THE Script

VOL. 55 NO. 8 | AUGUST 2025

Montpellier Conference Alert Regarding Venue Access

If you are going to WTAC 2025, be aware that to enter the conference venue (Le Corum), you will need to show your conference ticket on your phone or printed out. Those without official tickets will not be allowed to enter. Also be advised that the venue has its own set of internal regulations. You can review the "Sécurité et sanitaire" (Security and Health) protocols at this link .

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Into TA Worldwide: A Call for Authors

***Into TA: A Comprehensive Textbook on Transactional Analysis*, at the request of Karnac, is going into a second, revised edition, now in production and hopefully out by the end of this year.** It will include an extensive update on the advances of TA theory and methods since the original edition. The first edition has so far been translated into Korean, Russian, Portuguese, Italian, and Swedish. It has been a publishing success for Karnac and a major contribution to our TA literature.



Bill Cornell



Anne de Graaf



Trudi Newton



Moniek Thunnissen

Karnac has accepted a new proposal from the Into TA team for a new volume, entitled Into TA Worldwide. **This new book will be less of a resource about TA theory and more of a conversation among transactional analysts from all over the globe about the evolving practices of TA.** Although the history and core ideas of TA have been grounded and developed in North America and Europe, the areas in which TA continues to evolve and grow are changing rapidly. **This new book will be an effort to reflect the new worlds of TA**, emerging and fostered through the lenses of differing cultures, fields of practice, and our younger generations.

As editors, we hope to bring together a collection of writings that will challenge and enrich the practices and theories of contemporary TA from around the world. **We envision relatively brief articles (3,500 words maximum) that may embrace theoretical contributions, research, personal narratives, and case studies.** It is our wish that this new book will capture the emotional and human aspects of the impact of TA in the lives of individuals, families, organizations, groups, and communities, exploring applications of TA in psychotherapy, counseling, education, leadership, research, and community building. We welcome first-time authors.

It is our hope to have a place and time to meet in person during the Montpellier conference with those of you who have ideas for this book. For those who cannot be at the conference, we welcome proposals via email.

We are excited about this new venture and welcome your voices of experience, creativity, and challenge.

The Into TA Team:
Bill Cornell (wfcornell@gmail.com), Anne de Graaf (anne@rondheel.nl), Trudi Newton (trudi.newton@btinternet.com), Moniek Thunnissen (m.thunnissen@ziggo.nl)

itaa
INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION

A Message From the President: Advancing the Professional Transition of the ITAA

Dear Members,

The ITAA is undergoing a pivotal transformation—one that reflects the original purpose behind its founding. Beyond promoting transactional analysis as a theory and method, **the creation of a professional association was always about placing the professional interests of our members at the center.** This means supporting your work, your qualifications, and your public presence as TA practitioners.

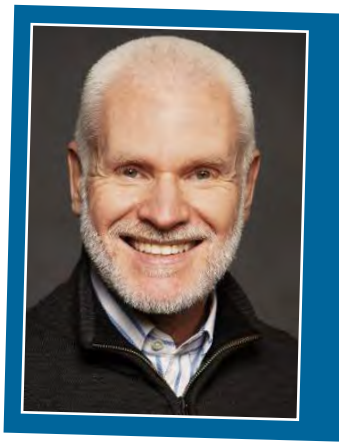
AGM Meeting This Month

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) in the Room Antigone 3 (capacity: 200 seats). The meeting will be held in a hybrid format (onsite and via Zoom). Given the short time frame, we will focus on the future direction of the ITAA as a professional association. What happened in the past can be read about in the board packet. We kindly ask all members to read the board packet in advance, especially the 2024 minutes and the 2025 budget, as both will be submitted for approval. We've asked the venue team to open the doors at 07:30 to allow for smooth check-in. Participants are required to present their electronic or printed ticket upon arrival.

Our goal remains clear: to reinforce the credibility and recognition of transactional analysis across psychotherapy, counseling, organizational consulting, and adult education. This requires a strong commitment to certification, demonstrated competence, and internationally aligned professional standards—all supported by a sound legal framework.

Under the previous structure, our nonprofit foundation was unable to legally identify or represent its own members. That limitation made progress difficult. The newly formed professional ITAA association is now legally empowered to take on this core function—and we are doing just that.

I am pleased to share that the IBOC (International Board of Certification) has now been formally integrated into the ITAA. We have acquired the IBOC from the ITAA Foundation, and the former legal structure (LLC) will be dissolved. Moving forward, the IBOC will operate as an internal certification department of the ITAA.



This change resolves long-standing issues and paves the way for meaningful developments—such as offering continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities.

We will also soon launch a public membership directory in which certified members can be listed by professional status. This will enhance your visibility to potential clients, organizations, and educational institutions, strengthening our collective presence in the field.

This development aligns fully with the strategic direction set by the ITAA board in March, which will be further outlined and communicated in the coming months.

I am especially pleased to deliver this message as we gather for the World TA Conference 2025 in Montpellier. We will be available at the AGM to respond to your questions—and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

With collegial regards,

Thorsten Geck
President of the ITAA

AGM Packet Notice for ITAA Members

The AGM Packet was shared with ITAA members in good standing as of 30 June 2025 via a secure webpage. This includes a password-protected link sent directly to eligible members. **If you believe you were a member in good standing as of 30 June 2025 and did not receive** the link and password, please contact us at info@itaaworld.com to request access.

What Does It Mean to Be an Ethical Trainer and/or Supervisor?

by Anne Tucker



We on the ITAA Ethics Committee have written many articles about ethics topics: What is ethics? What is ethics in practice? The power of language, the language of power; how teaching ethics can be fun; ethics and mistakes. It seems we can take the topic of ethics and ponder it from many angles.

In this article I want to explore what it means to be an ethical trainer. My early years in an extended Christian family taught me about ethics and power. On one occasion, a pastor disregarded my father raising concerns about the pastor's impropriety with a female parishioner. The pastor told him he was "called by God" to the role of pastor and therefore was only responsible to God and not mere parishioners.

As TA trainers, we have a huge privilege as well as a responsibility to impart our TA theories. However, we are not teaching math or science; we are teaching about scripts, rackets, ego states, and so on, matters that fundamentally impact us as human beings. How we impart the theories, develop exercises, and invite our trainees to participate can challenge the very core of our being as trainers as well as that of our learners. How do we take that psychological level of power into consideration?

Our training contract is loaded, is it not? The trainer has spent many hours as well as significant money learning the theory and applying it to their field. We also need skill to not only teach but model healthy Adult behavior in delivering the training. This modeling might well be the most challenging part.

> ***"How we impart the theories, develop exercises, and invite our trainees to participate can challenge the very core of our being as trainers as well as that of our learners. How do we take that psychological level of power into consideration?"***

The trainee has expectations about what they will receive from the trainer/training. This might include a magical expectation: "I want them to 'fix' what's wrong with me and then I will 'fix' my clients." This strong psychological expectation is often not expressed verbally. And we know about that because we have been trainees too!

Some of my "church" experiences of parishioners/congregations who, in my view, elevated their ministers/pastors by giving or showing them "adoration" has left me with super sensitivity to potential dangers of power imbalances. When I experience TA trainees talk or express "overpowering" adoration (my words) of their trainers and/or supervisors, it rings alarm bells for me.

So, what are our ethical responsibilities as trainers? How do we challenge a trainer or supervisor when we are uncomfortable about some aspect of their behavior? How do we

challenge adoration? As a trainer, what can I do if I notice I am on a slippery slope (maybe I kind of like the adoration) but I fear shame if I admit to it? How can we humbly admit we are mere human beings, and we don't always get it right? How can we as trainers be open to honest feedback from trainees, supervisors, and colleagues, even when it is uncomfortable? What are our guiding principles, the light that gives us hope, direction, keeps us as trainers safe, keeps our trainees and the recipients of their services safe, while giving them the opportunity to choose a satisfying and fulfilling life?

We can turn to our principles of respect, responsibility, empowerment, protection, and commitment and challenge ourselves and each other about how to live by them. Let's stay open to learning from each other and being prepared to really listen so we can keep our training and practice ethical.

Anne Tucker is a member of the ITAA Ethics Committee and can be reached at annetuckernz@gmail.com .

the SCRIPT

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Final Part of SEC Webinar Series Coming in October

The ITAA Social Engagement Committee had been running a webinar series titled "Avoidance & Engagement in a Disturbed World." The first two were on 23 January and 22 April 2024, and the third was on 6 May 2025. **The final part of this series will be on 21 October 2025.** In this 90-minute webinar, we will explore the community self: "Building Stronger TA Community Bonds to Hold Difficulties Together" presented by two inspiring speakers: Valerie Batts, TSTA-P, and Diane Salters, TSTA-P. Don't miss this opportunity to take part in meaningful conversations and share your insights on building unity and support in our communities. **Space is limited.** The webinar will be conducted in English, with Spanish translation available.



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Fridays, 10:00 to 16:00 GMT (twelve sessions)
For experienced practitioners looking to supervise both students and qualified professionals, within their own modality and across others.

EXAM PREPARATION/CPD GROUP (ONLINE)
With Rebecca Davies
PTSTA (P), CTA (P), CTA Written Exam Coordinator, CTA Exam Chair and EATA Language Coordinator
● 16 Oct 2025 – 16 July 2026, Thursdays, 9:15 to 12:45 GMT
Support to maintain focus and momentum during the exam preparation period, whether for diploma, accreditation or CTA.

UPCOMING CPD COURSES:

CERTIFICATE IN WORKING WITH COUPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS (ONLINE)
With Jonathan Lake, PTSTA, CTA, TA Psych M.Sc, Psychology B.Sc
● 26 Sept – 5 Dec 2025, Fridays, 10:00 to 17:00 GMT
Explore different ways of loving and relating to help clients build flourishing relationships.

CERTIFICATE IN NEURO-AFFIRMING PRACTICE (ONLINE)
With Romy Graichen, MBACP and Cheryl Leong, MA, MFT
● 8 Oct – 10 Dec 2025, Wednesdays, 17:00 to 20:00 GMT
For practitioners committed to creating inclusive, respectful and empowering therapeutic spaces for neurodivergent clients.

MENTAL HEALTH FAMILIARISATION WORKSHOP SERIES (ONLINE)
● 14 Nov 2025 –17 Jan 2026
Four online workshops, for counsellors, psychotherapists and trainees. Designed to support those seeking to fulfil the UKCP's Mental Health Familiarisation Placement requirements.
10% discount when booking all four.

ONLINE OPEN EVENINGS
● Various upcoming dates – online.
Meet the team, ask questions and explore your training options.

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The July *TAJ* Special Issue on Relationships Is Available Online

The latest issue of the Transactional Analysis Journal (TAJ) *was published online on 2 July 2025. In their "Letter From the Coeditors," guest editor Brad McLean and* TAJ *coeditor Helen Rowland explored some of the history behind this issue.*

Over the past 30 years, few *TAJ* papers have explored contemporary thinking, theory, and practice in relationship therapy, particularly within psychotherapy and counseling. **This scarcity of writing stands in contrast to the number of clinicians practicing relationship therapy and the training devoted to this area.** The hope was that we would stimulate new thinking and theorizing on the topic. We could not be more pleased with the outcome as **we bring you a variety of papers devoted to the topic of working in and with relationships in love, play, and work.**

TA was innovative at the time of its inception in its approach to understanding human experience at three different levels: what goes on inside people (the intrapsychic), what goes on between people (the interpersonal), and what goes on in groups (the systemic). This unique approach led to the development of our four fields of practice, where theory has continued to develop and thrive. The last 2 decades, however, have seen something of a lull in theorizing about work with intimate relationships, as McLean noted in his extensive literature review in 2023. Despite a solid theoretical foundation, relationship work has remained underrepresented in the literature for reasons that are unclear. The call for contributions for this theme issue was, therefore, a leap into the unknown. But the response was overwhelming, with a wealth of submissions from across the globe, further reinforcing the demand for such material.



Brad McLean



Helen Rowland

Although we have a rich history of applying TA to relationship work, the fields of psychotherapy and counseling still lack a coherent, contemporary model, grounded in theory and practice, that addresses relationships in ways responsive to the profound changes in intimate relating over recent decades. We hope this theme issue serves as a launching point to address the absence of theorizing and for moving toward more contemporary thinking that aligns with theory and practice outside of transactional analysis. **Bringing together leading and emerging voices to explore how TA informs, enriches, and transforms relationship therapy today, our aim is to bridge theory and practice, highlight innovative applications, and encourage critical reflection on the future direction of our field.**

This issue explores the complex, dynamic nature of relating in various contexts––professional, personal, or intimate––at a time when our ways of relating are challenged and shifting in the face of balancing love, intimacy, sex, and power while navigating work, technology, and

changing sociocultural and political pressures. With relationships always shaped, in part, by their context, writing about relating, as well as living it, is challenging but vitally important. Our aim is to bridge theory and practice, highlighting innovative applications of TA within relationship therapy and encouraging critical reflection on the future direction of our field. **We hope the contributions in these pages offer inspiration, challenge, and practical guidance for your own work.** Let us continue to deepen our understanding of the human condition and strengthen the relational foundations that support both personal and collective well-being. Together, we can continue to build a coherent, contemporary approach to working with relationships from a transactional analysis perspective.

Included in this issue of the *TAJ* are the following articles, book reviews, and letter to the coeditors:

"Transactional Analysis and Relationship Psychotherapy: Decontamination and Deconfusion of Ego State Relationship Structures" by Brad McLean

"Taking Up a Role in a System: A Clearer Understanding of One's Role Facilitates Mutually Satisfying Relationships" by Anne de Graaf and Joost Levy

"In Tandem: Heart and Mind in Peer Collaborations" by Jane Tillier and Silvia Baba Neal

" 'Who Are We? We're Who We Are': Applying a Group Lens to Working With Couples" by Ronen Stilman

"Disentangling the Secret Pact: The Journey From Myth to Reality, Hope to Disillusion, Longing to Grief" by Elana Leigh and Jo Silbert

"Strengthening the Child Ego State: Interventions in Child Psychotherapy" by Alina Comendant

"Autonomy and Intimacy: A Critical Psychology Perspective" by Kristina Brajović Car

"Relational Couples Therapy: A Practical Introduction" by Rachel Cook

"Reframing the Therapeutic Lens: Understanding the Need for a Different Approach When Working With Couples" by Jan Grant

Polysecure: Attachment, Trauma and Consensual Nonmonogamy, by Jessica Fern. Reviewed by Robert van Tol

Letter to the Coeditors

As always, we would love to hear your thoughts about this *TAJ*. Please send your comments to *TAJ* Managing Editor Robin Fryer at robinfryer@aol.com .

TAJ Editorial Board Members Sought

The *Transactional Analysis Journal* coeditors are looking for new members to join the editorial board. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, please email your name, country, and a brief statement about your areas of interest/expertise and your experience in writing and/or editing to *TAJ* Managing Editor Robin Fryer at robinfryer@aol.com by 1 October.

Free-Access Article Available From the July 2025 *TAJ*

From the July 2025 *Transactional Analysis Journal* theme issue on "Relationships in Love, Play, and Work," **the free-access article is "Transactional Analysis and Relationship Psychotherapy: Decontamination and Deconfusion of Ego State Relationship Structures" by Brad McLean.**

The article offers a framework for a structured approach to relationship psychotherapy grounded in transactional analysis. McLean uses the transactional analysis concepts of decontamination and deconfusion to outline a staged treatment process. This process integrates cognitive strategies to strengthen the relationship "Adult," thereby laying the foundation for a deeper exploration of unconscious dynamics within the relationship "Child." Consideration is also given to the influence of relationship "Parent" introjects. This approach is integrative and incorporates contemporary, evidence-based practices from the broader field of relationship psychotherapy into the familiar transactional analysis treatment sequence. It addresses the target, focus, and nature of transactional analysis in relationship therapy.

We encourage all *Script* readers to read this article and to use this important opportunity to encourage your colleagues and friends to learn more about contemporary transactional analysis. **You will find the free-access article from the July issue available on the Taylor & Francis *TAJ* website** (accessible for ITAA members via the ITAA website and to nonmembers by searching on *Transactional Analysis Journal*). Look for the green checkmark in the lower right corner.

Sharing ITAA Member Benefits in Novi Sad

In April of this year, ITAA member Jasmina Salihović Hodžić did a presentation on ITAA membership benefits in Novi Sad. Jasmina is from Bosnia and Herzegovina but lives in Brčko, which is on the border with Serbia near Novi Sad, 2 hours by car from where she lives. Jasmina has been studying TA with Danijela Budiša Ubović, TSTA.

Last year, Jasmina applied for an ITAA scholarship, which she used for education with Danijela and John Renwick, TSTA, purchasing the necessary literature and covering the costs of the exams she took as part of this education. In appreciation for the scholarship, she wanted to contribute to the ITAA and decided that she would talk about the benefits of membership to final-year TA training students of Danijela's at her institute in Novi Sad. As Jasmina said, "I found it incredible that my colleagues who listened to the presentation did not know how many benefits there are in the concept of TAlent countries, especially when it comes to costs of membership, exams, and attendance at various webinars. It was amazing to me to have access to all the latest articles from the *TAJ*, and I had the opportunity to participate in working groups and online and give comments on the various policies that ITAA has developed. It was fascinating to sit together with people whose articles I had read during my TA education. Along the way, I felt valued, and my opinion was always considered important. The most important thing for me was that in the ITAA I really belong and can be myself."

Jasmina still has many hours of clinical practice and supervision before she will take the CTA exam, but she has been preparing by taking exams at UTAS (Association for Transactional Analysis of Serbia) institute (the one Danijela runs), which are similar to the written part of the CTA (two essays in which she presented client work and supervision work).

Our thanks to Jasmina for sharing her experience and wish her well in her continued TA training.



Novi Sad training group to which Jasmina presented about benefits of ITAA membership. (Jasmina is in black on the far right, and Danijela is behind her with her hand on Jasmina's shoulder.)



A Space for Growth
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International online program, 8 modules, 2 years, starting 31 October 2025

For more details contact:
Traian: traian@bossenmayer.ro and/or
Rosalind: tacymru@gmail.com



Rosalind Sharples TSTA(P)



Traian Bossenmayer TSTA(O)

This two-year Transactional Analysis (TA) Supervision and Training program is designed for practitioners stepping into the roles of supervisor and trainer, offering a structured yet reflective path toward professional qualification.

YEAR 1 develops foundational identity, focusing on TA philosophy, ethics, and the transition from practitioner to trainer/supervisor. Key areas include transformational learning, contracting, and supervision models, all explored through cultural and systemic lenses.

YEAR 2 deepens this foundation with a focus on complexity, integration, and leadership. Topics include ethical ambiguity, exam preparation, and designing original models. Experiential learning and reflection build confidence needed to train and supervise effectively within the TA community.

Each module is centered around a dedicated theme and includes theoretical concepts. However, the primary aim is to create space for cocreation and intersectionality, encouraging participants to bring their own curiosities, questions, and practice needs into the session.

All 8 modules will be co-facilitated by both trainers.

Award Nominations Sought

Eric Berne Memorial Award

Deadline: 1 December 2025
Send EBMA nominations to ITAA Director of Research & Innovation Elvin Aydin Keles at director_r-i@itaaworld.com

❧

Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award | ***Muriel James Living Principles Award*** | ***Goulding Social Justice Award*** | ***Fanita English Lifetime Achievement Award*** | ***ITAA Service Award***

Deadline: 1 January 2026
Send nominations for the Capers, James, Goulding, English, and Service Awards to ITAA Secretary Rema K Giridhar at general-secretary@itaaworld.com

❧

ITAA Research Award

Deadline: 1 January 2026
Send nominations for the ITAA Research Award to committee chair Moniek Thunnissen at m.thunnissen@ziggo.nl

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See the ITAA website at www.itaaworld.org/itaa-awards or contact the ITAA at info@itaaworld.org for details on making nominations for these awards.

New Members

JUNE 2025

Aleksandra Biberdžić Čikoš, Serbia
Alison Bird, United Kingdom
Olimpia Capat, Romania
Prateeksha Chandrasekaran, India
Giorgia Guiggi, Italy
Chris Hedges, United Kingdom
Sarah Howard, United Kingdom
Ekaterina Ikonnikova, Russia
Valentyna Kwiatkowska, Ukraine
Aleksandra Marinković, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Natasa Nikolic, Serbia
Irina Pingareva, Russia
Nebojsa Ratkovic, Serbia
Valentina Reginaldi, Italy
Marija Rosandic, Serbia
Luka Vidojevic, Serbia
Yuxiao Wu, China
Luxi Zhou, China
Gundula Zierott, Germany

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