever comes first. With the current momentum, we anticipate being fully booked very soon.

The Gala party is also shaping up to be a memorable celebration, with 220 guests already signed up for a joyful evening of music, connection, and shared joy.

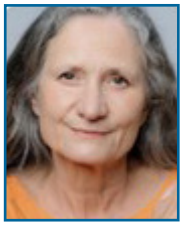
If you've been thinking of joining us, don't wait too long. We would truly love to welcome you to Montpellier for the inspiration, the learning, and the human warmth that TA can bring.

With heartfelt anticipation,

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

Keynote Speakers


William Cornell


Isabelle Filliozat


Sailaja Manacha

Debate Chairs


Karen Pratt


Lucy Freedman

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